National Planning Workshop for the Undertaking of the Education for All Mid-Decade Assessment in Indonesia on “Reaching the Un-reached”
Ministry of National Education, Jakarta
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Opening Speech by Prof. Hubert J. Gijzen, PhD,
Director and Representative of UNESCO Office, Jakarta

Your Excellency Prof. Aman Wirakartakusumah, Indonesian Ambassador to UNESCO,
Your Excellency Mr. Bill Farmer as Australian Ambassador to Indonesia,
Distinguished Dr. Ace Suryadi as EFA National Coordinator and Head of the Organizing Committee;
Distinguished Dr. Arief Rachman, As Executive Chairman of the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO
Honorable Guests- all members of the Education Sector Working Group or their representatives
All Indonesian Government Officials
Prominent Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege for UNESCO to be invited at the National Planning Workshop for the Undertaking of the Education for All Mid-Decade Assessment on the theme “Reaching the Un-reached”. I would like to express our warm congratulations to the Organizing Committee for successfully convening this memorable event, and extend our sincere greetings to all delegates present here.

People who have been un-reached or excluded from equitable educational opportunities are still numerous. These people can be easily found among the extremely poor, persons with disabilities, girls and women, non-
registered residents, residents in remote areas or border regions, and other minorities. Unfair treatment among these discriminated groups become to be the core reason for poverty. Poverty is an issue of inequity. There is a lot of wealth going around in Indonesia. The problem is that it is not going around fairly and causes people to be excluded from the means needed to make a living. Inequity is the case in many economic and non-economic sectors – including the education sector. There are still excluded and marginalized groups who do not have access to education.

Therefore we hereby would like to join the global movement of governments of the world in undertaking an assessment of the progresses made and of disparity gaps of their EFA National Action Plans since the year 2000. This will serve as a basis for mid-course adjustments of their Plans. The EFA National Action Plans are plans made by the government to reach the goals for early childhood care and education, Universal Basic Education/Universal Primary Education, youth and adult nonformal education, literacy, gender equality by 2015. Besides these quantity goals we should not forget about quality also!

Results of these assessments will become the basis for developing the *EFA Mid-Term Policy Review* that will be integrated in the 2008 EFA Global Monitoring Report. Such precise and policy-relevant information will enable the government and education supporting partners at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels to re-adjust and focus their strategies and policy decisions in the national education sector development programme in order to better meet the national targets by the year 2015.

The EFA Mid-Decade Assessment will analyze gaps in progress in attaining equitable, accessible and quality education. It will also analyze disparities in the provision of education for disadvantaged un-reached groups, and factors that have facilitated and obstructed progress. By undertaking the Assessment, we will have a better understanding of the status of the country in reaching the EFA targets, and we will be able to identify where demands are highest. Obstacles to progress, whether they are administrative, financial, information/data gaps, policy, capacities, etc., would be located measuring performance gaps and social disparities. We would then be better able to identify where performances are relatively low.
and we would also find the reasons for this through research aimed at understanding the problems and solutions to overcome them. Bottlenecks in implementation for each target group directed goals and targets will be assessed, especially through mapping of resource distribution and funds disbursement to specific sub-populations.

Through this Assessment report, the Government, as well as UN and donor agencies will be better equipped with an excellent evidence-based report and goal-oriented policy proposals that will be vitally important, not only for achieving the EFA Goals, but also in assessing progress towards achieving the National Medium Term and Long Term Development Plans for Education; Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); Strategic Plans of the Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs and other related Ministries; UN Common Country Assessment, UN Development Assistance Framework, and Education for Sustainable Development. Using the results of the Assessment, better plans and policies could be determined to achieve the National goals and targets.

By launching of the undertaking of the EFA Mid-Decade Assessment in this Workshop, we are very pleased to see the strong commitment of the Government, Education Sector Working Group, and other donors. Through our concerted efforts, I believe we would be able to close the gaps, and increase equality in education for all by 2015.

Recently UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura also addressed and had great response at the G8 summit in St Petersburg (Russian Federation). The G8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the EFA agenda and welcomed “UNESCO’s efforts to finalize a Global Action Plan to achieve the EFA goals and provide a framework for coordinated and complementary action by multilateral aid agencies in support of country-level implementation.” Through this document, the G8 leaders “call upon UNESCO and the additional convening agencies of the Dakar Framework (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank) to support harmonization and alignment with national priorities, plans and targets and to utilize each organization’s unique capacities to eliminate duplication of effort and increase efficiency.”
In addition, the G8 leaders highlighted the importance of developing modern effective education systems in order to meet the challenges of a global knowledge-based economy. To this end, they resolved “to encourage investment in the ‘knowledge triangle’ – education, including lifelong learning, research and innovation.” The G8 leaders “agreed to cooperate with our development partners and other stakeholders to achieve high quality basic education, literacy and gender equality in accord with the education-related Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Education for All programme.”

I am sure today’s meeting will be one of the steps taken in Indonesia in line with these and other global commitments made to support EFA. I would like to thank the ESWG members and other partners for your strong cooperation and participation in today’s meeting.

Terimah Kasih!