



**THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AGENCY**

**Welcome Address of the State Minister for National Development Planning/  
Head of the National Development Planning Agency  
in the  
"Conference on Child Poverty and Social Protection"  
Collaboration between the Government of Indonesia – UNICEF – SMERU  
Jakarta, 10–11 September 2013**

The Distinguished State Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection  
The Distinguished Minister for Social Affairs  
Distinguished Members of the House of Representatives  
The Distinguished UNICEF Head Representative of Indonesia  
Distinguished Representatives of Development Partners  
Distinguished Officials of Ministries and Institutions  
Distinguished Resource Persons, Discussants, and Moderators, and  
Dear Guests

**Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh.**

**Good Morning. Peace and Greetings to us all.**

1. First of all, let us praise the Almighty God for the abundance of grace bestowed upon us so that we can all attend the "Conference of Child Poverty and Social Protection" this morning.
2. The conference is held within the framework of Collaboration between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and UNICEF and The SMERU Research Institute. I would like to extend my congratulations for the successful organizing of this conference and my gratitude goes to UNICEF and SMERU that have become partners of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in the collaboration to hold this conference.



3. This conference is a very strategic meeting because it is a forum that brings together researchers and policymakers and implementers of various protection and welfare improvement programs for the Indonesian children to discuss issues of child poverty and social protection implemented in an attempt to fulfill the rights of the child.
4. The research results discussed in this conference were collected through a filtering process followed by researchers from different areas in Indonesia as well as from other countries, particularly in the Asian region. To that end, to all the researchers from various areas in Indonesia and from abroad who have submitted their paper, I express my appreciation and convey my thanks.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests.**

5. Issues regarding children and poverty continue to be the main priority of the Government of Indonesia, as reflected in various documents of Indonesian development planning. Poverty reduction and improvement of the well-being and protection of children are the end results which are expected to be achieved through various long-term development policies on human resources and economic strengthening framed in the 2005–2025 Long-Term Development Plan (RPJP). The 2010–2014 RPJMN also outlines that child protection policies be carried out in all areas of development, particularly in the areas of education, health, and poverty reduction.
6. In accordance with Law No. 23/2002 on Child Protection, the child includes everyone below the age of 18, including those who are still in their mother's womb. The rights of the child that shall be fulfilled include the right to live, grow, develop, and participate in various aspects of life, as well as to get protection from various acts of violence, child trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests.**

7. So far, Indonesia has recorded various progresses with regard to improving the welfare and protection of children. The first-half evaluation of the 2010–2014 RPJMN showed progress in the field of education, as shown by the increase in the net school enrollment rate (APM) for primary school and the equivalent from 95.41% in 2009 to 95.69% in 2012; the increase in the APM for junior high school and the equivalent from 75.6% in 2009 to 77.7% in 2012; and the increase in the APM for senior high school and the equivalent from 69.60% in 2009 to 76.5% in 2011.
8. Although a bit slow, some progress was also achieved in the field of health. This is shown by the decline in infant mortality rate from 34 per 1,000 live births in 2007 to 32 in the year 2012, the decrease in the prevalence of malnutrition from 18.4% in 2007 to 17.9% in 2010, and the reduction in the prevalence of stunting among children under age five from 36.8% in 2007 to 35.6% in 2010.

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9. In terms of poverty reduction, there has been some progress as reflected in the continued decrease in the poverty rate from 14.2% in 2009 to 11.37% in March 2013. This decline in the poverty rate means that the number of poor population decreased from 32.53 million people in 2009 to 28.07 million people by March 2013.



The decline in the poverty rate was supported by the increased economic growth which was marked by an increase in Indonesia's national income from Rp20.7 million per capita in 2009 to about Rp30.5 million per capita in 2012.

10. One of the important efforts initiated by the government is provided in the form of social protection programs. The coverage of Program Keluarga Harapan, for example, has been expanded from 774 thousand families in 2010 to 1.5 million families in 2012. The development of national social security system will be directed to support the fulfillment of child rights.

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11. We are all aware that children are the primary asset that will determine the future of the nation. The welfare of Indonesian children, which are approximately 80.1 million in number based on the 2010 Population Census, will be determined by the long-term investments made by families, the government, and all components of the community, both at the local and international levels.
12. From the standpoint of development planning, this conference is held at a very timely moment, as the government is beginning the process of drafting the 2015–2019 RPJMN. Policymakers realize the importance of credible and continuous research, as well as the importance of research results as input for quality policies, especially those regarding the fulfillment of the child's rights and the improvement of their well-being. Research results to be discussed during this conference are expected to be able to provide inputs to increase the effectiveness of efforts to improve the welfare and fulfill the rights of Indonesian children and children in various other countries participating in this conference.
13. In this precious event, I would like to ask The Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection and The Minister of Social Affairs to officially open the conference.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh.

Jakarta, 10 September 2013

**Sate Ministrer of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas**

**Armida S. Alisjahbana**

