

OPENING REMARKS
MINISTER EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF INDONESIA
The 8th ASEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
CULTURE AND ARTS (AMCA) MEETING
24 OCTOBER 2018

Your Excellency Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports of Brunei Darussalam, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin;

Your Excellency Secreatry of State of Cambodia, Mr. Samraing Kamsan;

Your Excellency Minister of Culture of Thailand, Dr. Vira Rojpojchanarat;

Your Excellencies Representatives of Ministers for Culturethe Ministry of Culture of ASEAN Member States;

Your Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN, Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

My Fellow ASEAN Citizens;

Assalamu'alaikum Warakhmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Selamat Pagi,

A very good morning to all of you,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to welcome Your Excellencies, Minister of Culture of the ASEAN Member States or representatives in Yogyakarta.

I proudly introduce to Your Excellencies the city of Yogyakarta, it is the Capital of “*Mataram*”, one of the largest Islamic kingdoms in a region so called “*Nusantara*”. It was established in 1587 however the old kingdom was existed since the 8th century.

Your Excellency presence is highly expected by the people of Yogyakarta. I hope this meeting will certainly improve “*People-to-People*” contact as well as to strengthen cultural cooperation among of us. In many cases, cultural heritage is scattered inside the city which producing a “*City of Cultural Heritage*” just like Yogyakarta with *Borobudur* and *Prambanan* temples as well as *Kota Gede* and *Malioboro* which are very majestic and admired.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Let me recall the result of the 31st ASEAN Summit in November 2017 where ASEAN Leaders agreed to adopt the “ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP)”. ASEAN CoP aims to create a peaceful, open, resilient, healthy, and harmonious society.

The Declaration encourages development of policies and initiates on effective prevention at the upstream level which aimed the people. It is also to strengthen awareness and mindset of community in practicing more positive values and stay away from negative.

This can be achieved if everyone can strive to uphold values of tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect for ASEAN togetherness.

Distinguished delegates,

Indonesia is a rich cultural country. Cultural diversity is our nation's identity. Therefore, diversity is a valuable asset that must be maintained and preserved. As a nation, Indonesia has the “Four Pillars of Nationality” which become our unifier because it is already inherent in the personality of each Indonesian. Those are *Pancasila*, the 1945 Constitution, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and Nation’s Motto: *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*.

Pancasila comes from the *Sanskrit* language *Panca* and *Sila* or the “Five Principles” which is our nation ideology. *Pancasila* teaches tolerant, respect, and peaceful attitude. Through *Pancasila*, it creates unity in a pluralistic society as our motto “*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*” which means unity in diversity.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

On the implementation of the Four Pillars of Nationality our Ministry has eminent programs such as “Indonesiana”, “Cultural Camp at the Border (*Kemah Budaya di Wilayah Perbatasan*)”, and “Cultural Seeding (*Persemaian Budaya*)” where society and young generation are taught positive values rooted in cultural wisdom that has been passed down from generation to generation.

Currently, Indonesia is intensifying the development and utilization of cultural values and products. The government encourages the public to take an active role by giving them facilities. Further, after 72 years of independence, Indonesia has an Act that regulates culture namely Law No. 5 of 2017 on Cultural Advancement.

There are four strategies to reach the goal such as protection, development, utilization, and cultivation. Moreover, there are 10 cultural objects included in the scope of the Act, namely verbal traditions, manuscripts, customs, folk games, traditional sports, traditional knowledge, traditional technology, art, language, and rites.

In implementing the Act, we believe by developing and strengthening cultural community ecosystem will sustain local wisdom by introducing and exchanging it among us. We wish mutual recognition and understanding among community will create a harmonious, peaceful and unity. It is implemented through platform cooperation between the central and regional governments as well as private sector and cultural communities.

These steps that I mentioned earlier, stipulate in our new initiative namely “Indonesiana” which fulfil Culture and Four Pillars of Nationality. Indonesiana aims to improve the quality of managing cultural events as well as to increase access and expand cultural networks. It is also expected to improve cultural exchanges at national, regional, and international levels.

Other new initiative is by forming a “Regional Principles of Cultural Thoughts (*Pokok-pokok Pikiran Kebudayaan Daerah/PPKD*)”, it is a work plan based on data and facts from the field. Therefore, regional and central governments can measure clearly with clear achievements on implementation of the Act as well as getting more involve from the regional government in promoting culture. Recently it has been compiled cultural thoughts from more than 110 district/city governments.

Distinguished delegates,

As the goal of ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention: a peaceful, open, resilient, healthy and harmonious society Indonesia is ready to take part and actively participate because since long time ago, Indonesians has been upholding values of equality, peace, and harmony. Moreover, the Government of Indonesia urges the world community through “Bali Promise” and “Bali Declaration” of World Culture Forum which in line with those values.

Initiating the theme “Embracing the ASEAN Culture of Prevention to Enrich ASEAN Identity” and the Yogyakarta Declaration at this 8th AMCA Meeting, Indonesia sees this forum as the best place to promote civilization on a broad scale. If ASEAN member states can implement it, I believe that other countries can follow it smoothly.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

For the success of this meeting, it relies on our thoughts and suggestions therefore I invite you all to take part on every single discussion. For that, I would like to express my appreciation and utmost gratitude.

Finally, on behalf of the Ministers of Culture of ASEAN member states allow me to officially open the 8th AMCA meeting on 24 October 2018 in Yogyakarta.

Thank you very much.

Terima kasih.

Wassalamu’alaikum Warakhmatullahi Wabarakatuh.