





100 Years of Excellence



100 Years of Partnership

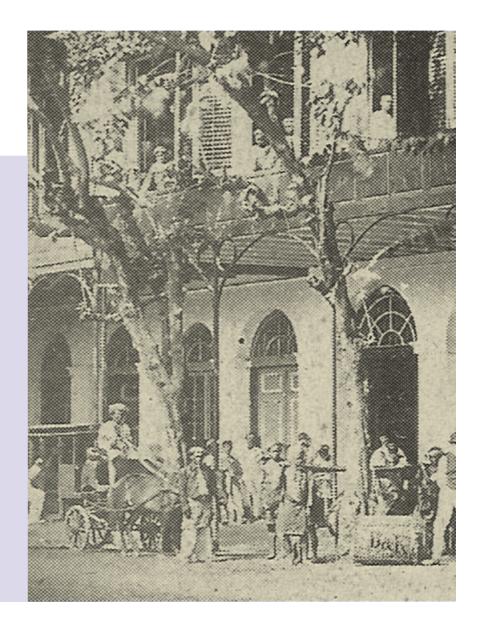
or a century, EKONID, The German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce has proudly stood as a pillar of economic diplomacy, representing the interests of its member companies and promoting bilateral business relations between Germany and Indonesia.

As part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs), EKONID is not just an organization, but a vital bridge that connects two dynamic economies with the world. Officially mandated by the German Federal Government, it plays a pivotal role in facilitating trade, investment, and collaboration between nations.

EKONID's diverse and vibrant membership spans corporate, institutional, and private entities, offering them unparalleled networking opportunities and a strong platform for advocacy. The Chamber works diligently for its members, collaborating with government ministries and authorities to support a strong and fair business environment.

Part of a global network that spans continents, the German Chambers Abroad have long been champions of the German economy and its international partners. Since the founding of the AHK Network in 1924, this powerful system has grown and strengthened business ties across the world.

As we celebrate a century of connecting businesses of different cultures to drive economic growth, and overcoming challenges together, we excitedly anticipate the next chapter in the enduring relationship between Germany and Indonesia.





FOREWORDS



H. E. Dr. (HC) Ir. Airlangga Hartarto, MBA, MMT

Message from the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia

Germany has long been one of Indonesia's closest partners, and I've always been struck by my personal experiences working with our German counterparts, both in business and politics. From vocational education to the energy transition, the collaboration between the German government and its business community has been exemplary in showing how business interests and public policy can align to create mutual benefit.

This book, which celebrates 100 years of AHK Indonesia (EKONID) and 110 years of the local association, is an excellent showcase of the strength and perseverance displayed by our respective business communities. Indonesia and Germany did not become part of the group of the largest economies of our respective continents in a single day. Both nations went through numerous historic moments – some dark, others bright. In that context, both countries can benefit greatly by learning from each other and by working closer together as well.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to EKONID on this excellent achievement and I look forward to more milestones in the future.

Message from the German Ambassador to Indonesia



H. E. Ina Lepel

t is fascinating to see how much our world has changed: A century ago, few could predict that Indonesia and Germany would rise into major players of the global economy. Today, Indonesia undeniably stands as a global economic force, driven by its wealth of natural resources, its youthful and expansive population, and the impressive economic growth the country has sustained over the decades.

As part of the group of the largest economies of our respective continents, we benefit from cooperating closely, and this book shows the benefits we have already reaped by keeping our respective business communities in close contact with each other. In this regard, the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce has been an integral part of our shared journey of sustainable growth.

On behalf of the German Government, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to EKONID, its leadership, and all those who have contributed to its journey over the past 100 years. May the next century bring continued prosperity, cooperation, and friendship between Germany and Indonesia.

FOREWORDS



Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Anindya Novyan Bakrie

Message from the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN INDONESIA)

The journey of any organization is shaped by the commitment of its people, its adaptability in the face of change, and its ability to create lasting connections. EKONID's 100-year history is a testament to these principles. From its modest beginnings to becoming a pillar of support for the German-Indonesian business community, it has played a crucial role in strengthening economic ties between our two countries.

As Chairman of Kadin Indonesia, I am proud of the ongoing collaboration between our organizations. The potential for growth and mutual learning between Kadin Indonesia and EKONID is significant; and I deeply value the contributions EKONID has made in supporting both German and Indonesian businesses. Our partnership continues to be an important part of the broader economic landscape, and I look forward to seeing it flourish in the years ahead.

On behalf of Kadin Indonesia, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to EKONID on its centenary and the remarkable journey it has had.

Message from the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Considering the global economic challenges, but also opportunities, it is inspiring to see a region which is doing well. Today, Indonesia is a vibrant business destination with the largest and most dynamic economy in Southeast Asia. A great opportunity for German and Indonesian companies to strengthen and deepen their relationship.

As we look back to a longstanding and trusted economic partnership between Indonesia and Germany in this book, it is clear how important functioning and well-balanced joint trade is for the benefit of all. The world's rapid pace of change motivates us to maintain and develop reliable relationships like ours.

Perhaps, the founders of the chamber foresaw this when they established the association *Deutscher Bund* in Batavia in 1915 and founded the first 25 bi-lateral German Chambers abroad. One of the most important of them: Indonesia.

Congratulations to AHK Indonesia for its 100-year anniversary of being part of our network. I thank you for your excellent work in the past century and look forward to your contributions in the years to come.



President of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Peter Adrian

FOREWORDS



EKONID Supervisory Board Chairman and Executive Director

Prijono Sugiarto and Jan Rönnfeld

Message from EKONID Supervisory Board Chairman and Executive Director

This book is but a small window into all the stories of the last 110 years of ventures, negotiations, and, overall, the remarkable journey of the German-Indonesian business community.

What began as an informal association in 1915, with the goal of giving the German community in the Dutch East Indies a voice, has transformed into an effective official institution with hundreds of member companies.

In the same way, EKONID's services have advanced over the years: From supporting businesses, including market entry assistance, networking opportunities, industry-specific events to consulting on trade and investment between Germany and Indonesia. EKONID has consistently strived to offer the most relevant and effective support for the members' success.

