

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

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First of all, thank you LIPI for this event, and thank you for organizing it, we feel this is perhaps the highlight of the visit by the Professor Sunberg and Associate Professor Olsson, who have been here visiting different universities and research institutes in Indonesia. I think this is a unique visit, for us at least at the Embassy. In many ways we often talk about having further exchanges between universities and research institutes. We talk about it, it is not always so easy, but at least here we've had a fairly long visit by these two Swedes in connection with the celebration of the birthday of Linnaeus. We are very grateful that they have come down here and we hope that they are sowing or planting seeds for future cooperation between Sweden and Indonesia in the field of science, in their particular fields or in other fields, at least we get a better appreciation for the vast talents and the vast resources that after all do exist in Indonesia. So I think this is for us, a little bit of an eye opener, at least for me, and it has been quite heartening to see there is an interest from Indonesia as well as from Sweden to find ways in further cooperation between our science communities between also universities and not only scientists. So that is my first point, but again, thank you LIPI for their generous help in organizing this seminar but also organizing some other events that we have been associated with. Now last year some of you might recall that we had a visit of a ship, an old ship, a restored or should I say replica of an old ship from the 18 century Götheborg and this ship visited Indonesia last year on its way to China. On that occasion, Prof. Sunberg and Assoc. Professor Olsson were also here. This was to us a little bit of a discovery on the historical ties between Indonesia and Sweden. After all these ships that Sweden had, these merchant ships, on board they had some scientists, always picking up samples, always trying to examine what kind of flora, what kind of fauna did they find in the different countries where these ships sailed to. The ships themselves were essentially merchant ship, transporting goods from China to Sweden but, through fortune perhaps, it was decided that each ship should try to have a scientist on board, trying to discover what these remarkable species they found in other countries, how that could perhaps benefit also us back home in Sweden.

Two disciples of Linnaeus also came to Indonesia, now the Professors know more about that than I do, so I will not try to give you their story, but needless to say each time the ships went to China they passed through Indonesia and stopped here in Jakarta, and that was some of the earliest links between our two countries. Now, the ship is riding back to Sweden on the 9th of June and there will be a huge celebration, I don't know who is going to be there from Indonesia as well, but it has been a fantastic adventure. Now, we are looking for of course now with new opportunities for cooperation. We cannot only look backwards, and be pleased about what has happened, we will have to look forward, and I must say I was rather taken by your President speech yesterday when he advocated quite strongly, in my view, the need for science and research and really how essential that is to solve problems and to help your country of today. I haven't caught the whole all the speech but as it was referred to in the Jakarta Post and Kompas, but apparently he was calling for a greater effort in your country for more researchers, more patents to be filed, more research to be done, since science and technology is crucial in the evolution of any country's prosperity and welfare for its citizens. Now I must say that speech could just as well have been held in Sweden, or could just as well have been held in the USA, or in Russia or in China, I think each country battles with the same urge to try to benefit from science and research.

With your inauguration of this new institute, I must say it does seem to me you are devoting quite a lot of your resources to enlarge your science and research. It was a generous contribution from the Japanese, but

nevertheless you got it, and you got this new Science centre, and I congratulate you for having made that effort to expand your research. In any case now we are going to listen to the lecture, and I will not speak any longer but I will want to say I think this is quite exiting, and we are embarking on a journey and perhaps that journey to the future will on occasions be shared between us, perhaps we will join hands in that journey. I hope at least this is one step in that direction. I now look forward to listening to our Professors, and also to your comments and to your speeches and what you might have to say in discussion following that. So thank you very much.