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Perspective of Indonesian Government to Internationalization and Rankings

The Indonesian government considers the issue of quality improvement of the higher education in Indonesia as a major priorities. Since 2009, government has put 20% of its budget for educational Sector.

With the hype of international assessment, evaluation, accreditation, and ranking, the Indonesian government understood that new way of evaluating the understanding of each stakeholder in higher education which include human resources, input, process, output, and outcome of the higher education institutions in Indonesia.

Indonesia is a Maritime Continent which spans the distance that covers the arc from London to Iran, and 1/8th of the Equator. Our population is the 4th largest in the world after China, India, USA, with 245 Million people, and 4(?) Million students studying in our 4500 (?) higher education institutions.

The quality of this higher education institutions varied from 2 universities that is included in the QS ranking: Universitas Indonesia and ITB, to smaller and less known higher education institutions that caters the educational need to provide skilled human resources for health services, educational services, and industry. We have to ensure that the quality of our human resources will be capable to face the AFTA, MEA, and Globalization era, in which they could provide services with quality that meet the international standard or even better with the local wisdom from Indonesia.

In the last 6 years, under a limited budget, we have try to enforce the higher education institution leaders in Indonesia on the evaluation mechanism that has been put forward on the table of the evaluation of University performance world wide. Some strategy to learned the International evaluation, accreditation, assessment, and rankings, i.e. US NEWS, QS, THE, ARWU Shanghai Jiotong, and Webometrics. We have tried to empower our lecturers and researchers to understand the notion of indexing conducted through the availability of our publication and information available on the Internet. We admire the open source and open document initiated by different institutions such as webometrics, to bring about more than 20.000 higher education institutions in the world to be included on the list, in order not only to improve the educational quality worldwide.

The government of Indonesia realized that education form all, opening access to higher education, providing scholarship for talented but poor high school students, providing a continuous improvement in terms of quality lecturers, more infrastructure are our major concern. The improvement can be seen in the statistics, but we realize that this must be improved in order to reach the condition in which Indonesia has been predicted to become the 6th largest economy in the world.

Eventough in the year 2012 for example we have funded more than 30 universities to be assessed in terms of their Macro Quality Assurance performance in QS STARS, we realized that Quality

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Assurance in terms of Micro Quality Assurance in each subject area in each higher education institution is as important. Since 2009, We have empowered our National Accreditation Agency, to accredit not only the study program level, but also Institutional Accreditation as a mechanism to improve the overall quality of management based on the 7 standard.

Initiated during the beginning of my leadership at the Ministry of Research Technology and Higher Education of Indonesia, since last year we have launched some programs to revisit our strategy to improve the reputation of our university, the internationalization program, and the overall quality improvement. We also conduct a major program to improve the accreditation status of 200 universities to get the best status “A”. This is not an easy task under the pressure of tight economy condition, and other limitation which include the vast array of the quality of Human Resources that must be exposed to the current trend of democratization but also commercialization of the knowledge resources.

We strive to work hard to be intact with the whole world in order to generate future leaders of the world that understand that piece, prosperity, and tolerance to others can only be realized under a strong educational sectors that can empower every single baby that is born in this small world. We have to work hard together to create a sustainable world to our future generations, so that the will come up with solutions to our common problem in the future in which food, fresh water, clean air, and energy are limited. Sustainable waste management, transportation technologies, and green technology adaptation should be implemented by our young educated generation. I think that movement in the higher education worldwide for this should be impartial.

In conclusion, in the perspective of Indonesian government, we support the International Ranking Expert Group Observatory effort to evaluate the use of different rankings and quality movement in order to reach our common goal, quality education for all in the world.

Thank you.

M. Nasir

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