

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Citi Indonesia and Indonesia Business Links Encourage Competency Enhancement for Young Generation to Achieve Financial Independence

- *The Phase III of the Skilled Youth Program carries the target of providing 250 young people in five regions in West Java with soft-skill and hard-skill abilities*
- *West Java is the region with the second highest open unemployment rate (TPT) after Banten, with 8.17% of total unemployment*

Jakarta, 9 January 2019 – To start 2019, Citi Indonesia (Citibank) through its umbrella theme for its entire CSR activities, Citi Peka (*Peduli dan Berkarya* or caring and creating something meaningful), together with a non-profit organization Indonesia Business Links (IBL), again demonstrated its commitment to help the young generation improve their abilities and be able to work to achieve financial independence in the future by holding the Skilled Youth Program Phase III in five regions of West Java; Bekasi, Cikarang, Karawang, Bandung, and Purwakarta.

Elvera N. Makki, Director Country Head of Corporate Affairs Citi Indonesia said, “The young generation involved in the Skilled Youth Program Phase III will have better economic opportunities through capacity building in preparing themselves to be ready to compete, and for those who want to open opportunities for entrepreneurship. This effort is in line with the commitment of Pathway to Progress initiated by Citi Foundation to shed positive impacts on 500,000 young people worldwide until 2020. Together with our implementing partner, Indonesia Business Link, Citibank is committed to continuing to support young individuals to develop their potentials and have financial independence early on, thus reducing the number of unemployed people in Indonesia, especially in areas targeted by this program.”

The high number of unemployed people in Indonesia is one of the major social issues. Limited employment, low quality of human resources, weak support system that cannot help adding skills to a competent workforce and difficulties in building an independent business are some of the problems faced by young workers. In August 2018, the Statistics Indonesia noted that the number of unemployed people aged 15 and above reached 7 million with the highest open unemployment rate (TPT) dominated by graduates of vocational high schools (SMK), which was 11.24%. Meanwhile, based on the province, West Java is the region with the second highest TPT in Indonesia (8.17%) after Banten, which ranks first in the highest TPT with 8.52% of the total national unemployment.¹

The low competency of young workers in West Java has also prompted the collaboration between Citibank and IBL with the Bekasi Regency Government, Karawang Regency Government, and Bandung Regency Government. This collaboration was marked by the inauguration of a joint commitment in an effort to reduce youth unemployment through character building and improving the skills of Indonesia's young generation, especially in West Java. The collaboration is an important

¹ Source: Statistics Indonesia, August 2018, <https://www.bps.go.id/pressrelease/2018/11/05/1485/agustus-2018--tingkat-pengangguran-terbuka--tpt--sebesar-5-34-persen.html>

step in empowering the community economy often proclaimed by the government, and is part of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mahatmi Parwitasari Saronto, Director for Manpower and Expansion of Employment Opportunities, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), said, “Every year the government continues to make efforts and strategies to reduce unemployment. Evidently, throughout 2018, the government has presented 2.98 million jobs in various regions of Indonesia that the open unemployment rate dropped to 5.34% in August 2018. However, the open unemployment rate in the young workforce aged 15-24 years is still greater (19.68%) compared to other age groups. In 2019, the open unemployment rate is expected to fall in the range of 4.8% to 5.2%. To achieve these targets, we certainly welcome the ongoing Skilled Youth Program Phase III initiated by Citibank and IBL. The government hopes that this activity could motivate other private parties to take responsibility in preparing qualified young generation. Given that in 2030 productive age groups will dominate Indonesia’s population, the country’s future depends on the younger generation who are now starting to grow up and enter the demographic dividend period.”

“IBL and Citibank are committed to continue the Skilled Youth Program to all regions. Commitments made with the Bekasi District Government, Karawang Regency Government, and Bandung Regency Government cannot be separated from the fact that the number of youth unemployment in West Java region *is* high. Considering that the region is directly adjacent to the State Capital, this is certainly a special concern for related parties. The Skilled Youth Program Phase III will empower participants' economic potential through improving soft-skill and hard-skill abilities, entrepreneurship business assistance, and work guidance. The use of the Skilled Youth-Working and Skilled Youth-Entrepreneurship approach is considered fit for instilling motivation to the participants so that they can be excited in developing their abilities to continue working positively to achieve a better future,” **Mohamad Fahmi, Executive Director Indonesia Business Links** explained.

The Skilled Youth Program Phase III has taken place since August 2018 and will end in June 2019 with a target to reach 250 youth aged 16-25 years. This program is also one of the pillars of Citibank's CSR activities, namely the economic opportunity for the younger generation or we call it the Youth Economic Opportunity. With this program, Citibank hopes more young people could reach their highest potentials, both in terms of increasing employment opportunities and entrepreneurial expertise, thus capable to contribute to local and national economic development.

