



SWISSCONTACT  
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# SWISSCONTACT INDONESIA NEWSLETTER



SWISS  
FOUNDATION  
FOR TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION

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## Dear esteemed reader,

We are proud to present to you the inaugural edition of Swisscontact Indonesia newsletter. In each issue of the biannual newsletter, you will find updates from our ongoing initiatives: the Swiss Skills for Competitiveness (SS4C) program, the Leuser Alas Singkil River-basin (LASR) project, and the Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO).

This issue summarises our activities this year up to July 2024. The month of July is a very special one for us this year, as it marks the 50th anniversary of Swisscontact's work in Indonesia. The celebration took us to the memory lane during a high-level visit from Swisscontact global office to the landmark sites of our skills development projects, including the first polytechnic in Indonesia that we helped setting up in the 1970s.

Over the decades, Swisscontact has cultivated lasting multi-stakeholder collaborations that garnered impactful results. Our newsletter is set to share those results with you, as we cherish the new milestones we have achieved together.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Through our partnership, let's continue creating opportunities for sustainable growth in Indonesia.

Daniel Weibel  
Country Director  
Swisscontact Indonesia



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## Happy Anniversary, Swisscontact Indonesia!

This July, Swisscontact celebrates 50 years of its work in Indonesia, which is also its first country in Southeast Asia.

A bilateral partnership between Indonesia and Switzerland, signed in the late 1973, opened the doors for Swisscontact to bring Swiss traditions in vocational education and training (VET). For its very first project which began in 1974, Swisscontact initiated the Politeknik Mekanik Swiss in Bandung, West Java. Now called Bandung Polytechnic of Manufacture (POLMAN Bandung), it paved the way for the establishment of new polytechnics nationwide. These included 15 more VET higher education institutions through the Indonesia-Swiss Polytechnic Project (ISPP) over 20 years since the 1980s.

Since then, Swisscontact had expanded its project implementation portfolio to include urban air quality management, sustainable landscape for commodities like coffee, cocoa, and palm oil, sustainable tourism destination and education, as well as entrepreneurial ecosystem and trade.



“Swisscontact has been supporting Indonesia in making trailblazing moves inspired by Swiss expertise and experience for fifty years. We are committed to keep doing what we do, and create more opportunities in ways that promotes sustainable growth for the people, enterprises, and the economy,” said the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Swisscontact, Philippe Schneuwly, during the organisation’s 50th Anniversary Reception Dinner on Monday (15/7) in Jakarta.

With a long history of cooperation, Swisscontact has grown to be a strategic partner for the Indonesian government. This includes supporting bilateral cooperation between Switzerland and Indonesia.



“Switzerland amplifies its impact on economic development by successfully partnering the efforts of both the public and private sectors. I am very proud to see this in action through our collaborative projects with Swisscontact,” noted His Excellency Olivier Zehnder, Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN.

For over 50 years, Swisscontact has been impacting countless Indonesians, with about two million people benefitting in the last decade. Going forward, the organisation will continue maintaining existing partnerships and building new ones to do keep doing what it does best: creating opportunities.



## Swisscontact CEO Visits Skills Development Project Sites

Swisscontact Indonesia welcomed Dr Philippe Schneuwly, the CEO of Swisscontact, for a high-level visit to past and present project sites across West Java, Central Java, and Bali provinces in mid-July. It began in Bandung, West Java, as the team went to POLMAN Bandung, the first polytechnic in Indonesia.





"The polytechnic education, initiated by the Swiss Government through Swisscontact, has given substantial impact in the development of the country, where many industries grow and develop because its needs for workforce could be supplied by current graduates from polytechnics," said Mohammad Nurdin, Director of POLMAN Bandung, in an interview prior to the visit.



The visit continued to Central Java, where the team observed teaching activities at Kendal Polytechnic of Furniture and Wood Processing Industries (Polifurneka Kendal), one of the partner polytechnics of the Skills for Competitiveness (S4C) project.

