



**Governor
Yogyakarta Special Province**

**Opening Address
The International Seminar
SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:
WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSES?
“The Democracy, The Religion”
Yogyakarta, 20 July 2009**

Honorable Eminent Religious Leaders,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

Let me first of all extend to all participants and speakers my heartfelt welcome to the International Seminar on SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSES? “The Democracy, The Religion”, organized by ICMICA-Pax Romana here at Yogyakarta.

Speaking on the context of the main theme, **SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**, it represents an evolution of the classical concept of development whose emphasis has moved from the material well-being of states to well-being of individual human beings.

While the classical approach was based on three factors of production: land, capital and labor, the new paradigm places people at the center, as the principal actor and the ultimate goal of the development. It means humanizing human beings.

If we ask an introspective question “**WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSES** towards that paradigm shift, in connection with the Democracy and the Religion?”, the answer is really not so simple.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

THE substance of democracy is government from, by, and for the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. Democracy is a form of government in which the right to govern is vested in the citizens of a state and exercised through the majority rule to reach prosperity and welfare for the people.

Referring to World Democracy Audit scores and rankings in the overall ranking ranging from 1 to 150, Indonesia receives 71 score. It means the implementation of democracy in Indonesia is at the mediocre level.

Meanwhile a religion teaches the goodness and fights against the evil. This is expressed in the Islamic principle "*amar ma'ruf nahi munkar*". However, the democracy world has become increasingly so individualistic and self-centered that it may potentially keep itself far away from religion teachings.

The world as it is now cannot be left alone and time flies so we have to be steadfast. Who can take responsibility for our generation? Military leaders? Politicians? New social engineers? Leaders and activists of ICMICA-Pax Romana who are now here, representing a part of Catholic religion, should take that responsibility. I strongly believe that when all religions have a unified direction and action, the prosperity and welfare for the people will come soon.

So, it is now high time for all religions to keenly take central responsibility to take action together for this purpose. The future happiness of humankind, indeed, cannot be achieved through the pursuit of economic development alone, but also through ensuring sustainable human development.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In reality, however, we are painfully aware that too often religion has been used to injure, to divide, and to oppress people. Some minorities of religious communities have observed narrow, intolerant and extreme interpretations of their religious teachings that can create divisions and hostilities among people. Such an attitude has helped to bring about a climate in which violence grows.

Interfaith dialogues in an atmosphere of togetherness, equality, and peace can contribute to the improvement of our understanding of one another, and can enable us to share values, such as tolerance, justice, human dignity, and peace. We still believe that our religious traditions have strong principles of non-violence.

Genuine and honest engagement with one another can therefore allow us to understand deeply shared values, and all of this can provide the basis for active collaboration across the boundaries of religions, cultures, and nations to address the broad issues affecting humankind.

To my view, an honest dialogue may offer the opportunity to bring about healing for past wounds, and can lead to a strengthening of solidarity and resolve to build human societies that respect differences. We must cooperate and collaborate to seek and assure the preciousness of and respect for life, and work to build societies that respond to fundamental human rights.

We need to work collectively to strengthen institutions –political, economic, social, and religion—that can begin to eliminate the root cause of injustice. This effort will require all states and peoples to strengthen their commitments to mutual cooperation, and our religious communities to be prepared to create mutual respect and trust to support such cooperation.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage exchange of vision, views and information during this momentous Seminar. There is a plenty to expect from the discussion on various points related to the Seminar theme, which lead us to sustainable human development.

It is my wish that the International Seminar would give us new challenges to overcome through the sharing of experiences and the pooling of wisdom of all the participants. It also my wish that the recommendations of the forum would give us such inspirations to revive that the sustainable human development could go in parallel with democracy and religion.

Let us walk hand in hand in peace, and cooperate for the sake of brighter days ahead and blessings to all of us. On this note, I would like to wish you all a fruitful deliberation and enjoyable stay in Yogyakarta.

Finally, in the name of God the Almighty, allow me to officially open the International Seminar on **SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSES? "The Democracy, The Religion"**, organized by ICMICA-Pax Romana, and held at the Campus of Sanata Dharma Yogyakarta University this morning.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. May God bless us.

Yogyakarta, 20 July 2009

Yogyakarta Special Province,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HAMENGKU BUWONO X', with a horizontal line above it.

HAMENGKU BUWONO X
The Governor