Moreover, it fills us with great pride that, alongside our core business functions, the Chamber has consistently understood the value of making an impact that goes beyond mere commerce.

Through the course of time, AHK Indonesia has become a platform for meaningful engagement, supporting initiatives that make a difference. This includes strengthening ties through charitable efforts, such as coordinating aid after the devastating 2004 tsunami.

Indeed, EKONID would not be what it is today without the support of its members, the collective force of German and Indonesian companies that truly exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit of industry and commerce. Their joint dedication – each sharing their expertise, innovation, and vision – forms the backbone of the Chamber's success.

We hope this book brings you as much enjoyment in reading it as we experienced in creating it. The invaluable support you have shown to EKONID fills us with deep gratitude. May our partnership continue to thrive for another century and beyond.

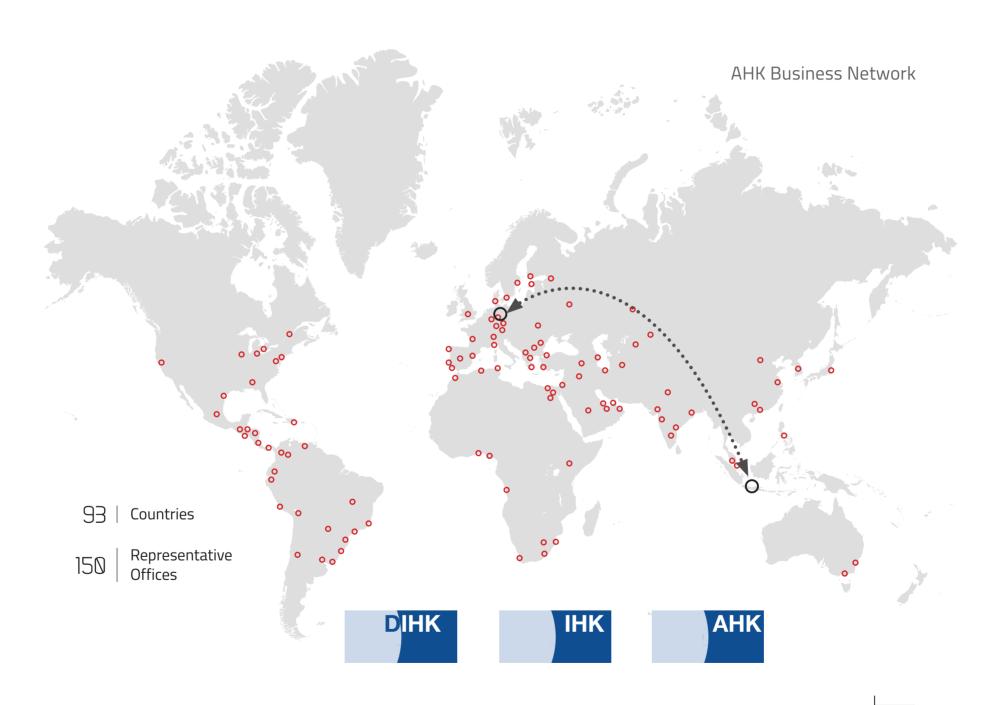
AHK Network Worldwide: Unlocking Opportunities

As part of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce Abroad (AHKs), EKONID benefits from a vast network of expertise and resources, with over 150 locations in 93 countries. This global network enhances EKONID's ability to connect members with opportunities and support across international markets.

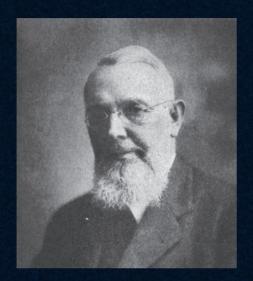
Leveraging this extensive presence, EKONID provides a wide range of services to support German companies entering or expanding in Indonesia, as well as Indonesian companies seeking connections with Germany. These services include market research, business partner search, and tailored market entry strategies to help businesses navigate the Indonesian market. In addition, legal, tax, and financial advisory services ensure companies comply with regulatory requirements and optimize their operations.

Through high-impact networking events, trade missions, and conferences, EKONID facilitates valuable business connections between German and Indonesian companies. The Chamber also provides tailored public relations, marketing strategies, and prime opportunities for trade fair participation to enhance its members' visibility and strengthen market presence. Additionally, corporate services such as office space, visa assistance, and human resources support make it easier to establish a business in Indonesia.

In collaboration with Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), EKONID offers essential market intelligence and investment promotion. With the global AHK network behind it, the Chamber ensures its members receive unparalleled support, positioning them for success in both the Indonesian and German markets.



ON THE STORY





Emil Helfferich

A pioneer of German-Indonesian trade and economic relations.

" A story of work, love, friendship, and country "

THE BEGINNING OF A LEGACY: THE GERMAN-INDONESIAN CHAMBER'S FORMATION

In the early 1900s, the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, was an essential hub for trade, particularly agricultural products such as tobacco and spices. Driven by the rapid economic developments, the presence of German businesses in Southeast Asia had been growing for several decades, with merchants, exporters, and businesses exploring new markets and trading opportunities.

Among the early travelers was Emil Helfferich, a German entrepreneur and trader. Having experienced both success and adversity in his own entrepreneurial endeavors, Helfferich became a prominent figure in the German community in Batavia (now Jakarta). He recognized that the growing number of German businesses in Indonesia required support, and that a more organized and formal approach was needed to foster long-term economic cooperation. In 1915, amidst the growing tensions surrounding the outbreak of World War I, Helfferich facilitated the creation of a German association, known as the "Deutscher Bund in Niederländisch-Indien" to represent the interests of German nationals and businesses in the region. This association provided a platform for communication and support, but it was clear that a more official and recognized chamber was needed to advance the bilateral trade agenda.

During a visit to Germany in 1924, Helfferich's efforts were recognized by the Association of German Industry and Commerce, which officially acknowledged the *Deutscher Bund* as a founding

member of the network of German Chambers Abroad (AHK). This recognition laid the groundwork for the establishment of an institutional body that would go on to play a pivotal role in promoting trade and investment between the two countries until now.

