

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good evening to all of you and a warm welcome as we, the Indonesian Scholarship and Research Support Foundation (ISRSF), celebrate the inauguration of our foundation, the awarding of the 2012 Arryman Fellowship to three talented young Indonesians, and the Jakarta announcement of the Equality, Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Program at Northwestern University. We are very honored to have Prof. Jay Walsh, the Vice President of Northwestern University with us this evening. Tonight is also the largest gathering of NU alumni ever assembled in Indonesia, and I have heard rumors that tonight will mark the beginning of a new NU Club in Indonesia. A special welcome to all NU alumni present tonight.

The planning for the ISRSF began almost 18 months ago. But all the official preparations were finalized and the documents signed just in the last four months. It has been a challenge to get everything up and running. But we are happy that within a relatively short period of time we managed to file all the necessary documents with the government, set up our office in Jakarta, sign agreements with our benefactors, prepare the Fellows application process, form an academic Selection Committee, and finally, award three Arryman Fellows.

In this regard, allow me to extend our gratitude and thankfulness to various parties that made our endeavor possible. First of all we would like to thank our benefactors who have generously lent their support. Jeffrey Winters will say more about them in a few minutes. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to Ms. Atitje Arryman who allowed us to name this fellowship after her late, beloved husband and has given her sincere support to our foundation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This evening we will publicly announce the 2012 Arryman Fellows, who will be heading for Chicago next month to become research associates and begin graduate work at Northwestern University. The fellows were selected from numerous applicants by a selection committee, comprised of Prof. Teri Caraway from the University of Minnesota; Dr. Todung Mulya Lubis, a lecturer at the University of Indonesia; Prof. Jeffrey Winters of Northwestern University, and myself in my capacity as Executive Director of the Foundation. On behalf of the ISRSF, let me take this opportunity to thank the selection committee members for their service and to congratulate this year's Arryman Fellows, who will be introduced to you shortly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Indonesian Scholarship and Research Support Foundation's overriding objective is to cultivate Scholars, Research and Scholarship in and for Indonesia. In this regard, we are very privileged to have Prof. Vedi Hadiz from Murdoch University, who will deliver his keynote address entitled "Bringing Indonesian Social Sciences to the Global Academic Community." Unquestionably, Vedi Hadiz is an exemplary Indonesian scholar who works on and for Indonesia, but unfortunately not in Indonesia. He is one of a very small number of Indonesian world-class scholars, who are committed to research and cultivating scholarship. I believe his keynote address will enlighten everyone in the Indonesian scholar community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our event this evening also signifies the beginning of an association between Northwestern University and the ISRSF. The Arryman Fellows will be closely associated with the newly established Equality, Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Program at Northwestern University, which is an interdisciplinary unit within the university operating across all of its schools, and under the guidance and leadership of Vice President Walsh.

We are very excited to be working with Northwestern - indeed, 11 out of 12 members of ISRSF's Board of Trustees, Supervisors, and Directors are NU alumni themselves. We hope this relationship will blossom in the years ahead.

Let me now introduce to you Mr. Mustafa Fakhri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of ISRSF, and a 2006 graduate of the Northwestern law school with an LLM in human rights.

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