

Joint Statement on the 5th Japan-Indonesia Rectors' Conference

[Preamble]

On 10th and 11th October 2019, the 5th Japan-Indonesia Rectors' Conference was held in the City of Hiroshima in Japan. The conference was jointly hosted by ten national universities in Chugoku-Shikoku District and saw the participation of 69 universities from Japan and Indonesia. With the theme of “Collaboration in Research and Education for Sustainable and Peaceful Society”, all the participants engaged themselves in lively discussions and opinion exchanges. The theme of the conference is timely and very appropriate for the host city of Hiroshima as it has long been aspiring to be “the City of Peace”.

[Contents of the Conference]

The start of the opening ceremony of the conference saw President Mitsuo Ochi at Hiroshima University (HU) delivering a speech as a representative of the ten co-hosting Japanese universities, in which he briefly mentioned some of the efforts HU has been making to pursue the “Science for Sustainable Development” and to enhance academic exchanges between Japan and Indonesia by implementing peacebuilding strategies. He also stressed that it is important for all the participating universities to be responsible for playing major roles in securing the promising future of our planet.

President Ochi's address was followed by a number of speeches delivered by the distinguished guest speakers, government officials from the two countries. During their speeches, the speakers valued highly and praised the steady progress made between the two countries regarding student exchange, joint research projects, and establishment of international degree programs etc. In addition, all the speakers strongly hoped for further cooperation to be made between the two countries in the course of realizing the SDGs as it is a common goal for the entire world. They would like to see this conference serving as the platform for accelerating the afore-mentioned efforts.

Mr. Mirza Nurhidayat, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Osaka Japan, has been kindly acting as a good supporter to the Japan-Indonesia Rectors' conference. According to him, the conference can be a good occasion to further strengthen the ongoing collaboration in research and education between the two countries. He emphasized that Japan has long been a good partner to Indonesian government. This is because many aid programs have been developed in the past to help enhance the advancement of Indonesia regarding education, technology transfer as well as utilization

of infra-structures, all of which have successfully contributed to boosting economic growth in both countries.

Professor Ismunandar, who is the head of the Indonesian delegation for this conference, is the Director General of Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of Republic Indonesia. It is very reassuring for all of us that he has agreed to give his full support to the conference. He enthusiastically believes that the conference is a way to strengthen the ongoing collaboration in research and education among the Indonesian and Japanese universities. He also thinks that the conference can function as a means of finding solutions and coming up with innovations to overcome any similar problems seen in the two countries. Universities in Indonesia and Japan should act as key players in assisting their respective government to boost their economic growth and overcome any national problems. The Indonesian Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education has missions to expand access to and improve the quality of Higher Education in order to cultivate qualified individuals as human resources. The reason behind this is to develop their innovation competency in the area of science and technology so as to increase the level of product innovations. In fulfilling such mission, collaboration with Japanese universities is essential. Professor Ismunandar sincerely hopes that the theoretical and practical knowledge gained from this conference will lead to the birth of innovative collaboration programs, which will prove beneficial to both countries.

The keynote lecture following the opening ceremony was delivered by Mr. Yasuo Fukuda (Chairman of the Japan-Indonesia Association, a former Prime Minister of Japan), whereas the special lecture was delivered by Dr. Takashi Shiraishi (Chancellor of the Prefectural University of Kumamoto, Director of the Japan-Indonesia Association). Since its establishment in 1958, the association has been making great contributions to promoting the exchanges and maintaining friendship between the two countries. During the keynote lecture, Mr. Fukuda expressed his high expectations for the future exchanges between the two countries as the last year saw the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations concerning higher education, academic research, and industry-academia-government collaboration. Dr. Shiraishi talked about the “Project 2045” in his lecture in which he expressed his hope that universities from the two countries will serve important roles in realizing various policy recommendations. Such recommendations have been announced in the afore-mentioned project in preparation of the upcoming commemorative year of 2045, which marks 100 years of Indonesia’s independence.