In the years that followed, the Chamber focused on building a robust network of German companies operating in the region, especially those in industries such as textiles, machinery, and chemicals. However, its development was interrupted by the course of history, the outbreak of World War II. With the German invasion of the Netherlands in 1940, the Chamber in Indonesia was forced to close.

The end of World War II in 1945 marked a global turning point, reshaping political and economic landscapes across the world. For Indonesia, it was also the year the nation declared its independence, a momentous event for the Indonesian people that also reshaped the relationship between the two nations. As the war ended, both Germany and Indonesia were determined to rebuild their economies and restore their diplomatic ties.

By 1951, the German government and the East Asian Association agreed to work together to restore trade relations. Emil Helfferich, who had been living in Germany since his departure from Indonesia in 1928, was appointed by the new

German government to play a key role in this initiative. His meeting as head of the goodwill mission with President Soekarno in Jakarta represented a symbolic moment. Five years later, in 1956, this mutual respect was further demonstrated when President Soekarno was warmly welcomed in Hamburg at the Hotel Atlantic, reinforcing the strengthening ties between Germany and Indonesia.



Helfferich and his staff at the Deutscher Bund, Batavia.



Entschließung

der deutschen

Aulandshandelskammern

anläßlich ihrer ersten Tagung vom 23. bis 25. September 1924 3u Berlin



Von dem Wunsche beseelt, ihre Susammenarbeit mit den deutschen Auslandsvertretungen und mit der Deimat immer inniger zu gestalten, bekennen sich die an der Tagung der

deutschen Auslandshandelskammern in Berlin am 24. September 1924 vertretenen deutschen Auslandshandelskammern zur Pflicht, an ihrem Platze mit allen Kräften am Wiederaufbau der deutschen Wirtschaft und insbesondere des Güteraustausches zwischen der Keimat und den Gaststaaten mitzuarbeiten.

Sie stellen ihre Organisation und ihre Erfahrungen nicht nur ihren Mitgliedern und den an diesem Güteraustausch beteiligten Kreisen, insbesondere den der deutschen Exportwirtschaft gewidmeten deutschen Inlandsorganisationen zur Verfügung, sondern auch den Behörden des Reiches und der Gaststaaten. Sie sind bereit, durch gutachtliche Tätigkeit die gesetzgebenden Faktoren und die Rechtsprechung in ihren Aufgaben zu unterstützen.

Sie geben dem Wunsche Ausdruck, dass die gesamten Amtsstellen sich über die Auffassung der in den betreffenden Gaststaaten ansässigen deutschen Auslandshandelskammern und verwandten Organisationen durch ständige Fühlungnahme dauernd orientieren, und daß sie selbst vor und bei handelspolitischen Unterhaltungen mit den betreffenden Gaststaaten gutachtlich gehört werden.

Sie richten schließlich an die Regierungen des Reiches und der Länder und an die dem Nandel und der Industrie gewidmeten Organisationen die Bitte, die deutsche Öffentlichkeit und die deutschen Inlandsbehörden über Wesen und Wünschbarkeit der deutschen Auslandshandelskammern aufzuklären.



The Founding of a Global Network

These documents affirm *Deutscher Bund* as among the first worldwide offices included within the network of AHKs, as it was also the first time the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry decided to imprint its presence across the globe.

Teilnehmer

an den Verhandlungen in der Industrie- und Sandelskammer Berlin am 22. September 1922.



Vorsitzender:

Frang v. Mendelssohn, Präsident des Deutschen Industrie- und Sandelstags (Berlin)

Bertreter der Reichsregierung:

Reichswirtschaftsminister Damm

Bertreter des Auswärtigen Amtes:

- Ministerialdirektor Knipping
- Legationsrat Dr. Betheke
- Legationsrat Dr. Schwarz
- Disekonsul Pollberg sowie
- Wirkl, Cegationsrat Dr. Bosenick vom Verwaltungsrat der Zweigstellen des Auswärtigen Amtes für Außenhandel und der Reichsnachrichtenstellen

Außerdem:

- Generalkousul v Dassel (Barcelona)
- (Generalkonsul p. Bentia (Dosen)
- Generalkonsul Dr. Schmitt (Mailand)
- Konsul Dr. Krüger (Kopenhagen)
- Ronsul Dr. Walbeck (Agram)
- Dandelsattaché Odrich (Amsterdam)

Bertreter des Reichswirtschaftsministeriums:

- Oberregierungsrat Dr. Fetsler
- Regierungsrat Dr. p. flever

Bertreter des Prenfischen Ministeriums für Sandel und Gewerbe:

Ministerialrat Dr. Frielinghaus

Vertreter des Baperischen Ministeriums für Sandel, Industrie und Gewerbe:

Staatsrat Dr. Rohmer (Staatliche Baperische Wirtschaftsstelle in Berlin)

Mertreter deutscher Sandelskammern im Auslande

- G. Wolters, Sweiter Borsitzender der Deutschen Sandelskammer für Spanien Barcelona
- Generaldirektor P. Rühnemann, Präsident der Deutsch-Ungarischen Sandelskammer Budapest
- Dr. Ritter v. Elliman, Spudikus der Deutsch-Eingarischen Sandelskammer Budapest
- B. Dumke, Generalsekretär der Deutsch-Elngarischen Sandelskammer Budapest
- Dr. D. v. Swehl, Sondikus des Finnisch-Deutschen Standelskammervereins Belsingfors
- E. Alein, Geschäftsführer der Dentsch-Italienischen Sandelskammer Mailand
- C. Trosset, Dräsident der Deutschen Wirtschaftskammer Wien
- Regierungsrat Dr. Dieckmann, Syndikus der Deutschen Wirtschaftskammer Wien
- L. Scherk, Berlin, Mitglied der Deutschen Wirtschaftskammer Wien
- · C. Emmelins, Präsident der Deutschen Dandelskammer in der Schweiz, Burich
- Kommerzienrat f. Schwars, Mürnberg, Mitglied der Deutschen nandelskammer in der Schweis, Bürich
- Dr. Bauers, Berlin, Mitglied der Deutschen Bandelskammer in der Schweis, Sürich
- Rechtsanwalt G. Wirth, Syndikus der Deutschen Kandelskammer in der Schweis, Sürich
- Dr. v. Rapoliski, Stellv. Spudikus der Deutschen Bandelskammer in der Schweis, Bürich

