

Closing remarks World Press Freedom Day 2017

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,

Today is the last day of the 2017 World Press Freedom Day celebration. On behalf of the Government of Indonesia and the Press Council, we would like to thank you all for coming to Jakarta and participating in this event.

This celebration holds a special meaning for Indonesia, considering the democratization process that has begun since 1998. Through series of heavy political and economic disturbances, regional armed violence, natural disasters, and interracial and interreligious tension, Indonesia has firmly embarked on a path to become a democratic nation.

We have experienced, firsthandly, that press freedom plays a crucial role in the development of the nation. In the last 17 years, Indonesia has gained many positive things from press freedom – in particular on how press can deliver criticisms and provide rooms for

various opinions, that can be useful for both the government and the people.

Those are the reasons of why we are very enthusiastic to host 2017 World Press Freedom Day.

We are eager to share and learn from you, about our own experience in cultivating press freedom and to solve plethora of challenges for press and its responsibility in developing the nation.

The Guillermo Cano Award, an annual tradition of the WPF, will continue to remind us of the need for a free press, one that is without fear to report information that is truthful and meaningful for the people.

We have engaged into several discussions on significant and contemporary themes. From how information technology changed the media industry landscape to how we can close the literacy gap in this digital world.

In the other hand we also share the same concern that information technology also carries its dark side; that it can be used to spread hate speech and fake news, resulting in a chaos in our society.

In this 2017 WPFJ we are able to focus in addressing the issue of SDG's, particularly in achieving SDG number 16, promoting peaceful and inclusive society, as well as on how are we going to counter social media bubbles both major issues as reflected in our Jakarta Declaration.

We are also aware that we need to bring back healthy public communication, and to support quality journalism in order to shed lights in this midst of turbulent information wave.

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Distinguished guests,

In the face of those challenges, I am delighted to note that this year WPFJ has continued to nurture the future of journalism. Youth News Room, which is managed by Universitas Multimedia Nusantara, is a showcase of how young people play an increasingly instrumental role in generating and disseminating news.

The Youth News Room, in my view, is not only successful to further the news about our event, but

also to reassure the future of journalism, as well as the future of democracy.

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,

I would like now to thank UNESCO for cooperating with Indonesia to host this year's WPF. My gratitude also goes to the Indonesian Press Council.

To all institutions and people that have involved in this event, all speakers and moderators, rapporteurs and all of you who have participated in this event: **thank you.**

To conclude my remarks, let me tell you something about last night entertainment, following the opening ceremony.

As you remember, last night we were given 'angklung', a traditional musical instrument made of bamboo, courtesy of Mang-Udjo, a world-renowned angklung maestro. Angklung is also on UNESCO's representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Other than to entertain you, angklung was meant to invite all of you to embrace the angklung music philosophy: that everyone plays a vital role in building a graceful and harmonic orchestra. I hope that the angklung orchestra that we performed last night can evoke the same spirit in all of us to be together in creating a better world.

With that, excellencies and distinguished guests, I bid you all fare well, and see you in another time in Indonesia. Thank you.

Jakarta, 4 May 2017

Rudiantara

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