

Press Release

2 July 2026

In Angers, the 14th Franco-Indonesian Joint Working Group confirms the acceleration of academic and scientific partnerships between the two countries

Bringing together nearly 300 representatives from around one hundred higher education and research institutions, as well as French and Indonesian institutional and economic stakeholders, the 14th edition of the Franco-Indonesian Joint Working Group marks a new stage in the strengthening of relations between the two countries in the fields of higher education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Held every two years, alternately in France and Indonesia, the JWG also forms part of the France–Indonesia Year of Innovation 2026.

Organised from the 1st to the 3rd of July 2026 by the University of Angers, ESSCA School of Management and the Embassy of France in Indonesia – Institut français Indonésie, this edition takes place just a few weeks after the State Visit of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto to France, which was marked by the adoption of a joint France–Indonesia strategy in the areas of education, research and mobility.

France–Indonesia dialogue reaches a new scale

The 4th most populous country in the world and the 16th largest economy globally, Indonesia is emerging as a strategic partner for higher education and research. The growing prominence of its universities in international rankings, together with the Indonesian authorities' ambition to develop partnerships with leading French institutions, is strengthening the appeal of this cooperation.

The JWG provides a privileged space for exchanges between higher education and research institutions, public authorities, researchers and economic stakeholders, with a shared objective: to encourage the development of new projects in the areas of student mobility, doctoral education, research and innovation.

One month after President Prabowo's State Visit to France and the adoption, together with the President of the French Republic, of a Declaration setting out a joint strategy on education, research and mobility (the Paris Declaration), the JWG consolidates the partnership-based and co-funded approach established with the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP), the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). Nearly 300 delegates, including presidents and vice-presidents of major French universities (notably Paris-Saclay, PSL and Montpellier) and Indonesian universities (including ITB, IPB, UGM, UI and UNHAS), are participating in the event.

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From Bandung to Angers: already transformative projects

Beyond institutional dialogue, the JWG highlights initiatives already underway between French and Indonesian institutions.

Among these, ESSCA continues to develop its academic partnerships in Indonesia. The School recently signed a double degree agreement between its Bachelor in International Management and the Bachelor in International Business offered by the School of Business and Management at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), one of the country's most prestigious universities.

This programme will provide students with an educational pathway spanning France and Indonesia, combining academic immersion, international mobility and the award of a double degree. ESSCA also collaborates with several leading internationally accredited Indonesian institutions, including BINUS University and Universitas Gadjah Mada. In addition, discussions are currently underway with a view to establishing a new partnership with Universitas Indonesia.

A longstanding partner of Indonesia, the University of Angers has maintained continuous cooperation with several Indonesian higher education institutions for nearly twenty years. Initiated in 2008 with a first agreement signed with Sahid Polytechnic, this dynamic partnership is now based on a network of five partner universities, several double-degree programmes, student mobility schemes and regular internships in the tourism, healthcare and services sectors.

The JWG provided an opportunity for the University of Angers to renew its framework agreement with Universitas Indonesia and to continue discussions aimed at establishing new partnerships, particularly with Politeknik Negeri Samarinda. This long-standing cooperation will also be reflected in a jointly supervised doctoral thesis commencing in the next academic year with Udayana University, as well as in joint scientific publications in leading international journals, demonstrating a balanced partnership built on trust and tangible achievements.

"Beyond institutional exchanges, the JWG serves as a reminder that academic cooperation is built first and foremost through concrete projects between institutions: student and doctoral mobility, joint programmes, scientific collaborations and research partnerships. It is this spirit of co-construction that we seek to strengthen with our Indonesian partners." Françoise Grolleau, President of the University of Angers

Angers, a hub for strengthening ties between France and Indonesia

Conferences, thematic workshops and networking sessions provided opportunities to address several key issues shaping the future of Franco-Indonesian relations: funding for academic and scientific projects, entrepreneurship, innovation, collaborative research and the development of student mobility.

