

**Parliamentary Conference for Education
In the Asia Pacific Region
Establishment of the Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for
Education (FASPPED)
24-25 October 2008, Sultan Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia
Welcome Speech by Prof. Dr . Arief Rachman, MPd,
Executive Chairman
Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO**

Bismillahirrahmaanirrahim

Ass.Wr.Wb.

H.E. Mr Agung Laksono, Chief of Parliament of Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director-General for External
Relation and Cooperation

H.E. Mr. Nicholas Burnett, Assistant Director- General for Education

Excellencies ,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all ,I would like to thank God the Almighty that because of his blessing we could summon in this hall to attend the opening ceremony of the of the Parliamentary Conference for Education in the Asia Pacific Region.

I would like to welcome all participants and resource persons of the Parliamentary Conference for Education in the Asia Pacific region . It is an honour for us that UNESCO has chosen Indonesia to be the host of this conference.

As we understand that the main objective of the conference is to establish a forum of Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians for Education.(FASPPED) in order to strengthen the commitment of Parliamentarians towards reaching the Education for All goals by 2015. This forum will be a forum of exchange of ideas and sharing of best practices in educational policy making among parliamentarians and develop collaborative actions to foster the achievements of Education for All goals in Asia-Pacific Region.

The total number of participants and resource persons is 50 from 22 Asia and Pacific countries representing the delegation from the following countries:

Afghanistan, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, DPR of Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao DPR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palao, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timur Leste and Indonesia.

During the two-day conference the participants will discuss Statutes of FASPPED and its objectives and will formulate Jakarta Declaration which will include FASPPED Action Plan and Strategy

Finally, I would like to request H.E. Mr. Agung Laksono, the Chief of Indonesian Parliament, to deliver his keynote address and officially open the conference.

Thank you.

Wass.Wr.Wb