Indonesia Offers Regional Investment Opportunity in Houston, Texas

Indonesia's economic diplomacy is carried out incessantly in the southern region of the United States. On Friday, November 30, 2018, the Indonesian Consulate General (KJRI) in Houston in collaboration with the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) successfully held the Indonesia Business Forum seminar. The seminar was attended by 100 entrepreneurs in Houston, Texas, United States.

BKPM Director of Regional Promotion Facilitation, Mr. Nurul Ichwan; Regional Secretary of West Java Province, Dr. H. Iwa Karniwa, SE. Ak, MM, CA, PIA; Deputy Mayor of Bitung, Maurits Mantiri; and Head of the Manado Cooperative and MSME Office, Hendrik Waroka presented as speakers in the Houston Indonesia Business Forum 2018. Through this event, Houston business people and entrepreneurs got information about the recent development of Indonesia's investment policies, and also regional investment potentials that spread from West Java, Bitung, until Manado.

Acting as Indonesia's representative in the southern United States, KJRI Houston continues to encourage bilateral cooperation in the economic and socio-cultural fields in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. Indonesian Consul General in Houston, Dr. Nana Yuliana, stated that KJRI Houston is committed to strengthening cooperation as well as bilateral relation in the fields of economy, investment and trade. One of them is by introducing investment potential in the regions.

In her greeting, Dr. Nana Yuliana said, "The economic cooperation between Indonesia and the US needs to be improved, especially with the increase in trade targets between the two countries to 50 billion US dollars per year. It coincides with the momentum of the 70th RI-US diplomatic relations celebration in 2019. Indonesian commodities entering Texas are electronic spare parts, rubber, optical instruments, furniture and natural stone, while Texas commodities that enter Indonesia are mineral fuels, cotton, machinery, plastics, and organic chemicals. We hope that Indonesian entrepreneurs and local entrepreneurs in Houston can see this as an opportunity to encourage trade relations between the two countries".

From investment side, the Director of Regional Promotion Facilitation and the representatives of Indonesian Regional Governments offer investment opportunities in priority sectors (including tourism, infrastructure, and manufacturing) and investment opportunities in industrial estates to Houston entrepreneurs. As explained by BKPM Director of Regional Promotion Facilitation, US investment in Indonesia is currently ranked 6th in Indonesia (2013-Q3 2018) and dominated by investments in the primary sector. "We take advantage of this business meeting event to open the eyes of entrepreneurs in the US to see the improvement of investment climate in Indonesia and also various investment opportunities that they can enter," said Nurul.

On this opportunity, a one-on-one business meeting was held between the local entrepreneurs and representatives from Indonesian local governments and agencies. Besides the speakers, the forum was also attended by representatives from the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism, Indonesia Investment Promotion Center (IIPC) in New York, and Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI) New York branch.

Houston, Texas, is the fourth largest city in the United States. The city is famous as the capital of the oil and gas industry in the world. Nevertheless, Houston's economy began to shift from the original oil and gas base to an international trade city. More than 5,000 companies in Houston are operated in global trade.

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