

**ADDRESS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. PHAN KIEU THU, SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE COLOMBO PLAN  
AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE ARRANGEMENT  
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECRETARIAT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
AND THE COLOMBO PLAN SECRETARIAT  
ON SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION PROGRAMMES  
4TH MAY 2021.**

Excellency Mr. Setya Utama Secretary of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia

Excellency Ambassador Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives,

Distinguished Officials from:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of National Development Planning
3. Ministry of Finance
4. Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection
5. Ministry of Industry
6. Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics
7. National Narcotics Agency

At the outset, as the Secretary General of the Colombo Plan, I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to the Government of Indonesia for the most beneficial programs that Indonesia has contributed through the Colombo Plan over the decades to our Member countries. These programs have provided tangible results and gained significant knowledge in the human resource development, which are now shared by the participants in the development programs of their own countries.

Having said that, I would like to briefly recall here at this moment, the history of the Colombo Plan. The Colombo Plan as a regional organization with 27 countries in its membership,

was designed to strengthen economic and social development of member countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In the early years, Colombo Plan assistance from developed to developing countries comprised both transfer of physical capital and technology as well as a strong component of skills development. The infrastructure by way of airports, roads, railways, dams, hospitals, plant fertilizer, cement factories, universities and steel mills were constructed in member countries through Colombo Plan assistance. As a result, a large number of people were simultaneously trained to manage such infrastructure and the growing economies. Since then, the Colombo Plan endeavored to strive ahead in its commitment to human resource development for its member countries as one of its important objectives.

Indonesia has been a long-standing member of the Colombo Plan since 1953. Its collaboration with the Colombo Plan since then has been generous and cordial. The Colombo Plan member countries have benefited greatly from the programs Indonesia has carried out uninterrupted. We are very sincerely grateful for that.

I also need to mention here about the COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic as it continues to affect the livelihoods of the people. The world is challenged economically, socially, and culturally as a result of the pandemic. The momentum in the education fields is also slowing down. In that context, the world is getting more and more engaged in virtual events and training programs. Thankfully and successfully this mode of interaction has created a new way forward.

The Colombo Plan also has successfully steered ahead in the Covid 19 pandemic and is engaging itself in a virtual world with our programs and events, taking collaborative efforts to keep moving forward in carrying out our schedules and training programs with the member countries as far as possible virtually. Thanks to advanced technology we are today able to meet in a virtual environment and carry out our programs.

Therefore, I also thank you very much for all the arrangements made to sign this important document virtually, strengthening further the collaboration between the Government of Indonesia and the Colombo Plan which covers very important and relevant training programs in capacity building and knowledge sharing programs such as:

- i. Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change.
- ii. Small and Medium Industry.
- iii. Women and Children Rights and Protection.
- iv. Innovation and Knowledge Management.

The Secretariat does not look at the South-South and Triangular Cooperation by Indonesia as merely an obligation by to carry out a mandate or pledge to Colombo Plan, but a commitment to a long-term strategy by Indonesia to introduce creative new ideas relevant to inter-country emerging needs and exchange of solutions and knowledge in international platforms and also as a means to introduce good innovative practices.

The Ministry of State of Indonesia has appointed important line ministries/institutions as the Implementing Agencies such as:

- i. Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) for disaster risk and climate change programme.
- ii. Ministry of Industry for small and medium industry programme.
- iii. Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection for women and children rights and protection.
- iv. Ministry of State Secretariat for innovation and knowledge management programme.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the related line Ministries and Institutions of Indonesia as well. Your contribution and hard work will always be appreciated and remembered for the tangible results you are helping to bring about in the capacity building and knowledge sharing programs.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Colombo Plan Secretariat is fully committed to the success of the South-South Triangular co-operation. I wish you all the best.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Thank you