

TO BUILD SOVEREIGNTY, PEACE AND GLOBAL JUSTICE

Press Conference

Civil Society conference commemorating 50 years of Bandung Conference
Jakarta, April, 5th 2005

The year 2005 is an important year for Indonesia commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the Asia Africa conference also known as Bandung Conference. The Asia Africa Conference is a modern world milestone, being the first conference that progressively envisioned eradication of neo-colonialism, imperialism and detach itself from any ideological block, the later known later as *Non-Block movement*.

The Bandung Conference was attended by 23 Asian countries and 6 African countries, most of them just gained their independence. The conference was also attended by national independence movement of colonized countries such as Ghana, South Africa and Malaysia. The leaders of civil rights movements for black Americans were also present. The Bandung conference produced the Bandung declaration containing 10 political principles, amongst were the respect of human rights; respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of every state; recognition of equality of races and equality of small and large states; the prohibition of intervention into other state's internal matters; resolution of any international dispute through peaceful settlement, etc. These were the articles that later became the 5 principles of international relations prevailing to the present, i.e.: (1) respect of territorial integrity; (2) collateral non aggression; (3) non intervention to other state's domestic affairs; (4) equality and welfare; and (5) peaceful co-existence. The Asia Africa conference was also the embryo of "Non-Block movement" in 1961

The 1955 Asia Africa conference had ignited an ever burning fire of anti colonialism/imperialism in colonized countries. The conference had also created an alternative movement outside the east and west block existing at that time. The Asia Africa conference had also put Indonesia into one of leadership position within third world countries. The Bandung spirit did not rely on economic and military power base, but on ethical and moral foundation, a peaceful force instead of physical one, thus became relevant up to the present and would keep on being the inspiration for present and future generations.

The Indonesian government celebrates the 50 years of Asia Africa conference by convening the second Asia Africa conference, which means Indonesia wishes to re continue the Asia Africa conference to be the Summit for the Asia Africa states. This second Asia Africa will be convened in April 22nd and 23rd 2005. The initial plan of having a large conference starting at April 18th had to be shortened and simplified due to Tsunami disaster. The coming Asia Africa conference will produce a declaration that would be called as NAASP declaration (New Asia Africa Strategic Partnership) containing various activities in political solidarity, economic cooperation and social cultural relation. The conference also agrees to push the reform of United Nations in all aspects and strengthen the multilateral system of United Nations.

For us the representative of civil society in Indonesia, the attempts to revitalize Bandung Spirit is definitely imperative due to the current global development characterized by neo-liberal globalization and imperialism war, spawning wide impacts of impoverishment, dependency and massive violence in various Asia, Africa and Latin America regions. We had witnessed how neo-liberal practices through the hands of World Bank, IMF, WTO, and trans-National corporations had robbed the economic and political sovereignty of the third world countries, leaving the majority of people in those countries living engulfed in poverty without future hopes. There is a severe dependency due to debt accumulation, and dependency on goods, services and Intellectual property rights from developing countries. On the other side the imperialism war waged by United States had devastated civilization and humanity in Afghanistan and Iraq, while Palestine is continually being tossed around a never ending violence.

The current official Asia Africa conference apparently does not invite or open itself to the participation of civil society, which is a significant difference with the 1995 Asia Africa conference that brought in non state resistance movements actively participating in its round table. The current Asia Africa conference is closed and confidential and does not establish a parallel meeting of Asia Africa civil society. Indonesia as the initiator seems to be still lingering in the closed legacy of new order, and thus regard the Bandung celebration as merely matters of government bureaucracy.

The civil society is an integral part of the 50 year celebration of Asia Africa, thus felt the obligation to also establish various commemoration activities. Therefore together with various civil societies of Asia Africa countries, we would engage various conferences dealing with the current substantial problems of Asia Africa, and would contribute some insights to the common future. Some of the pressing agendas are promoting real south-south cooperation; respect of people sovereignty and human rights, including eradication of discrimination toward minorities; and the agenda of substantial poverty eradication.

We are hoping that the current Asia Africa Golden Jubilee celebration could re strengthen the course of now diminishing economic and political sovereignty. Also it is important to bring up the Agenda of perpetual peace for every people in Asia and Africa. Lastly it is important to elaborate an Agenda of Global Justice in opposing the injustice and impoverishment practices currently deployed by the World Bank, IMF, WTO, TNC, CGI, and the dominance of developed countries/G7

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IGJ,JKPLK, INFID, PERGERAKAN, ICEP, YPR, Antropologi-UGM, KPA, AGRA, IMPARSIAL, WRI, LAKPESDAM, KWI,GKI AM, YMCA Metro, POKJA PLP, EATWOT
Indonesia