

TRANSCRIPT  
ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
AT THE  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DEFENCE  
STATE PALACE, MARCH 17, 2010

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,  
Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,*  
Best wishes for all of us.

Respectfully, Minister of Defence and Ministers of the United Indonesia Cabinet II, Prof. Dr. Yuwono Sudarsono, Former Minister of Defense, Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, Chief of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Air Force, and Officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Indonesian Armed Forces Headquarters,

Your Excellencies, Foreign Ambassadors to Indonesia, Defence Attaches, Members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, Foreign Keynote Speakers, Speakers, and Panelists, Seminar Participants whom I respect.

With praise and gratitude to God Almighty, Allah SWT, allow me in this opportunity to congratulate the Indonesian Defense University on its first anniversary. *Alhamdulillah*, it is now one year old. I hope the Indonesian Defense University can be improved and developed under the guidance of Defence and National Education Ministers so that in the future it can truly become an internationally acknowledged Defence University.

I am delighted that the Indonesian Defense University has developed cooperation with various similar institutions nationwide as well as globally. I do hope that in the future this cooperation will continue and be further developed. I hope that in developing the University, the management will be able to show the distinctiveness and advantages of the Indonesian Defense University.

This means, if there is anyone, local or foreigner, who wishes to study at the Indonesian Defense University, it indicates that they want to acquire special knowledge, to study special subjects which the University excels at. For example, if the University offers courses about certain methods of warfare, for instance: guerrilla warfare or counter insurgency warfare of which Indonesia has a wealth of knowledge in theories, doctrines, and practical skills as reflected in the course of Indonesian history.

Another area of study, for example, would be internal security and conflict resolution. We are experienced in the peaceful resolution of conflicts, for example in Aceh and in other regions. In counter terrorism, we can definitely share our knowledge and experiences in combating terrorism. We can also share our knowledge of Islam and harmony among civilisations, or Islam and democracy.

Also we have expertise on the topic of the economy of developing nations, which is also a topic of today's seminar, and also on natural resources management. I think there are plenty of subjects that the University can delve into and which will eventually feature the distinctiveness or advantages of this institution of ours.

Ladies and gentlemen

Concerning this seminar, I convey my gratitude and appreciation to the University's Leadership and the Minister of Defence who initiated this International Seminar on Defence. The chosen theme, "Indonesia Toward 2025: Geopolitical and Security Challenges Focus on Economy, Natural Resources and Energy

Aspects,” in my opinion, is contextual and relevant with contemporary global developments and dynamics.

I hope that in the seminar we can discuss issues relevant to that main theme in order to deepen our understanding on Indonesia and the world in the early 21st century. I would also like to welcome Foreign Speakers and Panelists. Thank you for your participation in this Indonesian Defense University-managed seminar.

According to my notes, there are four topics to be discussed at the seminar, the first being the global economic turmoil; this is important. The second topic focuses on natural resources and energy security. The third, no less relevant, is about shifts in the global power system. And fourth, I have also been told that there will be a forum for young leaders entitled “The Crisis of Identity in Globalization Era.”

I think those topics are of sufficient importance to be discussed properly.

Ladies and gentlemen

I hope that this seminar can function as an academic forum which will be beneficial for policymakers on defence matters.

Distinguished guests

I would like to deliver some brief remarks on each topic, as a point for discussion in the seminar which will be held over two days, today and tomorrow.

On the first topic, the global economic turmoil, I think you would agree that we have learned lessons from the global economic crisis of 2008 and 2009. In Indonesia, we have taken quick, precise, and integrated steps as well as adopted several policies in order to overcome the crisis. *Alhamdulillah*, the results were realised, and Indonesia was able to minimise the impact of the global crisis. The Indonesian economy is demonstrating positive growth, in 2008 it was 6.1% and last year it was 4.5%. This was the highest economic growth rate after China and India among the G-20 countries. The employment rate was sustained at a stable rate during the crisis.

We were also able to manage the national banking system and prevent it from experiencing a crisis, as happened in 1998. And frankly speaking, Indonesia’s experience, including that related to its banking system of those 10-11 years ago, is very precious because thereafter we did introduce economic reforms, including in the banking system. Our economic fundamentals have eventually grown stronger and we have become more resilient now to such forms of economic instability.

Ladies and gentlemen

Those were our domestic actions. At the international level, Indonesia is also very active; together with other countries it cooperated in order to overcome the global economic recession of approximately two years ago. What we did together with other countries, especially in the G-20 forum, was to stabilise the global economy, to stop the haemorrhaging, to recover global trust, to execute counter cyclical measures, including to introduce a coordinated global economic stimulus package.

We also maintained our global trade and investment regime ensuring that they are kept open, and together we agreed not to adopt protectionism. We also agreed to reorganise and reform the global financial architecture, including its regulations as well as its institutions, for example: the WTO, World Bank, and IMF. Through a series of summits we have also agreed to construct a more balanced global economy in future. We also desire a firm, inclusive, and sustainable global growth so that it will not become a time bomb for future generations.

That is what I believe the world community has done in response to the 2008-2009 crises. I myself, together with the Indonesian delegation, am active in various forums: G-20, APEC, ASEAN Summit, East Asian Summit, ASEM and the like.

Ladies and gentlemen

Of course there is still some homework to do at the national, regional, and global levels; how are we going to act together in relation to the working of the global economy while keeping in mind lessons from the recent crisis?

Distinguished guests

The second topic is about natural resources and energy security. I agree with the organiser of the seminar who chose the topic. This is also a critical issue and has become a challenge for the world in the future. The world population is now approximately 6.6 billion people and will continue to grow; they will need more resources to survive. Moreover, not only their number continues to grow, the middle class, with their consumptive life style, will consume more. In the near future, demand will increase for primary resources.