- . Dr. f. Quebeck, Bertreter der Deutschen Bandelskammer Surich in Munchen
- · E. Wilhelmy, Mitglied der Deutschen Nandelskammer Valparaiso
- . B. Al. Bromberg, Mitglied der Deutschen Sandelskammer Buenos Aires
- R. Hosmann, Mitglied der Deutschen Sandelskammer Buenos Aires
- D. Grebin, Mitglied der Deutschen Bandelskammer für Elruguap, Montevideo
- W. Bromberg, Mitglied des Verbandes Deutscher firmen, Rio de Janeiro · Direktor Engelhard, Mitglied des Berbandes Dentscher Firmen, Rio de Janeiro
- · Reichsfinangninister a. D. Dr. A. Bermes, Ehrenmitglied der Beutschen Bandelskammer für Cuba, Bavanna
- · Dr. D. B. Grieme, Spudikus der Deutschen Bandelskammer für Cuba, Bavanna
- Dr. C. Schill, Mitglied des Board of Trada for Garman American Comm
- . C. Delfferich, bisher Drasident des De . C. Delfferich, bisher Drasident des Deutschen Bundes Batavia
- R. Rademacher (Soerabaja), Mitglied . R. Rademacher (Soerabaja), Mitglied des Deutschen Bundes Batavia R. Caurens, bisher Prasident der Deut
- D. Mirow, Mitalied der Deutschen Sandelskammer Sankau
- . E. Meper-Glitza, Mitglied der Deutschen Bandelskammer Tientsin
- · Dr. Burchard, Geschäftsstelle der deutschen Nandelskammern in den latein-amerikanischen Ländern (Gelatei-
- · no) Samburg u. Börse
- Dr. Leuckfeld (Gelateino) Damburg
- Dr. Drascher, früher Sondikus der Deutschen Sandelskammer Balpariso (Gelateino) Samburg
- Dr. Schröder (Gelateino) Damburg
- · Dr. Gisbert, Archivar der Industrie- und Kandelskammer Berlin, Bertreter der Gelateino in Berlin
- · Al March Morsitzender des Ostasiatischen Mereins Samburg
- · Dr. Doeck, Mitglied des Ostasiatischen Bereins Damburg
- . ft. Fessen, Mitglied des Ostasiatischen Vereins Samburg
- · Dr. f. W. Mohr, Geschäftsführer des Ostasiatischen Bereins Samburg.

Mitglieder des Vorstandes des Deutschen Industrie- und Dandelstags:

- . f. v. Mendelssohn (Berlin), Präsident ft. o.]
- · f. D. Witthoefft (Damburg), Borsitzender des Ankenhandelsausschusses
- · Geh. Oberregierungsrat Dr. Ouber, Geschäftsführendes Präsidialmitglied [f. u.]
- · C. Ragen, Präsident der Industrie- und Randelskammer Köln a. Rh.
- · O. Cenel. Dräsident der Sandelskammer Mannheim
- Drof, Salomon, Mitglied der Industrie- und Pandelskammer Frankfurt a. M.
- Geh. Rommerzienrat Schmidt, Präsident der Sandelskammer Leipzig
- Igalirt, Präsident der Industrie- und Sandelskammer Sannover

Außerdem wohnten der Berhandlung etwa 50 Gäste aus dem Kreise der Industrie- und Bandelskammern und der Spitzenverbande sowie der frubere Generalsekretar der Deutschen Industrie- und Sandelstags, Berr Dr. Soetbeer, bei. Bon der Geschäftsführung des Deutschen Industrie- und nandelstags waren anwesend die Berren:

- . f. v. Mendelssohn (Berlin), Präsident ff. o.]
- f. O. Wirthoefft (Namburg), Vorsitzender des Außenhandelsausschusses
- Geh. Oberregierungsrat Dr. Auber, Geschäftsführendes Präsidialmitglied ff. u.]
- · L. Nagen, Präsident der Industrie- und Nandelskammer Röln a. Rh.
- · f. Cenel, Dräsident der Sandelskammer Mannheim
- Prof. Salomon, Mitglied der Industrie- und Pandelskammer Frankfurt a. M.
- Gel. Rommerzienrat Schmidt, Präsident der Sandelskammer Leipzig
- · Igalirt, Präsident der Industrie- und Sandelskammer Sannover



in the negotiations at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry on September 24, 1924.

THE LEGACY

ollowing the Republic of Indonesia's hard-won independence, the country's economic situation did not improve. By the 1960s, the economy was struggling under extreme inflation, reaching 600% per year at one point. Political unrest and conflict strained Indonesia's oncethriving agricultural sector, while industrialization under President Soekarno's economic interventions came to a standstill. This combination of economic instability and rural poverty led to increasing discontent.

In 1967, Soeharto, a General in the Indonesian Armed Forces, wrested power away from Soekarno, and, with his New Order regime, implemented a series of economic reforms aimed at stabilizing the country's economy. These reforms opened Indonesia to foreign investment, encouraged the development of infrastructure, and promoted self-sufficiency. While these policies helped stimulate economic growth, it is important to note that the New Order was also marked by authoritarian rule, political repression, and widespread corruption. Despite these challenges, Indonesia's economy grew, reaching 10.92% in 1970—a remarkable achievement that would remain a benchmark in the nation's economic history.

In this dynamic period of economic recovery, a group of Indonesian and German entrepreneurs laid the foundation for the revival of the Chamber in 1970, which ultimately led to the recognition as the bilateral German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (EKONID) by the Indonesian government in 1973.