On the first day of the conference, group sessions were held in the afternoon where the participants were divided into three groups according to the types of collaboration: education, research and triple helix. In each group, by focusing on the keyword “Sustainable Development”, a participant from each country delivered presentation in turn for the purpose of sharing good examples of the efforts of collaboration that have been made between universities in the two countries. For this session, many of the participants gave presentations on research collaboration, and some of them presented the cases of the joint activities which entailed collaboration between Japan and Indonesia. These presentations evidently demonstrate that the base for research collaboration has been solidifying steadily. In particular many presentations reported the research findings regarding natural disasters including earthquakes and tsunamis, which are common issues to both countries. On the second day of the conference, a debriefing session was held where each group drew up a report about the presentations and discussions they participated in on the previous day. Based on the positive feedback in the reports, universities in both countries agreed to further deepen and promote exchanges into the future.

[Conclusion]

As has been mentioned, in the world today, there are many global issues such as the rise of nationalism, the shortage of food and water resources associated with world population growth, the threat of infectious diseases and terrorism, widening social disparities, environmental problems including climate change and loss of biodiversity, etc. In coming up with solutions to these issues, we should ask ourselves how we should understand the social needs of both countries and the current state of the world, and how we will decide on the direction we should take to address each specific issue. As has been recognized, what is due to us is to bring together the wisdom of universities from both countries, to enhance future strategies for exchange and cooperation, and to cooperatively address various challenges facing the world today.

Through this Rectors' Conference, we affirmed the important roles of institutions of higher education in deepening research for sustainable development in order to realize a sustainable and peaceful society. Our roles are to embrace all the disciplines related to human, social, cultural, food, environmental and natural sustainability, and continuously create knowledge that leads to a peaceful and diversified society. Neither ‘fruit’ of science and technology nor sustainable development will grow without peaceful ‘soil’. In order to share the fruit gained from research, we will continue to hold this Japan-Indonesia Rectors’ Conference, and at the same time, build positive and strategic

inter-university partnerships with one or multiple universities. In order to give the ‘fruits’ back to society, it is necessary to integrate a wide variety of knowledge across fields and sectors, promote development through industry-academia-government collaboration. In that process, it is extremely important to nurture human capitals that contribute to the realization of a sustainable and peaceful society in the next generation.

In this Rectors’ Conference, we have been able to see a solid progress in university exchanges between Japan and Indonesia. Thanks to the endeavors made in the past, the inter-university exchange platform between the two countries has been well-established. We, the universities in both countries, hereby declare that we will continue to work together to achieve the SDGs and to realize a peaceful society.

At the end of the conference, universities from both countries agreed to seek actions from their respective governments to assist them in obtaining further support and cooperation from the national and local governments, aid organizations and private enterprises for their ambitious efforts.

Agreed

For Japan:

Hokkaido University
Tohoku University
University of Tsukuba
Chiba University
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Tokyo Institute of Technology
Nagaoka University of Technology
Kanazawa University
Shizuoka University
Nagoya University
Toyohashi University of Technology
Mie University
Kyoto University
Kobe University
Tottori University
Shimane University
Okayama University

For Indonesia:

Institut Teknologi Bandung
Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember
Indonesia Institute of the Arts (ISI) Denpasar
Universitas Bangka Belitung
Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji
Universitas Negeri Semarang
Universitas Sam Ratulangi
Universitas Siliwangi
Universitas Sumatera Utara
Universitas Tadulako
Universitas Tidar
Institut Teknologi Kalimantan
Universitas Diponegoro
Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran
Jakarta
Universitas Lampung
Universitas Teuku Umar

Hiroshima University
Yamaguchi University
Tokushima University
Naruto University of Education
Kagawa University
Ehime University
Kochi University
Kyushu University
Kumamoto University
Shibaura Institute of Technology
Sophia University
Soka University
Tokai University
Ritsumeikan University
Hiroshima Jogakuin University

Universitas Gadjah Mada
Institut Pertanian Bogor
Universitas Malikussaleh
Institut Teknologi Sumatera
Universitas Halu Oleo
Universitas Jenderal Soedirman
Universitas Syiah Kuala
Indonesian Art and Culture Institute of Bandung
Universitas Sebelas Maret
Universitas Tanjungpura
Universitas Airlangga
Universitas Brawijaya
Universitas Hasanuddin
Universitas Telkom
Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya
Universitas Islam Indonesia
Universitas Bina Nusantara
Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
Universitas Dharma Persada
Universitas Indonesia
Universitas Pertamina



Mitsuo Ochi, M.D., Ph. D.
President
Hiroshima University
Japan

Date Oct. 11 2019



Prof. Ismunandar
Director General of Learning and Student Affairs
Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education
Indonesia

Date Oct. 11. 2019