Ladies and gentlemen

Concerning this issue, five years ago I brought to attention issues which I consider as having the potential to become a cause for crisis in the future. I have raised these issues in and out of the country. What are they? These are what I call FEW (Food, Energy, and Water). Food, energy, and water security is very important. I am afraid that if the world fails to manage and overcome the possibility of a conflict of interests in attempting to find, control, and perhaps the seizure of other states food, energy, and water, this can become a new source of conflict at the global level, causing wars.

We understand that in the first millennium, open wars were mostly caused by clashes of ideology, religion, or territorial domination. In my opinion, that era of open warfare has ended. The possibility for global open war to occur out of those clashes of ideology, religion, or over territory is diminutive. In the future it is possible that sources of conflict are related to food, energy, and water.

Countries with huge population, now called emerging economies with high economic growth, will need large amounts of food and energy resources. The problem becomes more complex as the world is now experiencing an environmental crisis together with climate change; this of course is related to food, energy, and water. Therefore, let us completely understand and be aware that there are things which we might overlook but if we fail to manage collectively at the global level, they will later become a challenge or even a threat for the world in the future. The issues, as I stated previously, are food, energy and water.

Ladies and gentlemen

Concerning the third topic chosen by the organiser, the shifts in the global power system, I also see this as an interesting issue. The issue involves the geopolitics of the future, geopolitics for the next 10, 20, and 30 years. Some time ago, in Cilangkap, in front of the military leadership, I had also mentioned this issue. In this very room, in front of ambassadors and Indonesian diplomats, I also have raised the issue which I called the new world order and power games in a multi polar world.

Last week I visited Australia and met a best friend of mine, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. We exchanged views concerning this big issue, about world development and also about the regional architecture. Next week, President Obama will visit Indonesia, and there will certainly be time for us to exchange

views regarding specific world developments which have become a source of our concern. *Insha Allah*, next month I will welcome Premier Wen Jiabao of China. Almost certainly we will discuss the problems that we are all facing.

In my theory and observation, after the Cold War ended, in the post-Cold War period, after the terrorist attacks in New York in 2001, and after the global economic crisis of 2008-2009, the world is now currently searching for and building a new order, with all its interplays and complications. The current world order is probably similar with that of the middle ages which was indicated by many poles, and then a multi polar world.

If in the Cold War there were only 2 blocs, east and west, and after the cold war, America might be the only super power, there are now readjustments in world order. Moreover, global issues which have been in existence during and after the Cold War have now become more numerous.

This is the world today; let us observe global powers entering the global scene. There are, for instance, the United States, China in Asia, and Europe. There are also what we call emerging economies, China, India, Brazil, South Africa, and reputedly, now Indonesia slowly joining at the lower echelon. The Middle East has also become the focus of the world, not only because of their petrodollars, but also because of their position as the centre of the Islamic world. And those countries now are represented by... how many countries is G-20 comprised of? 20 plus... Actually the G-20 consists of 20 countries, but in fact, there are more nations in the group as there are associations representing several countries.

Some said there will only be G-2, the United States and China. Let us see how the world order will develop. But it is certainly too early now to say whether it will go this way or that way. It still transforms and develops, characterised more by relations between powers.

Now the emerging issues have become more numerous, the recent crisis has added the sustainability of the global economy, climate change, clash of civilisations, terrorism, food security, non-traditional security threats that we are all familiar with. That is roughly the geopolitics of the future. That is more or less the political and security landscape at the global level.

Ladies and gentlemen

I have conveyed my short opinions on the three topics; therefore at the closing of my address let us now analyse together. How will the world situation be in 2025, the year that you have chosen for the seminar? Besides, what will be the challenges faced by the world community, including the Indonesian community? Of course it is not my job to answer; it is the objective of the seminar scheduled to be held for two days by the Indonesian Defense University. In fact, Mr. Purnomo, I want to hear the results of the 2 days deliberations during seminar. My job is to open this seminar and later, to hit the gong over there, my job is easier than to discuss and conclude the seminar results.

However, as one of the world leaders, allow me to put across my visions and my thoughts about the steps that the world has to do to overcome those challenges. Very briefly, I will express four points. Firstly, to cope with present and future global challenges it is necessary in my opinion for a new awareness and common responsibility from all nations in the world, from all humanity, including the willingness to develop a life style which is pro-earth and pro-planet.

Secondly, in my opinion we need technology, a mastery over and proper usage of technology which is capable to overcome a range of global problems, including food, energy, and water security and to overcome non-traditional security threats. It is necessary for all countries, all nations, and at the global level to innovate.

The third, a more effective global cooperation and partnership is necessary, including policy coordination and collective action to be executed together.

And the fourth is a moral message. We know that the sources of global conflict might not be the same as in the past. For example, the possibility for conflict occurring from attempts to gain domination over food, energy, and water resources, and also non-traditional security threats. Therefore, when the clash of interests happens, let us find a peaceful solution. Let us not be quick to use military power or other forms of hard power. If that happens, humanity will lose twice, once from the difficulty of acquiring food, energy, and water resources; the next from the tragedy of warfare which generates misery and problems for mankind. Above all, this is once again a moral call; let us build a good global civilisation, where civilised methods are employed in resolving global problems.

Those are four points that all of us may together think through. How all of us, nations in the world, envision our future with the aim of the well-being of the earth, the safety of life forms living on it, and the future of the coming generations. With all those visions, ladies and gentlemen, finally, pleading to God Almighty for His blessing and with *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, the International Seminar on Defence is now officially open.

*Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*

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