As a crucial platform for business and economic collaboration, EKONID facilitated events that brought

entrepreneurs from both countries together to explore opportunities. Notably, in 1979, the Chamber hosted the 13th German Industrial Exhibition in Jakarta (INDOGERMA), marking the first technology exhibition of its kind in Southeast Asia and showcasing the potential for deeper economic integration. Over the course of the following decades, the Chamber became the leading economic facilitator for business delegations and high-ranking political visitors.

After the German reunification in 1989/1990, the organization's growth continued, and in 1994, the Chamber moved to a new office on Jl. Agus Salim in Menteng, Jakarta. It is noteworthy that the building, bought by EKONID, had previously been home to the Trade Policy Section of the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic.

Later in the decade, Indonesia's economic progress faced severe challenges during the 1998 financial and systemic crisis. A combination of factors including the depreciation of the rupiah, high foreign debt, poor financial oversight, political instability, and the broader impact of the Asian Financial Crisis, led to widespread economic turmoil and social unrest.

Consequently, significant changes took place in Indonesia. The country introduced significant democratic reforms and changed from a highly centralized to a widely decentralized governing structure.

Throughout this challenging time, Germany remained a steadfast partner and EKONID continued to support Indonesia's recovery: In 1999, the Chamber organized the second German industrial exhibition, TECHNOGERMA, which highlighted technological innovations. More than eighthundred-and-fifty-thousand visitors attended the week-long exhibition, serving as an impressive testament to the enduring

strength of the German-Indonesian economic relationship.

In 2004, when the devastating tsunami struck Indonesia's western shores and left tens of thousands dead and millions displaced, EKONID responded quickly, allocating €6.5 million in financial aid through its partners and members. Over three years, the Chamber coordinated more than 50 rehabilitation projects, in sectors such as education, childcare, fisheries, health, and community development.

EKONID established itself as a key element of European-Indonesian business relationships as well, by founding EuroCham together with the British, French and Dutch Chamber and initiating the European-Indonesian Business Network (EIBN).

In the field of education EKONID is contributing to Indonesia with the German Dual-Vocational Education and Training (GDVET) programs Mainly focusing on technical professions like Industrial Mechanics, Automotive Mechanical and Mechanics.

By 2018, EKONID hosted the largest conference for the German business world outside Europe—the Asia-Pacific Conference (APK 2018), attracting more than 1,000 global CEOs, board members and political leaders from 27 countries to discuss key issues in infrastructure, innovation, and trade, as well as the impact of current trade policy and security developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Iln 2020, EKONID's crisis management capabilities were once again put to the test, when the COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges. The Chamber facilitated critical dialogs with the Indonesian government and supported its members from advocating for visa extension, travel and stay permits to efficient quarantine regulations and



vaccination programs. Supporting German – Indonesian trade and investment and business relationships and advocating the interests of its corporate members is a century long commitment and privilege of EKONID, since its initial foundation in 1915 until today, its centennial anniversary.

".... And Helfferich had set the course for making this happen a century earlier."



Our Journey Begins

The early 20th century saw extraordinary and rapid economic development in the Dutch East Indies. Over a span of 22 years, from 1900 to 1922, Dutch East Indies exports increased from 230 million to 1.14 billion guilders (approximately EUR 5.65 billion today), while imports rose from 176 million to 700 million guilders. Recognizing this remarkable economic growth, the German entrepreneur Emil Helfferich proposed the formation of a "German Association in the Dutch East Indies" to strengthen German ties in the region.

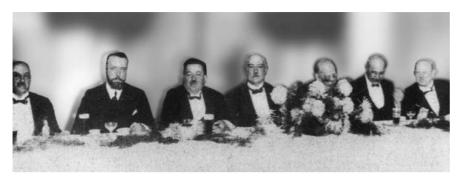
In 1915, this vision took shape with the establishment of the *Deutscher Bund*. A decade later, in 1924, this association became one of the founding members of the official network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs). This official recognition marked the beginning of the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Indonesia/EKONID).



1915

The bilateral German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Indonesia/ EKONID) marked its beginnings with the founding of the *Deutscher Bund* in 1915, in Batavia, the name by which Jakarta was known back then.





Foundation of the Network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs)

From Left to Right: Privy Commercial Councillor Dr. H. C. Hagen (Cologne), E. Helfferich (Batavia, Founder of EKONID), German President F. Ebert, F. v. Mendelssohn (Berlin), German Chancellor W. Marx, member of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce F. H. Witthoefft (Hamburg), German Foreign Minister Dr. Stresemann, witnessed the declaration of the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad at the Esplanade Hotel in Berlin, Germany, during which the *Deutscher Bund* was recognized as part of the network.



Reception evening at Hotel Esplanade

From Left to Right: E. Helfferich (Batavia); President F. Ebert; Franz v. Mendelssohn, President of The German Congress of Industry and Commerce; and Chancellor Marx, September 23, 1924.





The offices of the *Straits und Sunda Syndikat* of Emil Helfferich in Batavia



Tea sorting in Tjikopo, an area west of Batavia.



Tanjung Priok Railway Station, Batavia.

World War II & Indonesian Independence

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 marked a turning point for many nations, including Indonesia. After centuries under colonial rule, the struggle for independence gained momentum. On August 17, 1945, Indonesia proclaimed its independence, ushering in a new era of sovereignty and self-determination.

This period also brought changes for AHK Indonesia, which ceased operations in 1940. After the war, both nations had to rebuild their economies and re-established their bilateral trade relations in the beginning of the 1950s.





1945



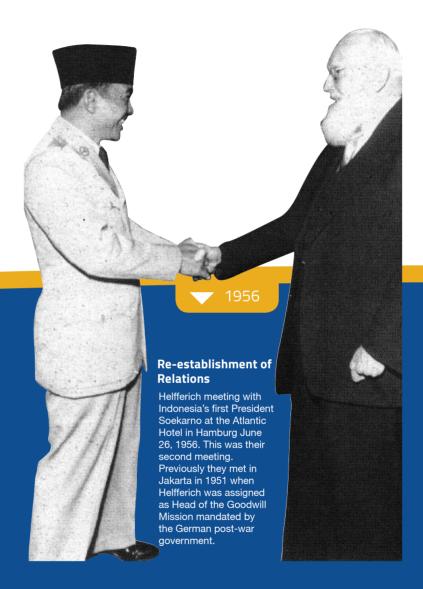
Nationalist gatherings became more prominent during World War II, with political figures, including Indonesia's first President, Soekarno, advocating for independence from Dutch colonial rule. These gatherings set the stage for a broad independence movement that culminated in the 1945 declaration.







