

Honoring Dr. Arif Arryman

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests. We are very honored that all of you have come for this special celebration tonight. As we embark on this grand educational initiative, it is a moment also to reflect on the role of education as a pure good. Education at its best is always illuminating and empowering. It transforms the lives of those who receive education and it enables them to be transformative for their communities.

This is the spirit in which I want to mention Dr. Arif Arryman, the person in whose honor these Fellows and Scholars are named. Arryman was himself the product of a life-long hunger for knowledge. He was a brilliant student of industrial engineering at the Institute of Technology Bandung. He then changed paths and went on to do his doctorate in economics at the University of Paris, graduating summa cum laude.

Throughout his life -- whether he was joining the struggle against the repressive Suharto dictatorship, criticizing economic policies before and after 1998, or battling corruption and fighting for transparency in the many positions he held as an independent commissioner at major Indonesian firms -- Arryman showed himself to be a man of clear principles. Those principles, and the vision they informed, are evident in his book, provided as a gift tonight by Arryman's family, entitled *Mengurai Benang Kusut, Merajut Masa Depan, or Untangling the Threads, Weaving the Future*.

All of this is more than enough to merit naming an educational program in his honor. But it was especially his work in his final years that inspired so many of us. Not long before he died, Arryman became the central architect of a major new educational initiative involving Harvard University, the Rajawali Foundation, and, in a preliminary way, Northwestern University as well. Arryman believed in building institutions that endure the test of time. He turned his skills and vision to designing a new school of public policy and social sciences that would set a new standard of research, scholarship, and teaching in Indonesia.

We intend that the young scholars whose educational futures are being (re)launched tonight will become core faculty in that new school. And so to recognize this wonderful human being (a dear friend to many gathered here tonight), and to carry forth his vision and all the commitments that vision embodies, our Foundation is honored to bestow the name of Arryman on its Fellows and Scholars.

For generations to come, this name will signify the highest commitment to scholars, research, and scholarship in and for Indonesia.

We are fortunate tonight to have as one of our special guests Mrs. Atitje Arryman and Arryman's son Adia. Atitje would you please come forward to receive a bouquet of appreciation from ISRSF.

Appreciation to ISRSF Donors

It is not only people like Arif Arryman who are committed to education and social transformation. That vision and inspiration is shared by actors who use their resources to build and enrich the communities in which they thrive.

I am referring, of course, to the generous donors to ISRSF. They have all invested in dozens or even hundreds of important social causes that have an impact on Indonesians and Indonesia every day, meeting human needs of all kinds. The educational investment they are making in ISRSF and particularly in the Arryman Fellows initiative demands a unique kind of vision on the part of these donors because there will be no instant gratification, no problems immediately solved, no social pain instantly alleviated.

To cultivate scholars and scholarship for Indonesia will have an immeasurable impact in the years and decades ahead. But realizing the fruits of the investments being made today will require patience. Our Arryman Fellows will study for six to seven years to achieve their doctorates. Five years from now, we will have *twenty* Indonesian doctoral students at NU all at the same time, in various departments. It will be the largest concentration of Indonesians pursuing doctorates at the same time at one institution anywhere in the world outside Indonesia.

Before I formally recognize our donors, I want to mention two people who played a very important role in making ISRSF possible: Mr. Gregory Churchill, who provided invaluable legal guidance pro bono, and Mr. Arief Surowidjojo of the law office Lubis, Ganie, and Surowidjojo, who provided legal services pro bono as we set up ISRSF. Thanks very much to Vika, Jamal, and Haris at LGS for helping us navigate the complex and confusing process of setting up an educational foundation -- not least being your efforts to chase down a rather elusive Pak Camat whose signature we desperately needed to un-stall the Foundation's registration.

The lion's share of the resources needed to fund ISRSF and the Arryman initiative have been provided by the pioneering benefactors present tonight, and whom we would like to recognize with a certificate of appreciation from ISRSF. The certificate reads:

“From the Indonesian Scholarship and Research Support Foundation, in recognition for your Educational Donation 2012, with deepest appreciation for your generous support for the Arryman Fellows and Arryman Scholars program, and for the important contribution you are making to the cultivation of Indonesian scholars and scholarship for this and future generations.”

As I mention each donor in alphabetical order, I would ask that you come forward so that the audience gathered here this evening has an opportunity to join us in thanking you for your generosity, vision, and for making this entire effort possible. Can I ask the audience to please hold your applause until all the benefactors have come forward.

On behalf of PT Adaro Energy, Mr. Ario Rachmat, 1995 graduate of NU's McCormick School of Engineering.

On behalf of Bank Central Asia, Ms. Dwi Narini, Corporate Secretary.

On behalf of PT Djarum, Mr. Victor Hartono, 1998 graduate of NU's Kellogg School of Management.

On behalf of the Ford Foundation, Mr. David Hulse, the Indonesia country representative.

On behalf of the Rajawali Foundation, Mr. Peter Sondakh.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are the people and the institutions that have made all of this possible, and we hope that you will continue to support more Fellows and Scholars in the year to come. Please join me in thanking our supporters!

Presentation of the 2012 Arryman Fellows

It is now with great pleasure that I present to you the 2012 Arryman Fellows. As I call your name please come forward. Could I ask the audience to please hold your applause until all three have been introduced.

First is Danang Kurniadi. Danang is a 2009 graduate of Gadjah Mada University's Law Faculty and a distinguished national champion debater, having finished in first place in 2008 in the national competition held by the Constitutional Court. He is also a researcher at UGM's Center on Anti-Corruption Studies (PuKAT) His research during his Fellow year will focus on the relations between regime transition, democratization, and political institutions. He has a strong interest in law and politics, development, and comparative institutions.

Next is Gde Dwitya Arief Metera. Gde graduated from the English Department at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta with strong academic interests in cultural studies, particularly in art and social change. He has just finished his master degree in religious studies, also at Gadjah Mada. He was awarded a Graduate Student Fellowship by the Asian Research Institute at National University of Singapore in 2011. Gde intends to focus his research in cultural studies exploring the intersection of religion, society, and politics.

And finally, Hipolitus Yolisandry Ringgi is a political scientist who graduated from Pembangunan Nasional University Veteran in Yogyakarta, and went on to do his master's in political science at the University of Indonesia, where he is also a research fellow at Pacivis, a center conducting cross-border research on civil society. Hipo has published several academic and popular articles, and he intends to pursue a comparative study of the Indonesian, Thai, and Filipino militaries in the context of democratic consolidation.

All three of you have worked very hard and achieved much until now. But all I can say is, believe me, now the really hard work begins...!

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in celebrating the initiation of this new generation of young Indonesian scholars and researchers.

It is now my great pleasure to introduce to you our honored guest, Prof. Jay Walsh, Vice President of Northwestern.