

FOUNDATION SPEECH

Mustafa fakhri

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlement.

Selamat malam, Salam sejahtera untuk kita semua and Good evening to you all.

It gives a great pleasure for me to warmly welcome you all, respected leaders and scholars, in this unforgettable event. I thank you for responding positively to our invitation, and congratulation for surviving from the crazy traffic here in Jakarta to join us in this beautiful evening to witness the formal kick-off of the foundation, Indonesian Scholarship and Research Support Foundation or as it legally registered in the Ministry of justice as Yayasan Beasiswa dan Dukungan Penelitian Indonesia.

The primary goal of the ISRSF is to promote a new generation of world-class scholars on and for Indonesia, and to place them in an intellectual atmosphere that maximizes their life-long scholarly potential and impact. By this we mean professional academics who are committed not only to a career of research and published academic output, but also to preparing and training further generations of graduate students who will build Indonesia's scholarly community.

Ladies and Gentlement,

On behalf of the Foundation, let me first express my gratitude to all parties that make this event possible, especially to our benefactors for their generosity and support. Thanks to the selection committee who has successfully selected our three fellows. Congratulations to the three of you for being selected as an Arryman Fellows. Please use this opportunity as a first step in achieving excellence of your academic experience, and we wish you all success in this process. The ultimate goal of the foundation is to give you full support until the completion of the Ph.D. degree.

We can assure you that you will get a great atmosphere of learning process abroad, both in Northwestern University and outside the campus. We really hope you to become an international-level researcher with highly specialized knowledge and expertise in your field, therefore this opportunity would not only broaden your horizon, but also be able to give a chance to share your knowledge to broader audience, not only about the challenges and obstacles we face today, but also about Indonesian best practices in surviving transition to democracy, especially after the constitutional reform, as well as fight for "merah putih" and humanity at large in the global arena, so we can share the same tone of optimism to draw the future.

After you finish your study, please note that we want you to not forgetting to “pulang kampung”, return to your home country. Simply because your country need you. Indonesia need more scholars then ever before, who has spirit of reform, not those who are willing to trade their idealism and just seeking for political position but those who will humbly give great contribution to reform the system and promote clean governance.

Ladies and Gentlement,

We all know that Indonesia is a great and unqiue nation with more than 17.000 islands and hundreds of local languages, not only dialects, but different local languages from Sabang to Merauke. With enormous diversity within Indonesia, our nation today still face so many challenges and obstacles:

From constitutional rights issues to football supporter’s issues..

From human rights violation to political corruption..

From policy planning to rules implementing..

From rules by the oligarchs to rules by law..

From Judicial Mafia to Northwestern Mafia..

We often discuss and share some thoughts about these kind of issues, especially for the Fulbright scholars while pursuing LLM degree in Northwestern University. And one of the conclusions is to establish an institution to allow us to contribute more to the development of the future Indonesia. Therefore, Professor Jay Walsh, we realy hope your full support on this program since today’s event is simply the result of overnight discussion and contemplation, starting from the years of debate in an academic institution that you lead. And finally, ladies and gentlement, we are trully grateful to have you all here, witnessing this evolving dream grows.

Thank you.