

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL ECONOMY AUTONOMY IN FACING GLOBAL CRISIS

Karawaci, March 10, 2009 - In order to commemorate 100 years of Sutan Sjahrir, Pelita Harapan University (UPH) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an annual lecture entitled "National Economy Autonomy in Facing Global Crisis".

In a seminar held at UPH Lippo Village campus, Tuesday (10/3), Director of Economic Development and the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ghafur Akbar Dharmaputra, said that Indonesia has received world recognition for our role in various international forums, such as the G-20, IMF, World Bank, United Nations, APEC, and ASEAN. By participating in international forums, it shows that Indonesia also actively participates in tackling the global economic crisis.

According to Dharmaputra, the world is now faced with five kinds of global crisis, the food crisis, energy, water, finance, and climate change. These five crises are affecting each other to worsen the condition of the world. Dharmaputra added that the current crisis is almost similar to the year of 1929 crisis, the Great Depression. At that time, stock markets worldwide tumbled to cause millions unemployment and poverty rampant.

In Indonesia, the crisis that is most affecting is the world financial crisis. CIDES Honorary Chairman of the Board, Umar Juoro stated that Indonesia needed to be economically independent, to remain capable of dealing with the global economic crisis that hit. This view is in accordance with Sutan Sjahrir thinking that are rational, universal, and democratic. Sjahrir emphasis on national economic autonomy by exploring the potential in the country. But to think rationally, that we as one of the world community must cooperate with foreign parties.

UPH Senior Advisor, Adrianus Mooy also added that Indonesia must have sufficient resilience to face the crisis, and use the opportunities to move forward. In facing the crisis in Indonesia, Mooy said three acts, such as consumer credit alert, balancing the financial sector with the real sector, and wary of short-term funds abroad. In addition, Dharmaputra added, Indonesia needs to continue to implement active-free foreign politics by fostering and take advantage of international relations.

Challenge the current global crisis is very severe. Each generation faces the challenge themselves. We need visionary fighters like Sutan Sjahrir who realized that the struggle to achieve independence should be done in various ways and efforts. Now, it is the responsibility of the younger generation to continue the Sjahrir's diplomatic struggle.

Annual Lecture Commemorating 100 Years of Sutan Sjahrir was opening a place for a number of speakers to share ideas and teaching to the students who attend. Some of them are Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hassan Wirajuda as the key note, the youngest daughter of Sutan Sjahrir Upik Sjahrir, journalist and former Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia Sabam Siagian, UPH Chairman of the Department of International Relations Edwin M. B. Tambunan, and historian Prof. Leirissa.

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