

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

**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 Mr. Bambang Sudibyo,
Minister of National Education**

Assalamu'alaikum wr. Wb.,

- Mr. Agung Laksono, Chairman of the Indonesia Parliament,
- Mr. Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director-General for External Relation and Cooperation,
- Mr. Nicholas Burnett, Assistant Director- General for Education,
- Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to welcome the participants and resource persons especially Mr. Achmed Sayyad , the Assitant Director-General for External Relation and Mr. Nicholas Burnett, Assistant Director-General for Education.

I am very happy that UNESCO has an initiative to form a forum for Parliaments in the Asia Pacific Region in supporting EFA goals since I believe that through this forum, member countries could learn best practices from each other especially on how the parliament could support the required fund for EFA activities.

In Indonesia, for example, our parliament has strongly supported the fund needed for the improvement of quality education and the budget for education

has increased annually since the improvement in education will always be followed by financial consequences. Especially, after the issuance of the National Law of Teachers and Lectures, the budget for education has been tremendously increased.

For your information, in 2005, Indonesia issued the Law of Teachers and Lectures which reinforced the minimal qualification standard for teachers equivalent at least to a 4-year bachelor degree. However, at present only 31% of the 2,667,655 teachers hold the required qualification. As a consequence, the Government of Indonesia is in the process of upgrading 1.75 million teachers as well as to give certification to 2,5 million teachers by 2014.

We have just finished organizing the Senior Official Meeting of E-9 countries which focused our discussion on Teacher Training and Education. These E-9 countries, represented by Brazil, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan, try to solve the common problems identified to raise the quality education through improving teacher training and education through collaborative projects. In this respect Indonesia has offered eight projects for collaboration as follows:

1. Graduate Sandwich Programs Across E-9 Countries for Teachers and Lecturers;
2. E-9 Network on Open and Distance Learning for Teachers;
3. ICT Based Exchanges and Resource Sharing Across E-9 Countries (Involving INHERENT, GDLN, and JARDIKNAS);
4. Modern Madrasah Model;
5. In-service Teacher Certification;
6. Continuing Professional Development and Training for In-service Teachers;
7. Formal and Non-Formal Teachers Exchange programs and
8. Dual Competency Training for Mismatch Teachers.

These projects will be offered to E-9 countries as well as other countries interested to join them.


Mr. Agung Laksono, Chairman of the DPR, the Indonesian Parliament, we would like you to deliver your opening address and to officially open the Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for Education (FASPED).

Finally, I hope that you enjoy your stay in Indonesia and I wish you success in your deliberation.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

Minister of National Education
Republic of Indonesia



Prof.Dr. Bambang Sudibyo