



KETUA
DEWAN PERWAKILAN RAKYAT
REPUBLIK INDONESIA

**REMARKS FROM SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

On the event of **8th Asia Pacific Woman Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Young Women and Girls** organized by Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD)

In Jakarta, 26 March 2011

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
May Peace be With Us,

- **Honorable, Chair of Asian Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (AFPPD)**
- **Excellencies, Ambassadors of Friendly Countries,**
- **Honorable, Members of Indonesian House of Representatives especially Women Members.**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, allow me to welcome you to Jakarta to participate in this important event, the **8th Asia Pacific Woman Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Young Women and Girls**, under the theme: **The Value**

of the Girl Child: Enhancing Parliamentary Support for Gender Equality.

The issue of women role in socio-politic sphere is always interesting to be discussed by everyone from various background, NGOs, academicians, professionals, general population even by the elites and decision makers. Therefore, I warmly welcome the organization of this conference that brings together members of parliaments, especially women members, who are striving to increase gender participation and equality.

As we all know, Asia Pacific is a very dynamic and plural region with diverse ethnicities, religions, cultures, races and other diversity. Asia Pacific is a melting pot of the world civilization and also the concentration center of world population. Most of the population consist of women. Since the 1990s women leaders and politicians have been emerging and taking parts as heads of states, heads of governments, speakers of parliaments and other central roles in democracy and democratization in Asia Pacific region. A futurologist John Naisbitts foresaw that the 21st century is "the Woman Century".

Distinguished Participants,

In this opportunity, I would like to invite you to reflect objectively and comprehensively on the achievement of women in development in the national and international level and also women's roles in solving problems. Then, we should determine the strategy and project a more dignified and fair roles for women.

Equality between women and men is a must and is urgent in order to eliminate all kinds of discrimination and to end all forms of injustice. Though we have to admit that the process of ideas and commitment is not an easy process.

From the socio-cultural perspective, Indonesia has some regional sub-cultures that are interesting to be studied. First, the Balinese people have patrilineal kinship system, where the family relations from the father line is more important than the mother's. Women in Bali are hard workers and have high perseverance in dealing with the reality of life.

Second, the West Sumatera people have matrilineal kinship system where the mother's family line is more dominant. In Minangkabau, West Sumatera women are the power of local economy due to their kinship system.

Third, the Javanese people who have parental or bilateral culture where the family relationship from both sides, father and mother, are equally important.

In my opinion, the third model (bilateral) is actually dominant among Indonesian communities. This concept is expected to become one of the models in the transformation and institutionalization of joint democratic system in the Asia Pacific region. So the political participation and the political role of women can be stronger and more balanced.

A survey commissioned by the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2010 found that the percentage of women in the world parliaments is only 19%. This reality was claimed as the highest achievement in the last couple of decades. But even so we have to admit that women have already shoulder very heavy roles in their double responsibilities as. (1) house makers and child fosterer, and (2) public officials and professional politicians.

In Indonesia for instance, a country with agrarian community, we found that most of the most of the engineers and experts in agricultures are women. This piece of fact shows that women are the backbone of the country and the state in **food security**. The role of women is very big in the agriculture development in Indonesia.

I highly appreciate the concept note prepared by the AFPPD committee that underlined the strategic dimension of the **8th Asia Pacific Woman Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Young Women and Girls;**

"...as invaluable opportunity for information exchange to strengthen advocacy, renew existing commitments and generate innovative solution to gender-related issues in both national and regional level. This year conference will focus on strengthening advocacy efforts, action and program emphasizing the values of the girl child in Asia and Pacific."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

That target and future strategic direction are consistent with the result of the recent AIPA (Asian Inter-parliamentary Assembly) Seminar in Cambodia, which is to promote the efforts to save women as a part of the effort to save people as a whole, women and children health are integral parts of human rights principles. In that seminar the women delegates from Indonesian Parliament have proposed a joint policy to increase male participation in the family planning program. As you might have known! Indonesia is one of the best practice countries for the family planning program since new order regime up until now.

Some parliamentary meetings have also included a special one day meeting for women members of parliaments in their agenda to discuss the roles of women in various issues and social humanitarian problems, including the issues of children and trafficking in persons. This kind of meeting have always been the tradition of Woman ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA).

The reform era is marked with institutionalization of democracy in Indonesia, some strategic pro-women policies that were formulated are Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2000 on Gender Mainstreaming in National Development. Operationally, gender mainstreaming can be understood as an effort to integrate gender based policies in the development process from planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The policy to ensure women participation in parliaments has been formalized in Law Number 12 of 2003 on the Elections of People's Representatives. The spirit of that law is to accelerate the improvement of women representation in parliaments both in terms of quality and quantity.

Distinguished Participants,

This is my remarks to open the **8th Asia Pacific Woman Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Young Women and Girls** that will be organized in Jakarta and Bogor. I wish you a successful conference, the one that produces beneficial recommendations for sustainable development in Asia Pacific region.

By saying **Bismillahirrohmanirrahim**, in the name of Allah the most merciful and compassionate, I officially open the **8th Asia Pacific Woman Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Young Women and Girls**.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahiwabarakatuh

Jakarta, 26 March 2011

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OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

Dr. H. Marzuki Alie