Kali Besar, the most prestigious merchant quarter in old Batavia. Many German and Dutch trading houses were located here.





AHK is Back

the decade appeared highly promising. During this period, a group of Indonesian and German entrepreneurs decided to re-establish the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce. EKONID tested its legs in 1970 with the appointment of Jörg Willecke, an economist,

By the 1970s, the economic outlook for as its first Managing Director. The organization established its first office at Jalan Teuku Umar No. 39 in Jakarta, staffed by a small team. In 1973, it gained official recognition as the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce by the Indonesian government.







Images of EKONID's 3rd Annual Members Meeting, Jakarta, 1973. Business luncheon with Tjokropranolo, Governor of Jakarta, serving between 1977 and 1982, February 22,1978.



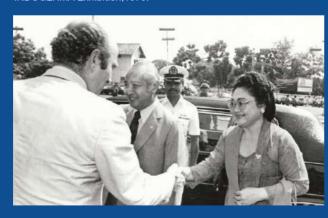
INDOGERMA Exhibition

The 13th German Industrial Exhibition, titled INDOGERMA, was successfully held in Jakarta in 1979. It was the first of its kind to be hosted in a Southeast Asian country and it signaled a strong commitment from the business community to keep pace with the dynamic industrial landscape, Indonesia's growing economy, and Germany's rapidly developing innovation ecosystem. A variety of industries were featured, including manufacturing, production technology, energy, automation, and information technology. Overall, INDOGERMA contributed to strengthening the trade relationship between Indonesia and Germany.



1979

President of the Republic of Indonesia, Soeharto and First Lady Ibu Negara Tien Soeharto visited the INDOGERMA Exhibition,1979.





Dr. B.J. Habibie, Minister of Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, visited the INDOGERMA Exhibition, Jakarta, 1979.



Business luncheon with Ali Moertopo (standing), Minister of Information of the Republic of Indonesia, Sahid Hotel Jakarta, October 14, 1982.



Reception with Dr. Martin Bangemann (left), Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany, Borobodur Hotel Jakarta, August 7, 1985.

1985



Business luncheon with Prof. Dr. Emil Salim (center), Minister of Construction and Environment Supervision, Jakarta, May 30, 1984.



Germany's Reunification: A Turning Point

The reunification of Germany in 1990, following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, marked the end of the Cold War and restored German unity after over four decades of division. This momentous event had profound implications for Germany's domestic development and reshaped its role on the global stage. It also triggered significant economic transformation and modernization, further solidifying Germany's position as a key economic partner for countries like Indonesia. Ultimately, the reunification represented not just the restoration of a nation, but the integration of two distinct economies.



1989

Germany also saw major changes with the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. The end of the Iron Curtain triggered the collapse of the regimes in Central and Eastern Europe. German reunification followed in October 1990.





199°

Indonesian Minister of Trade Dr. Arifin M. Siregar (second from left) at the reception after the Hamburg Symposium, which was held on February 25, 1991 in Jakarta. Also pictured, from left to right: Dr. C. Lau, W. von Below, Dr. Vogelsang, and H. Hansen.





On September 19, 1994, EKONID's new building was officially inaugurated by the Governor of Jakarta Surjadi Soedirdja.



Visit of future German chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel, then the Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, to EKONID on November 13, 1995.

1994

1995



At the opening ceremony of HANNOVER MESSE '95: Indonesian President Soeharto; Dr. Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany; and Gerhard Schröder, then Prime Minister of the State of Lower Saxony.



Former German President Dr. Richard von Weizsaecker and Dr. F. Kleinsteuber on the occasion of EKONID's anniversary in Jakarta, 1995.



Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, welcomed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in Jakarta on November 28, 1996, emphasized Germany's support for Indonesia's economic growth, trade, and investment, strengthening ties and positioning Germany as a key partner in Indonesia's development.



From left to right: Josef Muskita, Chairman of EKONID Board of Management; Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt; Dr. F. Kleinsteuber, EKONID Managing Director, at a business luncheon in Jakarta, October 31, 1997.

1996



Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl welcomed by Sotion Ardjanggi, Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, witnessed by Soedarpo Sastrosatomo, founder of the company Samudera Indonesia, November 28, 1996.





Minister of Research and Technology Dr. B.J. Habibie opened the Technical Symposium for the Federal State of Baden Württemberg in Jakarta, March 1997.

The Crisis of 1997-1998

The monetary crisis that hit Indonesia in 1998 led to a full-scale systemic collapse. Triggered by the Asian financial crisis, weak economic fundamentals, and poor governance, the crisis resulted in a dramatic rupiah depreciation, high unemployment, violent political unrest, and the downfall of President Soeharto. In the aftermath, Indonesia entered into a series of IMF-backed economic reforms, which focused on stabilizing the currency and restructuring the banking system.



1998



Protesters occupying the Indonesian parliament in May 1998.



On May 21, 1998, President Soeharto stepped down after 32 years and handed over to then-Vice President B.J. Habibie.

TECHNOGERMA



German-Indonesian business relations remained steadfast, as evidenced by TECHNOGERMA 1999. The major trade exhibition showcased the latest high-tech innovations to over 800,000 visitors. EKONID, as the chief local organizer, facilitated the event.





1999

German Economics Minister, Dr. W. Müller, with Indonesian President Prof. Dr. B.J. Habibie, who visited TECHNOGERMA three times, once with his entire cabinet.



German President Dr. Johannes Rau, his wife Christina Rau, and the EKONID Team at the German Centre in Tangerang, Banten, during his diplomatic visit to Indonesia in February, 2001.



