

The Third Japan-Indonesia Rectors' Conference Conference Chair Summary

The Third Japan-Indonesia Rectors' Conference was held in Sapporo on November 5th and 6th, 2015 and was co-hosted by Hokkaido University and Bogor Agricultural University. With the theme, Collaboration in Research and Education for Sustainable Society, representatives from twenty-eight Japanese universities and twenty-one Indonesian universities gathered to discuss the ways of academic collaboration towards sustainable society.

On the occasion of the opening of the conference, the co-chairs gave their welcome address. Dr. Keizo Yamaguchi, President of Hokkaido University, introduced Hokkaido University's initiatives toward sustainability and emphasized the importance of commitment of universities to serve as a driving force to create a sustainable society. Dr. Herry Suhardiyanto, Rector of Bogor Agricultural University and Chairman of the Council of Rector of Indonesia State University, remarked that the long-term collaboration between Japanese and Indonesian universities contributes to the development of science and technology for the welfare of human beings and nature, and expressed his hope to strengthen this partnership through further joint research and academic activities in the future.

Speeches from Japanese and Indonesian ministry representatives followed. The representatives recognized that educational collaborations such as student mobility, collaborative programs, and degree programs between Japan and Indonesia have increased in recent years, and emphasized the importance of further enhancing collaboration to solve global issues.

Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi, President of Japan Science and Technology Agency addressed the audience with his keynote speech, "Innovation & Universities—From Our Experiences". Dr. Hamaguchi emphasized that global issues such as resource and food depletion, global warming, environmental destruction, and population increase are issues that need our attention now as they are a major threat to the future of our

world. Another issue we face globally is an information revolution. Heretofore unknown ways of processing information have changed the structure of society as we know it, and as a result, in the near future, there will be new kinds of jobs that come into existence, and many jobs existing today will become obsolete within the next ten to twenty years. Taking this into account, we need science and technology based innovations to make a sustainable society. Universities have to play a central role in creating science and technology based innovations.

Following the introductory session, participants were divided into four groups: Education Collaboration (A and B), Research Collaboration, and Industry and University Cooperation in Innovation, to exchange their ideas and practices. The chairs of four groups reported the contents and findings from their sessions.

The issues raised by Dr. Hamaguchi are issues that diverge into many branches in space and time. International interdisciplinary and long-term collaboration will become increasingly important in the coming future. The participants of the conference agreed that collaboration between Indonesian and Japanese universities should be promoted, and the discussions over these past two days emphasized the enduring relationship in our numerous collaborations covering various research areas between our respective countries and institutions.

Discussions are already underway to hold the next Rectors' Conference in Indonesia. All participants recognized the importance of interactive discussions and exchange of information and ideas between universities in both countries.

Sapporo, November 6, 2015
Keizo Yamaguchi
President of Hokkaido University