



PRESS RELEASE

Preparing for Germany: Goethe-Institut and the National Library of Indonesia Deepen Collaboration

JAKARTA – Goethe-Institut Indonesien and the National Library of Indonesia have officially established a cooperation in the field of library, marking a significant step towards strengthening cultural and educational exchange between Germany and Indonesia. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed at the National Library of Indonesia on Tuesday, 26 May 2026.

Constanze Michel, the Regional Director of Goethe-Institut for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand and Joko Santoso, the Prime Secretary of the National Library of Indonesia, signed the MoU in the presence of Ralf Beste, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Indonesia. The event was then followed by a seminar discussing the necessary preparations for migrating to Germany. This included a consultation session where attendees learnt how to properly prepare for their departure and settle down in Germany.

This cooperation covers a wide range of initiatives designed to strengthen library services and cultural exchange. These include updating and maintaining the quality of the German country collection, joint activities such as organizing seminars, workshops, conferences, exhibitions, and joint cultural activities to increase the knowledge of librarians and library users, as well as capacity building such as training and mentoring programs to strengthen the capabilities of librarians and library users. In addition, both institutions have agreed to explore other scope of cooperation as mutually identified.

As part of the initial phase of this cooperation, Goethe-Institut Indonesien is providing 287 titles to enrich the German country collection. The works cover a diverse range of subjects, including children's literature, architecture, history, novels, travel writing, and resources on migration. The collection will be housed in the German Corner at the National Library of Indonesia for one year. During this period, it will be expanded and updated over the next five years. After its placement in the German Corner, the collection will be permanently located on the shelves in the Foreign Collection section on the 20th floor.

Constanze Michel said, "This cooperation is a beautiful example for a bridge between cultures. We hope to inspire curiosity and broaden perspectives of Indonesian readers. Through initiatives such as the German Corner and by engaging with literature across genres, visitors can become more familiar with Germany's rich cultural heritage in a way that motivates them to explore new opportunities in Germany."

Joko Santoso stated, "Libraries not only are spaces for accessing information, but also play an important role as gateways to global knowledge and international collaborations. Libraries have always been connecting cultures, ideas, and people. Through this collaboration with Goethe-Institut, we believe that it will enrich learning experiences and encourage stronger people-to-people connections between Indonesia and Germany."



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About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programmes support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

About the National Library of Indonesia

The National Library of Indonesia is a non-ministerial government institution responsible for carrying out governmental duties in the field of libraries. As the national library, it serves as a centre for the legal deposit, knowledge preservation, information services, literacy development, and library advancement across Indonesia. The institution is committed to strengthening reading culture, improving access to information, preserving the nation's documentary heritage, and enhancing the capacity of libraries and librarians to support lifelong learning and inclusive knowledge development. Through national and international collaborations, the National Library of Indonesia continues to promote innovation, digital transformation, and global engagement in the library and information sector.

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