Indonesian Infrastructure Summit, Jakarta, November 1 - 3, 2006. Indonesia's sixth President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, visited the joint European pavillion, in which EKONID took part as an exhibitor and organizer.

2006

2008



2003



German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Indonesia's fifth President, Megawati Soekarnoputri, during a visit to Deutsche Internationale Schule (DIS) in early May 2003.





Read more about INDOGERM-direct on page 40-41

A group photo taken after handing over the final report of the Indonesian-German Direct Aid project to the Indonesian Vice President, Jusuf Kalla (third from left). From left to right: Jan Rönnfeld, Shanti Poesposoetjipto, Astrid B. Soerjantono Soerjo, Wisnoentoro Martokusumo, Danny Jozal, Hanns J. Hauptmann.



German Ambassador to Indonesia Norbert Baas (top right), Musicians Sandhy Sandoro and Millane Fernandez posing with the JERIN Bajaj at an event in Jakarta.

Visit of German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel and meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Both leaders explored opportunities for Germany to assist Indonesia with technology transfer and expertise in renewable energy, an area of growing importance as Indonesia sought to diversify its energy mix.



2012













The EU-Indonesia Business Network (EIBN), launched in 2013, is a partnership project between five European bilateral chambers of commerce in Indonesia and two counterparts in Europe. EIBN aims to promote Indonesia and ASEAN as high-potential trade and investment destinations among companies from all EU member states, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



Frank-Walter Steinmeier, then German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Indonesia's newly elected seventh President, Joko Widodo, in November 2014, to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations.



In April 2016, Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited Germany and met with German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel.

2014



As part of the President's agenda, a visit to the Siemens vocational training facility in Berlin took place in April 2016.



On July 8, 2017, in Hamburg, Germany, alongside President Joko Widodo's participation in the G20 meeting, EKONID and the Indonesian Embassy in Germany held a high-level business roundtable. EKONID Chairman Prijono Sugiarto and Director Jan Rönnfeld updated the President on the chamber's vocational training programs and invited him to attend the upcoming Asia-Pacific Conference (APK) 2018.





The Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto and the CEO of Deutsche Messe AG Dr. Jochen Köckler attended a panel discussion moderated by EKONID Managing Director Jan Rönnfeld in Jakarta, promoting Indonesia as the official partner country of Hannover Messe 2020.



In 2018, EKONID had the honor of hosting the Asia-Pacific Conference, the largest gathering of German companies in the region, where over 1,000 participants convened to discuss the direction of the global economy.





In January 2020, former German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel (third from left), met with several German-Indonesian business representatives at a luncheon organized by EKONID.



Asia-Pacific Conference (APK) 2018



In 2018, EKONID hosted the largest conference for the German business community outside Europe: the Asia-Pacific Conference or APK 2018. More than 1,000 business and institutional representatives, policy makers and experts from 27 countries traveled to Jakarta in early November to discuss topics

such as Infrastructure Developments in Asia, Global Digitalization & Innovation Trends as well as the impact of current Trade Policy and Security Developments in the Asia-Pacific. From ministerial dialogue to Oxford-style debates, the APK stood out as a significant event.





2018

From left to right: Indonesian Ministry of Investment (BKPM) Chief Thomas Lembong; Asia Pacific Association (APA) Chairman Dr. Hubert Lienhard; Australian Minister of Finance and Public Service Mathias Cormann; DIHK President Eric Schweitzer; and PT Astra International CEO and President Director and EKONID Chairman Prijono Sugiarto.





The APK 2018 Panel Sessions hosted insightful discussions with some of the most prominent figures from around the world.



Indonesia's unique cultural identity and performances captivated the audience.



Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani became one of the most highly anticipated speakers of APK 2018.

Overcoming COVID-19

The COVID-19 virus reached Indonesia in February 2020. The resulting lockdowns took a heavy toll on businesses in the country and around the world. EKONID supported its members in intensive dialogue with the government and facilitated practical issues such as visa and travel arrangements, roundtable info sessions, safeguarding measures and quarantine guidelines.



The EKONID staff participated in one of the many mass vaccinations programs for COVID-19 in Jakarta.



2021



The German-Indonesian Business Forum at Hannover Messe 2021. Moderated by EKONID Managing Director Jan Rönnfeld and Shinta Kamdani, then the Deputy Chairwoman for International Relations of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), the hybrid forum hosted prominent business leaders and politicians from Germany and Indonesia.



2022



EKONID hosted the German-Indonesian Business Roundtable featuring (from left to right): EKONID Executive Director Jan Rönnfeld, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Indonesian Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, and Indonesian Minister of Industry Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz also officially opened the Indonesia Pavilion at Hannover Messe 2023, the world's largest industrial trade fair, on Sunday, April 16, 2023.







The Indonesian-German Business
Forum at Hannover
Messe 2023. From
left to right: EKONID
Managing Director Jan
Rönnfeld, Chairman of
PT Astra International
Prijono Sugiarto, and
Chairman of the Board
of Executive Directors
of BASF Martin
Brudermüller.





1994 - 2019

EKONID's Home Over The Years

When AHK Indonesia was re-established in 1970, the organization operated from a small office on Jl. Teuku Umar before relocating to Wisma Metropolitan on Jl. Sudirman, one of Jakarta's first high-rise buildings. In 1994, EKONID purchased the building that had previously housed the Trade Department of the German Democratic Republic's Embassy. After a brief renovation, it has remained EKONID's headquarters ever since.

Over the years, EKONID has continually rejuvenated and renovated its facilities to meet the evolving demands of its members and employees. The latest major renovation was completed in 2020: The building now has a café, a business center, an event space and a dedicated multimedia studio.



EKONID office activities back when it was still located in Wisma Metropolitan, Jl. Teuku Umar.



The ongoing construction of EKONID's office in Jl. H. Agus Salim No. 115 in the 90s.



EKONID office activities in the early 2010s.

