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**Prepared By:**

**Approved By:** Rey Santella

**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Religious Affairs' Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH) held the Halal 20 (H20) Forum in Semarang, Indonesia in November 2022. The forum covered a wide range of halal related issues and representatives from foreign embassies and 99 foreign halal certifying agencies (HCAs) joined in the discussions. This report summarizes some of the key points of the event.

## **H20 Forum**

From November 17-19, 2022, the Ministry of Religious Affairs' Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH) held the Halal 20 (H20) Forum titled *Global Halal Partnership for a Robust Sustainable Future* in Semarang, Indonesia. The event was tied to the many activities associated with Indonesia's G20 Presidency and aimed "to strengthen, promote, and develop cooperation on the global halal market." The H20 objective was to identify potential advantages and challenges in the global halal industry on the basis of reciprocity, mutual understanding, and mutual benefit.

279 participants, including representatives from 99 foreign halal certifying agencies (HCAs) and several embassies (i.e., Chile, the United States, Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, New Zealand, Italy, Ukraine, Malaysia, and Canada) joined the event. Three U.S. HCAs attended the forum: American Halal Foundation (AHF), Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), and Islamic Society of Washington Area (ISWA).

During the event, BPJPH emphasized the importance of international cooperation on halal product assurance through mutual recognition as well as working towards one globally recognized international halal standard to maximize the potential of the global halal market. In addition, the event focused on the development of a halal ecosystem laid out in the "H20 Semarang Communique," as follows:

- 1) Halal needs to be seen from a philosophical and sociological perspective.
- 2) Halal needs to be seen from an economic perspective.
- 3) Halal needs to be seen through the perspective of digital transformation.
- 4) Halal needs to be seen through the perspective of prosperity and mercy.

The H20 Semarang Communique also contained five joint commitments agreed upon by the halal authorities and agencies, namely:

1. We recognize and acknowledge our diverse perspectives regarding halal standards. Therefore, we are committed to striving for compliance with each other's halal standards.
2. We are committed to promoting and fighting for halal standards, especially the values contained therein in a massive and structured manner so that they can become one of the main global standards.
3. We commit to urge, encourage, develop, and maintain a strong commitment to a global halal partnership for all and for a sustainable future.
4. We are committed to following up on this forum by continuing to build productive communication and carry out various joint agendas such as knowledge sharing, mutual learning, research, and joint technology development.
5. We are committed to encouraging the birth of a global halal platform based on advanced digital technology that is transparent, trusted, and traceable as a forum, aggregator, or common hub for many halal platforms in various countries.

The presentation materials from the H20 Forum can be found in the following [link](#).

## **Additional H20 Topics**

### **Halal Product Assurance Standards Updates during H20 Forum**

The National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (BSN) also presented at the H20 event supporting BPJPH's halal product assurance system regulations:

- [SNI 99001:2016 – Halal Management System](#)
- [SNI 99002:2016 – Halal Slaughtering for Poultry](#)
- [SNI 99003:2018 – Halal Slaughtering for Ruminants](#)
- SNI ISO/TS 20224-3:2020 – Molecular biomarker analysis – Detection of animal-derived materials in foodstuffs and feedstuffs by real-time PCR – Part 3: Porcine DNA detection method
- SNI 99004:2021 – General Requirements of Halal Food
- SNI 8965:2021 – Methods of detection quantification of ethanol in beverage products.

Indonesian National Standards (SNI) are voluntary; however, under certain considerations, SNIs can be made compulsorily to meet requirements imposed by ministers or heads of non-ministerial government agencies. These Indonesian halal standards may be accepted in other member states of the International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) since there is a mutual recognition and multilateral agreement among their accreditation bodies.

During the H20 Forum, BPJPH also signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with local universities to encourage their participation in providing halal certification services and training. These universities will join other Indonesian institutions and organizations to be BPJPH recognized halal inspecting agencies (LPHs). In addition, BPJPH approved 155 halal production process assistance agencies (LP3Hs) and 19,477 halal production process companions (P2H Comp), which help small micro businesses in Indonesia to obtain halal certification for their products through self-declaration.

According to BPJPH, as of November 2, 2022, 103 foreign HCAs (both government and private institutions) from 40 countries have applied for BPJPH halal certifier recognition. In addition, there were three agreements signed with the international agencies, namely the Helal Akreditasi Kurumu from Turkey, Korea Testing Certification Institute from South Korea, and Dinar Standard.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.