This was followed by company visit to PT AST Indonesia, a manufacturing company where a number of Polifurneka Kendal's students do their internships and graduates are employed. The company has also participated in S4C's In-Company Trainers (In-CT) training, which builds the capacity of employees to deliver in-house trainings to interns and their fellow staff.



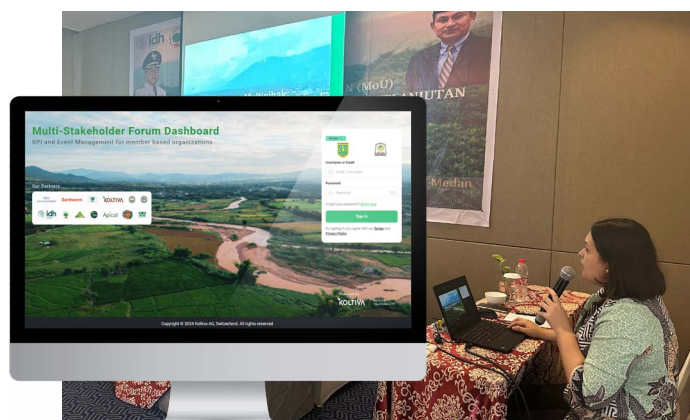
Meanwhile, in Bali, the team met partners of the now-concluded Sustainable Tourism Destination Development (SUSTOUR) project. It was part of the Sustainable Tourism Development Indonesia (STDI) program, which also included Sustainable Tourism Education Development (STED) project. Swisscontact implemented both SUSTOUR and STED between 2018 and 2023.

The S4C and STED projects are merged and now in their Phase 2 implementation under SS4C, Swisscontact Indonesia's current flagship program for skills development, focusing on manufacture, food and beverage processing, and tourism sectors.



## Swisscontact Signs MoU on the Landscape Vision for Sustainable Palm Oil Governance in Aceh Singkil District

On July 7, Swisscontact Indonesia, under the Leuser Alas Singkil River-basin (LASR) project, was among the stakeholders to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 2024-2026 Aceh Singkil Landscape Vision for Sustainable Palm Oil (SPO) Governance. In the same occasion, the district also launched the Natural Resources Management Multi-Stakeholders Forum Dashboard to support the implementation of sustainable palm oil practices in Aceh Singkil.



The MoU will serve as a basis and reference for stakeholders in optimizing the increase of regional growth through sustainable development acceleration under the Aceh Singkil jurisdiction's landscape vision. Moreover, the Dashboard is set to ensure indicators of the landscape vision implementation are presented and monitored. This will contribute to the district's achievement indicators, and measure performance of district government and the stakeholders in managing natural resources and other sustainable commodities in Aceh Singkil.

"On the jointly developed dashboard, development partners and the government can input the achievements for every indicator as contributions of each organization to the target stipulated in the Landscape Vision, and to monitor its progress," explained Christina Rini, LASR Project Manager. "The dashboard will serve as a measurable supervising tool as well as showcasing commitment of all parties for Aceh Singkil's progress," she concluded.





# SIPPO Import Forum Facilitates Access to EU Markets for Indonesian BSOs

In mid-June, SIPPO facilitated its Indonesian Business Support Organisations (BSOs) to attend the SIPPO Import Promotion Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland. Delegates from the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (MoC), the Ministry of Trade (MoT), and the Indonesian Essential Oils Council (IEOC), came home with significantly expanded importer network and improved insights on Swiss and European markets, including the importance of sustainability in international trade.

“At the SIPPO Import Promotion Forum, we were introduced to various associations and potential buyers from overseas,” said the IEOC Vice Chairman Arianto Mulyadi after the Forum. “We have attended the event for two years in a row, and this year were introduced to the Swiss Cosmetics and Detergents Association (SKW),” he added.





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**Swisscontact | Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation**

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