

REMARKS ON RESEARCH POLICY & DEVELOPMENT IN INDONESIA

On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, we would like to thank you for inviting us to the Workshop. We are pleased to be given a wonderful opportunity to interact with the representatives from SERI, ETH Zurich, FHNW, our colleagues from the Malaysian, the Philippines, and the Viet Nam Embassies, and of course all of the participants.

This Workshop is a good forum for us, to be able to exchange views and strengthening our network with government institutions, academic institutions and all of the participants from various background. We believe that this program would bring positive impacts to our bilateral relations, one of them being enhancing cooperation on Research and Development.

Background on Education system in Indonesia

Before we address you on the research policy development in Indonesia, we would like to introduce you to the education system in our country. With more than 50 million students and 2.6 million teachers in more than 250.000 schools, Indonesia is the one of the largest education system in the Asia region.

All children in Indonesia are entitled to undertake nine years of compulsory education which consists of six years at elementary level and three years in secondary level. To support its commitment in providing education for all, since 2009, our Government has been allocating 20 percent from its State Budget. This is used to fund the nine years compulsory education program run by the government, so that every children can obtain free access to education.

In Indonesia there are approximately 170.000 primary schools, 40.000 junior-secondary schools and 26.000 high schools. 84 percent of these schools are under the responsibility of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the remaining 16 percent, which are the Islamic schools, are under the responsibility of Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

After finishing the compulsory education, students are encouraged to continue their study at Senior High School. Generally, the students then continue their study to the university level. The higher education and research sector are under the coordination of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education. Currently, Indonesia has a total of 3.226 universities, where 100 of those are run by the government, and the rest are private universities.

20% of our national budget is not a small number. However since it is allocated mainly for basic education, we are still facing challenges in developing our R & D sector. Hence, cooperation with many parties, including Switzerland, becomes very important to us.

We believe that Indonesia has major potentials, both in human resources and natural resources. On the other hand, we realize that we need to tackle many challenges, like the lack of funding and technology. With your assistance and based on our mutual benefit, we can explore opportunities to develop Research and Development sectors.

We are confident, that our collaboration in Research and Development would not only strengthen our bilateral relations, but more importantly provide positive and beneficial results for humankind.

Research Mechanism in Indonesia

As stipulated in the Government of Indonesia's Decree in 2006 on the protocols of conducting research in Indonesia, all foreign universities, research and development institutes, and foreign nationals are welcomed to conduct research in Indonesia.

To do so, foreign researchers need to engage local scientist from the local university, research institute or Non - Government Organization (NGO) as their counterparts.

It is important to point out that, prior to their research program in Indonesia, every researcher should apply individually to receive a research permit from the State Minister for Research, Technology, and Higher Education. Without such consent, any research activity is considered illegal.

To ensure the smooth process of research permit, recently the Indonesian Immigration Office has accelerated the processing time to obtain the research visa. At present, it takes 4 weeks to obtain the research visa since the date of application. Before, it could took up to 8 weeks to process a research visa.

As the main coordinator for research implementation in Indonesia, The Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education supported the policy by launching a full – online system to speed up research application process.

And by being one the crucial elements in the process, our Embassy is always open to welcome you, and we would be more than happy to provide you with further details information on the protocol of conducting research in Indonesia.

Indonesia and Swiss Research Collaboration

Annually, our Embassy receives up to 20 research applications from various universities and institutions in Switzerland. Most of them are joint research programs in anthropological and socio-cultural studies. The Embassy also acknowledge that Indonesia and Switzerland have had so far 14 bilateral agreements on education and research, and 7 agreements on the Privat to Privat level.

The agreements on the G to G level are among others: the establishment of a polytechnic for mechanics within the Institute of Technology Bandung, technical cooperation for the development of the National Hotel Institute in Bandung, the establishment of a Vocational Education Development Centre (VEDC) in Central Java, and the establishment of a cooperative training project in Lombok – Eastern Indonesia.

Some of the existing cooperation are financed through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). We value SECO's ongoing support, nevertheless we should be able to find other mechanism to promote and implement our bilateral cooperation.

Our Embassy notes that the P to P cooperation between universities in Indonesia and Switzerland are implemented by exchanging scholars (professors, lecturers or researchers, faculty members), students from undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral level, as well as joint research programs. Based on our records, there have been a number of joint research programs, among others between the Anthropological Institute and Museum - University of Zurich and Bogor Agricultural University, and cooperation between Gadjah Mada University and University of Bern.

Our Government acknowledges the need to maintain the existing cooperation between the two countries, and the urgency of improving not only the quantity of research cooperation but more importantly the quality. We too, encourage the private sectors of the two countries to enhance collaboration.

For many years, the two countries have been continuously conducting collaborative research on the Orang Utan conservation and Environment education. Supported by abundant human and natural resources, we feel the need to convey that Indonesia also seek opportunities to have research collaboration on various subjects such as agro-forestry, bio diversity, marine industry, and many others.

On that note, once again, we highly appreciate and celebrate the wonderful efforts put together by ETH Zürich, FHNW and other related institutions in organizing this event, and for providing us with an invaluable platform to expand our network and explore collaboration in Research and Development. We sincerely hope that our newly built friendship does not end here. Let's keep in touch, and work together to find possibilities of future cooperation.

Thank you, Ms. Sasanti Nordewati, First Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia
25 May 2016, FHNW, Olten