



**SPEECH  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
AT HALAL BIL HALAL OF THE BRITISH ALUMNI,  
JAKARTA, 2 NOVEMBER 2007**

**Assalamualaikum Warakhmatullahi Wabarakatuh,  
H.E. Ambassador of the United Kingdom,  
Members of the British Alumni,  
Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, let us thank God for His blessing for our good health and spirit so that we can meet here on this valuable moment for “Halal bi Halal”. It is my great pleasure for me to be here, to meet colleagues and friends of the British Alumni. I would like also to extend my appreciation

to the organizer for giving me opportunity to speak briefly on this occasion.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), the primary challenge of economic development in Indonesia is eradication of poverty and hunger. In March 2007, the number of people below poverty line was 37,2 million persons (16,6%). Roughly 63,4% of the poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture. Therefore, similar to a large number of countries in Asia, agricultural development is an appropriate strategy to alleviate poverty and hunger.

In more broader ways, agricultural development is simultaneously confronting with three challenging goals: (1) to alleviate poverty and increase farmers' income, (2) to assure food security, and (3) to rehabilitate and conserve natural resources. In the long run, these three goals are complementary and mutually reinforcing. In the short run, however, it might seem to be conflicting to some policies.

## **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

In the future, it is our responsibility to facilitate our farmers increase their competitiveness, and improve their livelihood. To achieve this strategic goal, we need coordinative and integrative efforts involving government, private sector, academia, and civil society organizations.

I am confident that British Alumni who currently engage in various segment of our society, will share and take action to address those issues. With exchange and learning from the United Kingdom experiences can provide us with better horizon to face the future with more optimistic innovative views.

To my view, the British Alumni have background of sciences, and one group of truthfully having opportunity and capacity to contribute in agricultural development, with the

application of technology, utilize networking and management ability to develop agriculture in Indonesia.

I am also grateful for the effort of Ambassador of the United Kingdom to promote collaboration among the Indonesian and the United Kingdom community. We need a forum to learn and share our experiences and to find what agriculture development policies are essential to address poverty and hunger alleviation.

I hope we all do concern and well informed about the current condition and problems of agriculture sector, and involves fully in moving this sector to become engine of our national economy.

Wassalamualaikum. Wr. Wb.

Thank you.

Minister of Agriculture

Anton Apriyantono