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Indonesia has formalized labour emigration since the 1970s through the establishment of a special government unit within the Ministry of Labor. The first law on labour outmigration was passed in 2004 and a separate government agency under the president was established to operate the labor migration program (BP2MI). Most Indonesian migrant workers occupy low-waged jobs, mainly in the domestic sector. Indonesia has MoUs specifically on domestic workers with main destination countries like Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

Legal Framework

- Law no. 18/2017. It replaced the first bill on labour migration issued in 2004 (Law no. 39).
- Labor migration is regulated by Ministry of Labour and operated by BP2MI. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of protection in destination countries.

Recruitment

- Various placement schemes: Private-to-Private, Government-to-Government, Special Placement to Taiwan, One-Channel System.
- Zero placement fee regulation since 2020.
- Private agencies are licensed by the government.

Pre-departure training

- The length of training is not specified, but a set of mandatory topics is required.
- The training must cover immigration, labor, and criminal law in destination countries; and 11 other supplementary topics.

Exit controls

- Electronic identity card for migrant workers.
- Exit check interview with immigration officer.
- Domestic workers shall not be hired directly by employer but must go through an agency.

Destination Country Protections

- 12 labour attachés in GCC, Southeast and East Asian destination countries.
- Shelters available in embassies of key destination countries.
- BP2MI provides 24/7 hotline for migrant workers.

Bans on Migrant Worker Mobility

- Imposed 28 bans thus far, 26 of which on domestic workers.
- Target of bans are GCC countries and Malaysia.
- Lifting of the ban is usually accompanied by the signing of MoU.

Indonesia's labour emigration policy is one of the most well-developed in the region. Indonesia adapted its recruitment scheme based on occupation and destination country, such as the One-Channel system with Malaysia and the Kingdom Saudi Arabia for domestic workers. This single system allows the government to better monitor the recruitment process of Indonesian domestic workers and outlaws any other recruitment channel. The agreement to introduce the system was signed following a migration ban for Indonesian workers.

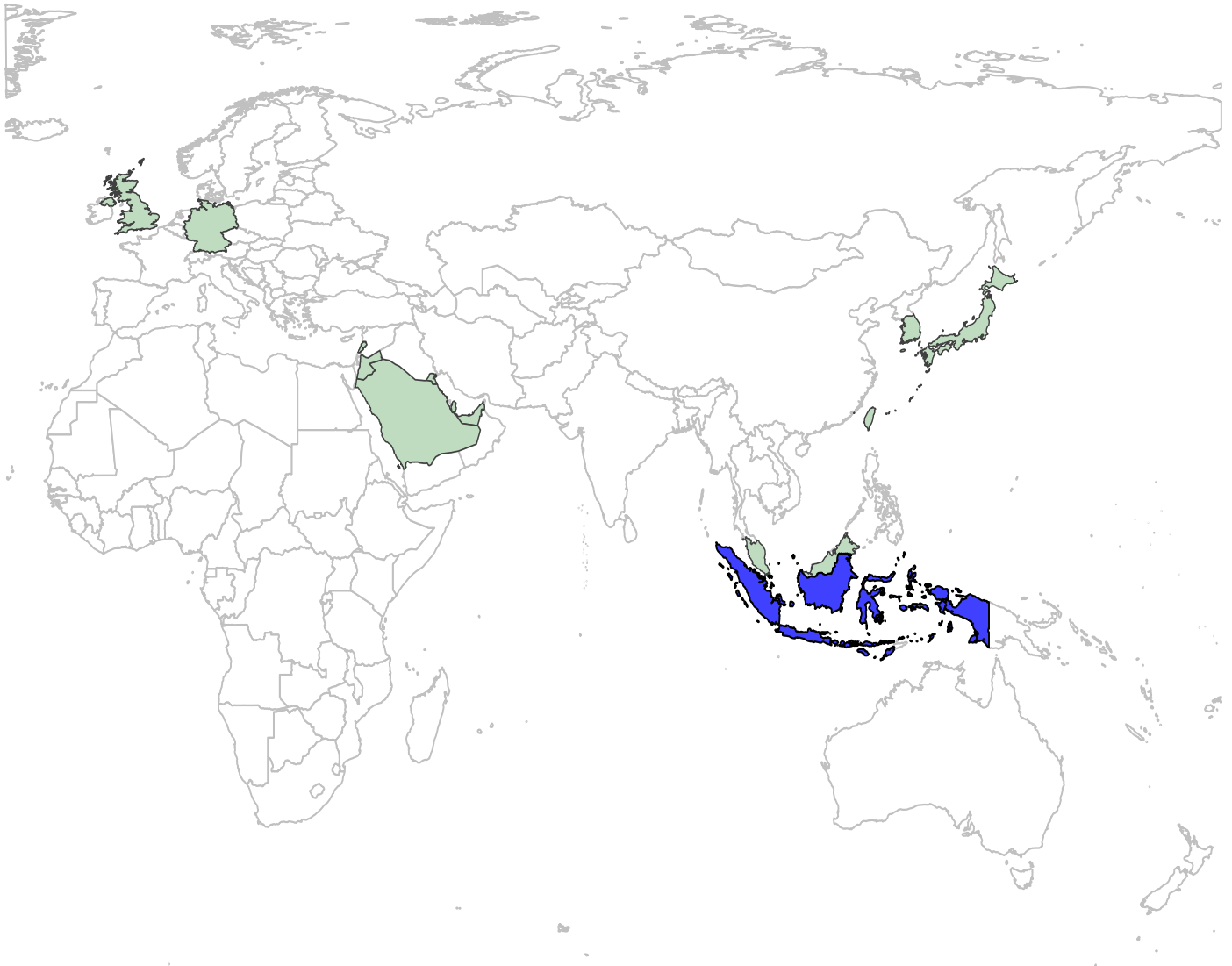
Indonesia Bilateral Labour Agreements

Our database records a total of 30 Bilateral Labour Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding between Indonesia and 13 destination countries (alphabetical order):

Germany (2021), Japan (2008, 2012, 2019), Jordan (2001, 2009), Kuwait (1996), Lebanon (2010), Malaysia (1984, 1993, 2004, 2006, 2011, 2022), Qatar (2008), Republic of Korea (2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013), Saudi Arabia (2014, 2018, 2023), Singapore (2016), Taiwan (2004, 2011, 2018), United Arab Emirates (2007), and the United Kingdom (2002).

The above list includes both valid and expired agreements.

Figure 1 Map of Indonesia (● blue) and destination countries with BLA (○ green)



The above information derived from the [RIGHTS policy database v6.0](#). For a more comprehensive overview of emigration policies in 50 origin countries in the database, see Ersanilli, E (2024) [Origin countries' policies on low-waged migrant workers. Results from the RIGHTS policy database](#).