

## United States Lobby to Free up Customs Textiles

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Indonesia exploring bilateral cooperation with the United States (US) to spur the growth of the export market. RI is also eyeing a capital intensive investment and technology from US-based firms. The US is the country number three trading partner after China and Japan.

The total value of trade between Indonesia and the US in the period January-July 2016 reached USD 13.02 billion. At the end of 2016, Indonesia recorded a surplus of USD 5.23 billion, a slight increase of 1.75 percent compared to 2015 to reach \$ 5.14 billion. "Indonesia can fill the US market with textiles, rubber processing, leather, leather goods, food and beverage, and footwear," said Minister of Industry (Industry) Airlangga Hartanto after meeting with US Ambassador Joseph R. Donovan Jr. in the office of the Ministry of Industry, Jakarta, yesterday (14/2). The bilateral agreement also become one of the ways the government to eliminate tariffs on a number of Indonesian export products. One of these duties textile products amounted to 12.5 percent. "While Vietnam has been zero since no agreement between the two countries. So, the agreement will also boost the competitiveness of our products," said the Golkar Party politician. Indonesian exports to the US in 2016 amounted to USD 9.13 billion. Contributions sectors that have export value with a positive trend, among others, palm oil processing industry, furniture, pulp and paper, craft items, electronics and aluminum processing. The minister also invited US investors to invest in industrial zones. For example Dumai in Riau and TanĀjung Buton, Berau in East Kalimantan, Gresik in East Java, Kendal in Central Java, and Morowali in Central Sulawesi. "In Sulawesi we focus on the mineral processing industry as well as in Riau and East Kalimantan into industries for the processing of CPO (crude palm oil, Red)," he said. Airlangga also hope this year there are additional investments or expansions are realized from the US industry players. For example, electronics giant Apple is planning to build an innovation center in Indonesia. Lobi Amerika Serikat Bebaskan Bea Tekstil Indonesia menjajaki kerja sama bilateral dengan Amerika Serikat (AS) untuk memacu pertumbuhan pasar ekspor. RI juga mengincar investasi padat modal dan teknologi dari perusahaan-perusahaan asal AS. AS adalah mitra dagang nomor tiga negeri ini setelah Tiongkok dan Jepang. Total nilai perdagangan Indonesia-AS pada periode Januari-Juli 2016 mencapai USD 13,02 miliar. Pada akhir 2016 Indonesia mencatat surplus USD 5,23 miliar atau naik tipis 1,75 persen bila dibandingkan dengan 2015 yang mencapai USD 5,14 miliar. "Indonesia dapat mengisi pasar AS dengan tekstil, pengolahan karet, kulit, barang kulit, makanan-minuman, dan alas kaki," tutur Menteri Perindustrian (Menperin) Airlangga Hartarto setelah bertemu dengan Dubes AS Joseph R. Donovan Jr di kantor Kemenperin, Jakarta, kemarin (14/2). Perjanjian bilateral juga menjadi salah satu cara pemerintah untuk menghilangkan hambatan tarif sejumlah produk ekspor Indonesia. Salah satunya bea masuk produk tekstil yang sebesar 12,5 persen. "Sedangkan Vietnam sudah nol persen karena ada agreement kedua negara. Jadi, perjanjian tersebut juga akan mendongkrak daya saing produk kita," terang politikus Partai Golkar tersebut. Nilai ekspor Indonesia ke AS pada 2016 sebesar USD 9,13 miliar. Kontribusi sektor yang memiliki nilai ekspor dengan tren positif, antara lain, industri pengolahan kelapa sawit, furnitur, pulp dan kertas, barang-barang kerajinan, elektronik, serta pengolahan aluminium. Menperin juga mengundang investor AS untuk menanamkan modal di kawasan-kawasan industri. Misalnya Dumai dan TanĀjung Buton di Riau, Berau di Kalimantan Timur, Gresik di Jawa Timur, Kendal di Jawa Tengah, serta Morowali di Sulawesi Tengah. "Di Sulawesi kami fokuskan untuk industri pengolahan mineral serta di Riau dan Kalimantan Timur menjadi kawasan industri untuk pengolahan CPO (crude palm oil, Red)," tutur dia. Airlangga juga berharap tahun ini ada tambahan investasi atau ekspansi yang terealisasi dari pelaku industri AS. Misalnya raksasa elektronik Apple yang berencana membangun pusat inovasi di Indonesia.