As a longstanding partner in academic cooperation with Indonesia, the University of Angers brought to this 14th edition nearly twenty years of experience in collaborating with Indonesian institutions. Its President, Françoise Grolleau, notably led the French delegation and represented the network of French universities, France Universités, during the 13th JWG held in Indonesia. For the first time, a business school, ESSCA, was also among the co-organisers of this flagship event, confirming the growing importance of economic and entrepreneurial issues in exchanges between the two countries.

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"Indonesia perfectly illustrates the transformations currently reshaping the global higher education landscape. With its leading universities, dynamic economy and young population, the country is a strategic partner for institutions seeking to educate managers and entrepreneurs capable of thriving in rapidly evolving international environments." Jean Charroin, Dean and CEO of ESSCA School of Management

Through the JWG, the University of Angers, ESSCA School of Management and Institut français Indonésie reaffirm their shared commitment to fostering academic, scientific and entrepreneurial cooperation between France and Indonesia.

About the University of Angers

The University of Angers (UA) is a public higher education and research institution established in 1971. With a community of more than 27,000 students and nearly 2,000 staff members (including 800 researchers), it combines academic excellence, pedagogical innovation and strong engagement with its local community. The University has for several years been committed to issues of equity and inclusion and is recognised for the support it provides to its students, regularly ranking among the top French universities for undergraduate student success.

Through its eight faculties, institutes and schools, UA offers a diverse range of programmes spanning disciplines such as science, health, law, humanities, languages, tourism, engineering and management. Primarily based in Angers, the University operates across three campuses — Belle-Beille, Saint-Serge and Santé — in addition to sites in Cholet and Saumur. This structure provides a modern, accessible and environmentally responsible learning environment, consistent with the institution's commitments to sustainable development and social responsibility.

Research is one of the pillars of UA's identity. Its research teams work across a wide range of fields, including plant sciences, materials science, health, mathematics, digital technologies and the humanities and social sciences, enabling the University to feature in numerous rankings alongside leading European and global institutions. UA also promotes interdisciplinary collaborations, partnerships with businesses and public authorities, and international engagement in order to facilitate knowledge transfer and contribute to regional development.

In 2022, the University of Angers joined forces with eight other European higher education institutions to establish the EU Green European University Alliance. This strategic partnership aims to strengthen cooperation between partner universities by placing sustainability at the heart of education, research, innovation and campus life.

www.univ-angers.fr

About ESSCA

Based on its rich 117-year history, ESSCA School of Management is a renowned and firmly established French and European institution. A pioneering school in terms of teaching innovation and social and economic inclusion, it has striven to evolve on a permanent basis to incorporate the demands and challenges of the modern world with a will to train responsible leaders and assist organisations undergoing change.

A private higher education institution of common interest built upon a not-for-profit associative structure and a member of the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles, ESSCA School of Management delivers an officially recognised 5-year postsecondary Master degree and also offers a fully accredited Bachelor in International Management degree programme and Master of Science programmes. The school also offers a range of training programmes designed specifically for senior executives, managers, and operational teams, with degree-awarding training (including an Executive Master in Global Management) and custom programmes. ESSCA is also developing online designed by ESSCA online campus.

Thanks to its AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS triple crown accreditation, a status held by only 1% of business schools around the world, the School is an internationally renowned institution. It features in the top 100 Masters in

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Management programmes in the world in the 2026 Financial Times ranking and 37th globally for custom programmes in executive education. In terms of impact and research, ESSCA is ranked by Times Higher Education and ARWU (Shanghai Ranking).

Strengthened by a multicampus structure that helps consolidate its appeal to local regions and the showcasing of French expertise in the areas of higher education and research, ESSCA can call upon a network of almost 22,800 alumni working all across the world and currently welcomes over 500 faculty and staff and 7,800 students on its campuses in France (Aix-en-Provence, Angers, Bordeaux, Lyon, Paris and Strasbourg), China, Hungary, Luxemburg and Spain.

www.essca.eu/en

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