2020 - today











INDOGERM-direct 2004-2008

The tsunami disaster on December 26, 2004, claimed over 160,000 lives and displaced millions in Indonesia alone. In response, EKONID, with support from its members and partners, managed EUR 6.5 million in aid under a project called INDOGERM-direct. Over

three years, INDOGERM-direct oversaw more than 50 projects focused on education, child care, fisheries, health, and community development.



Great tragedy struck when a major earthquake, measuring 9.2 on the seismic scale, triggered a massive tsunami that devastated the province of Aceh at the northern tip of Sumatra.



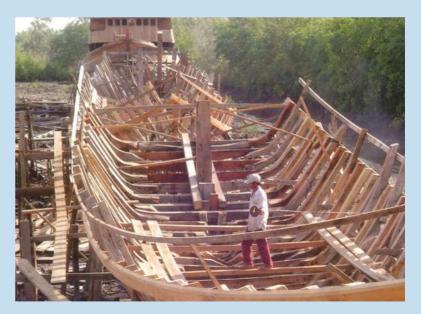


Through INDOGERM-direct, EKONID supports long-term community recovery in tsunami-affected areas





SMKN 1-3 Mibo, Vocational Schools, Banda Aceh, post-reconstruction using the funds distributed under the INDOGERM-direct project.





Clean Batik Initiative (CBI) 2010-2013

The Clean Batik Initiative (CBI), co-funded by the European Union and implemented by EKONID in Indonesia and Malaysia between 2010 to 2013, aimed to promote environmentally friendly and sustainable practices in the Indonesian batik industry.



Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono visited the CBI Booth at the 5th Batik Cultural Heritage 2012 Exhibition in Jakarta, along with Minister of Industry Mohamad S. Hidayat. They were greeted by Mr. Martin Krummeck (left), Project Coordinator of CBI.





The batik industry, which holds significant cultural and economic value in Indonesia, has traditionally relied on processes that involve the extensive use of water, dyes, and chemicals that can cause environmental damage. CBI intended to introduce eco-friendly alternatives to these traditional methods by encouraging the use of safer dyes and chemicals, reducing water consumption, and promoting waste management practices.



EU-Indonesian Business Network 2013-2018

EIBN was a collaborative initiative supporting European companies entering Indonesia's market. Housed at EKONID, the program offered market insights, business matchmaking, and regulatory guidance, fostered trade and investment between the EU and Indonesia. EIBN served as a gateway for businesses seeking opportunities in Southeast Asia's largest economy.



The EU-Indonesia Business Network (EIBN), launched in 2013, is a partnership project between five European bilateral chambers of commerce in Indonesia and two counterparts in Europe. EIBN aims to promote Indonesia and ASEAN as high-potential trade and investment destinations among companies from all EU member states, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla at the 5th EU-Indonesian Business Dialogue (EIBD) held on November 19, 2014, in Jakarta, in which Mr. Kalla was the Keynote Speaker.



Exhibition pavillion organized by EKONID.



JERIN 2011-2013

JERIN (Jerman dan Indonesia) was a platform that celebrated the partnership between Germany and Indonesia across various fields

including culture, business, science, education, politics, and the environment. One of the highlights was a two-day open air festival which attracted more than 65.000 visitors.







JERIN Festival in 2013 was one of the main events under JERIN, showcasing innovation, culture, and collaboration. From technology exhibitions to cultural performances, this dynamic event attracted thousands of visitors.



German Dual Vocational Education & Training (GDVET) 2016 - Now

GDVET, implemented in 2016, blends practical training at partner companies with theoretical learning. Based on Germany's renowned system, it equips students with industry-relevant skills and real-world experience. The GDVET program addresses Indonesia's skills gap, fostering a competent workforce to support industrial growth and enhance German-Indonesian business ties.

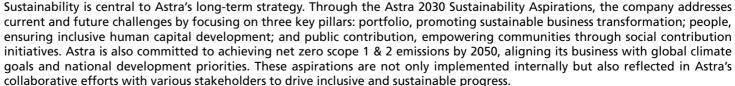


A handover ceremony for Training of Trainers certificates to PT Bayer Indonesia's trainers from EKONID at the Cimanggis plant in Depok, West Java, coinciding with Bayer's export of 3,000 containers overseas.



Germany's Federal Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier, Indonesia's Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto and CEO of Astra International Prijono Sugiarto, visited the ASTRA Manufacturing Polytechnic (Polman Astra) on November 1, 2018.





One notable example of Astra's collaborative approach is its partnership with the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (EKONID). In 2015, through Polytechnic Astra, Astra worked with EKONID to implement a dual vocational education program in automotive mechatronics, inspired by the German dual education system. This program aimed to elevate vocational training standards in Indonesia by combining classroom instruction with hands-on industrial experience.

The collaboration resulted in the graduation of students with certifications from the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK), as well as the development of instructors certified with Meister qualifications. This initiative not only strengthened Astra's commitment to vocational excellence but also became a benchmark in Indonesia-Germany industrial cooperation. Astra remains committed to nurturing this collaboration with EKONID, continuously seeking opportunities to expand its impact and create a better future through shared values and innovation.





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Thank you to Our Valued Members

None of this would have been possible without your gracious support



As we celebrate 100 years of EKONID, the German-Indonesian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members for their unwavering support and commitment. The Chamber's journey over the past century has been shaped by your dedication, trust, and active participation. Your involvement has been integral in fostering the strong bonds of trade and collaboration between Germany and Indonesia, driving mutual prosperity and innovation.

Building Success Together

While the Chamber has played a vital role in supporting businesses and strengthening bilateral relations, its continued success depends on the ongoing engagement of its members. It is your ideas, initiatives, and active involvement that fuel the Chamber's activities and ensure that we remain a relevant and impactful institution. Together, we can continue to create opportunities, exchange knowledge, and drive forward the progress of both the German and Indonesian business communities.

Looking Toward the Future

As we look ahead to the next chapter, we invite you to stay actively engaged, share your insights, and collaborate with us to shape the future of German-Indonesian trade and industry. Our success is your success, and together, we can continue to build a strong, dynamic, and mutually beneficial partnership for the years to come.

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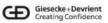




















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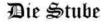














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