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About Citibank Indonesia

Citibank, N.A., Indonesia is a branch of Citibank, N.A., New York, USA. Citibank, N.A., Indonesia has been in Indonesia since 1968 and is one of the country's largest foreign banks. Citibank operates 10 branches in six major cities in Indonesia - Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Semarang, Medan and Denpasar. Citibank has consumer transaction networks of around 33,000 payment points and corporate distribution networks of around 6,000 locations in 34 provinces. Citibank, N.A., Indonesia is connected to ATM Bersama networks with more than 70,000 ATM terminals throughout Indonesia.

In 2018, Citibank Indonesia received awards as **Best International Bank in Indonesia from Finance Asia, Best Bank-Global in Indonesia, Best Bond Adviser-Global in Indonesia, Best Digital Bank in Indonesia, Best Retail Mobile Banking Experience** from the Asset, **Digital Banking Initiative of the Year** from Asian Banking and Finance, as well as **Innovative Company in Digital Services** in the category of **Foreign Bank** from Warta Ekonomi. In 2017, Citibank Indonesia has received various awards, including from Global Finance Magazine as both "**Best Corporate/Institutional Digital Bank**" and "**Best Consumer Digital Bank**", "**Best Foreign Bank in Indonesia**" from Finance Asia, "**Best Bank in Compliance Reporting of Foreign Exchange Flows (LLD = Lalu Lintas Devisa) and Export Proceeds (DHE = Devisa Hasil Ekspor)**" by the Indonesia Central Bank, "**Best Bank in Indonesia**", "**Best e-Bank in Indonesia**", "**Best Corporate and Institutional Bank – Global in Indonesia**", "**Best Corporate Bond in Indonesia**", "**Best Liability Management in Indonesia**" from The Asset magazine and "**Best Perform in Custodian Bank**" along with "**Indonesia's Digital Innovation Award 2017 in Foreign Bank category**" from Warta Ekonomi magazine.

Further information can be obtained at Website: www.citigroup.com | Twitter: @citi | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Blog: <http://blog.citigroup.com> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citiindonesia | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi
To enjoy a digital banking experience, please visit www.citibank.co.id.

Citibank N.A., Indonesia is a bank that is licensed, registered and supervised by the Indonesia Financial Services Authority (OJK).

About Indonesia Business Links (IBL)

Indonesia Business Links (IBL) is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 by a group of business leaders in Indonesia in response to the economic crisis of the time. IBL's vision is to become a leading advocate of good corporate citizenship in Indonesia, with a mission of contributing to creating good corporate citizenship, as well as developing and strengthening the capacity of its business partners (including corporations, small and medium enterprises, governments, NGOs and civil society). IBL's primary objective is to promote ethical business practices in Indonesia. As it stands, IBL's activities have expanded to include advocacy, the strengthening of CSR, and providing understanding and encouragement to multi-sectors to collaborate through initiatives in building partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals. IBL's advocacy has already helped thousands of corporate executives in Indonesia to better understand CSR, as well as how to measure success beyond mere economic gains. In addition, IBL is an action/implementation partner of CSR programs, primarily through the Indonesia Integrity Initiative (*Inisiatif Indonesia Berintegritas*), while also empowering young people towards work preparedness and entrepreneurship. For more information, please visit www.ibl.or.id.

For further information on IBL, send an email to ibl@ibl.or.id

To keep up with updates on IBL's activities, look at Facebook: **Indonesia Business Links (IBL)** | Youtube: **Indonesia Business Links (IBL)** | Instagram: **ibl_id** | Twitter: **@ibl_id** | www.ibl.or.id.

PHOTO GALLERY



As seen on the picture (left – right) **Selviana S.Kom, M.Si**, Head of Sub-directorate of Special Workforce Placement, Ministry of Manpower accompanying **Elvera N. Makki**, Director Country Head of Corporate Affairs Citi Indonesia, and **Chrysanti Hasibuan-Sediono**, Board Leader of Yayasan Indonesia Business Links, along with **H. Eka Sanatha**, Head of BAPPEDA Karawang Regency, **H. Ernawan Mustika**, Head of BAPPEDA Bandung Regency and **Iis Wahyudianto**, Head of Social, Culture, Economy division, BAPPEDA Bekasi. Moment after the joint commitment signing with Bekasi Regency Government, Karawang Regency Government, and Bandung Regency Government. As witnessed by (far right) **Mahatmi Parwitasari Saronto**, Director for Manpower and Expansion of Employment Opportunities, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS).



As seen on the photo **Elvera N. Makki**, Director, Country Head of Corporate Affairs Citi Indonesia (middle) while signing the joint commitment, as witnessed by **Selviana S.Kom, M.Si**, Head of Sub-directorate of Special Workforce Placement, Ministry of Manpower (far left) and **Mahatmi Parwitasari Saronto**, Director for Manpower and Expansion of Employment Opportunities, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) (far right). The Third Phase of Skilled Youth Program is expected to reduce the unemployment rate in Indonesia, especially in West Java area.