

As Delivered

Seminar and National Discussion

**Indonesia's Climate Commitment and the New Climate Economy**

9.30 am – 1.30 pm, 20 April 2015

Floating Room (Ruang Apung), Library Centre, Depok Campus, West Java

University of Indonesia

**WELCOMING SPEECH**

**PROFESSOR DR. IR. MUHAMMAD ANIS, M. MET**

**RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA**

**Read by M. Ali Berawi Ph.D,**

**Director of Research and Community Service (DRPM)**

**University of Indonesia**

**JAKARTA, 20 APRIL 2015**

His Excellency Sir David King,  
Her Excellency Ibu Dr. Ir. Endah Murniningtyas,  
Her Excellency Ibu Dr. Amanda Katili Niode,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like relay to you a warm welcome from Rector of the University of Indonesia to all participants of the Seminar and National Discussion on Indonesia's Climate Commitment and the New Climate Economy.

On behalf of the Rector, let me begin by extending his warmest welcome to our esteemed guest, Sir David King who has been able to come to our university during his busy Asian trip to share his thoughts and ideas. I would like also to especially welcome our distinguished senior government officials Ibu Endah and Ibu Amanda to our Green Campus of the University of Indonesia. The purpose of this event is to discuss the government policies and its action plan involving all stakeholders relating to Indonesia's national commitments toward a new international climate change agreement. We will explore how international reports such as the New Climate Economy can shed light on how Indonesia can move forward. Let me also express my sincere appreciation to all of participants who have joined us today in this important meeting, both in person and online via on our webinar portal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor to be asked to address this eminent group of panelists and all participants on an issue of such tremendous importance, which represents as Sir David calls it, "the biggest diplomatic challenge of this century" not just to those of us gathered in this room, but for society as a whole.

Higher education holds a special role in addressing the issue of sustainability and seeking solutions to address climate change. In particular, academia can contribute to three main areas.

First, universities can better defined the complex problems associated with climate change, and evaluate various sustainability solutions. Our scholars in all

disciplines must address, the various associated issues on intellectual, technological, legal and moral challenges, such as:

- How can we improve waste management, reduce our reliance on conventional fuels, and limit the greenhouse effect?
- How can we measure the impact of human activities on our natural environment?
- What can we do for adaptation and mitigation action to address climate change?
- And, ultimately, what types of practices, policies, values, actions and behaviours, need to be created, to improve the quality of human?

The second set of issues relates to pointing out the urgency of the need for action. Given trends of population and consumption, we have to define our priorities if we want to effectively address climate change.

In this Year of Sustainability (as has been declared by the UN), the world population has reached 7 billion. That means that in the last 200 years, the earth's population has grown more than 7-fold. During the same time, energy consumption has risen 80-fold and economic output has increased 68-fold. It means that that increasing population, only 25 percent consumes 70 to 80 percent of the world's resources.

Last but not least, higher education has a vital role to play in explaining the facts and providing leadership to address the complex dimensions of climate change and to develop concrete sustainable solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is important that universities to be fully engaged in creating a sustainable campus culture such that all of their graduates can align their personal and professional lives with sustainability goals. For example, just last week, a group of UI students announced that they managed to recycle waste glass bottles to create concrete material

At the University of Indonesia, our Research Center for Climate Change, along with other research centers in Engineering and other faculties have been active in

enhancing climate knowledge in civil society, the private sector and the public at large. They have taken a leading role in exploring options for climate mitigation, including environmental training, and research on environmental services, ecological fiscal transfer, biodiversity conservation, and, development of renewable energy and energy efficiency methods.

Universities can provide the required knowledge and the initiative to drive national activities to move this country forward. In one area of standards development, UI spearheaded an initiative in 2010 to create an online 'green metric' ranking for world universities, which received outstanding responses from 360 universities in 62 countries.

UI has more than half a century history of knowledge development in Indonesia, and the university is continuing in its efforts to provide “opportunities without boundaries” to develop their work to the best standards of academic excellence.

Finally, institutions of higher education can and must partner with their communities to engage in sustainable practices. We must always seek “win-win” outcomes for our human development and also our planet Earth.

All of which lead to the question of legacy for all of us.

As Professor Jeffrey Sachs stated, that “the year 2015 will be our generation’s greatest opportunity to move the world toward sustainable development”. With this spirit, I wish you a fruitful seminar. Thank you.