

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century

Vision and Action

UNESCO, Paris, 5 – 9 October 1998

VOLUME V – PLENARY

Indonesia

Note1: To meet UNESCO publishing standards, some editing of papers has been required.

Note2: Authors are responsible for the choice and the presentation of the facts contained in signed articles and for the opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

Indonesia

**Speech of H.E. Mr Soedarso Djojonegoro
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in France
Permanent Delegate of Indonesia to UNESCO**

Mr President,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, on behalf of my Delegation, to offer you, Mr. President, my warmest congratulations on your brilliant election to the Presidency of this World Conference on Higher Education. My Delegation is confident that with your vast experience and wise leadership this conference will be successful in achieving its aim. My Delegation would also like to assure you of its full support in carrying out heavy responsibilities of your presidency.

I wish to congratulate the Director-General of UNESCO and his staff and the Steering Committee of the conference for their excellent work in preparing this conference and for providing the delegations with the necessary conference documents which no doubt will greatly facilitate our deliberations and successful conclusion of this conference.

Mr President

Indonesia with a total number of population of over 200 million people and with the actual number of higher education students of over 2.34 million has continuously seek to improve the higher learning institutions capacity to accommodate the growing number of upper secondary schools graduates who want to have access to higher education. For this, a number of higher learning establishments have been set up and other facilities have been added to the system at a great rate until a serious financial crisis struck Indonesia in 1997 and which unfortunately last until now with all its grave consequences not only for the development of higher education but also the economy of the country in general.

In Indonesia the number of higher learning institution students was over 2.34 million in the 1995/1996 academic year. This made the real participation of the 19-24 years old cohort in higher education level reaching 11.4%. The number of higher education level graduates grew from 227.6 thousand in the 1994/1995 academic year to 258.9 thousand, while the number of lecturers of higher education level was 98.9 thousand. This means that the ratio between students and lecturers was 23 to 1.

As far as access to higher education in Indonesia is concerned, according to the development programme in higher education in Indonesia, the participation rate will be increased from 12% in 1998 to 25% in 2020, and this will be achieved through increasing the capacity of higher education institutions as well as considering equity aspect, such as providing more access to higher education for people in each province. Once the 25% participation rate is obtained then the capacity will be increased according to the change in demography.

Mr President

Indonesia recognizes the timely convening and importance of the World Conference on Higher Education and wishes to endorse the aim of the conference under the theme "Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century" which, I quote is "to lay down the fundamental principles for the in-depth reform of higher education systems throughout the world with view to strengthening their contribution to the building of peace, founded on a process of development based on equity, justice, solidarity and liberty".

Indonesia has taken great interest in the Draft Declaration on Higher Education for the Twenty-first Century: "Vision and Action" and the "Framework for Priority Action for Change and Development on Higher Education" and is in principle in full agreement with the ideas and proposals contained in the documents. Indonesia also looks forward to the important contribution from the outcomes of regional meetings, especially that of Asia and the Pacific, to the two documents during our deliberations.

Due to time constraints and especially thanks to the excellent and exhausted conference documents, the Indonesian Delegation will be obliged to be selective and therefore my Delegation's observation on the World Declaration will be limited briefly to the following issues which are particularly relevant to Indonesia but which I hope can be a useful contribution to our deliberations.

Higher education institutions should provide or prepare their graduates who are able to compete in the global competition, i.e. meeting the international standard of competence, but also those who are able to contribute significantly to the regional development programme. The demand of graduates for local needs is quite high and therefore it is also important to prepare the graduates to meet the needs of the region.

The quality and qualifications of faculty members in higher education institutions should be upgraded through degree programmes or short-term training to improve their competence and at the same time to win the respect of their students.

The higher education process will utilize the available technology to enhance the process so that it can be up dated from time to time, and also it is important to develop network with other institutions.

It is no less important to develop a dual mode system to provide distance education especially for those who live in the remote areas. This system will be very beneficial for the quality improvement of higher education, especially in Indonesia where mobility is very limited. Students are distributed over Indonesia and difference in quality between universities is still large. From the geographical point of view as well as the number of students, this system is appropriate.

Higher education institutions should pay attention to the aspect of relevance. It means that their programmes should meet the demand of the local area at least or the national demand or even international demand. One of the tasks is to meet the demand of the small and medium enterprises (SME) which will be the backbone of economic growth.

Higher education should also be able to produce the graduates with capability in creating new jobs, new business opportunities and this could also be achieved through the business incubator programmes conducted at higher education institutions.

Higher education should be financed by the community through several means and therefore the community should decide on how higher education is organized. The participation and commitment from the community should be much greater for a better higher education process.

Networking of higher education institutions should be further developed to cope with the current development in science and technology and partnership is essential to obtain effective and efficient utilization of the available resources.

Mr President

Indonesia wishes to urge UNESCO on this occasion to pursue further its concrete action and programmes of development and assistance in higher education for the Member States, especially following the outcomes of this conference and particularly for the benefit of the developing and least developed countries in their difficult work to develop their higher education in the context of the present global and rapidly changing society and to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Thank you.