



Foreword

First, on behalf of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Research Technology and Higher Education, I would like to thank you the British Council for organising this forum. We are delighted to take an active part working together in partnership to support this year's British Council Global Education with the theme of: "Power of Consortia: How universities can solve grand global research challenges," held in Medan, 20-21 November 2014.

Through the Directorate General of Higher Education, the Ministry of Research and Technology and Higher Education welcomes all initiatives that further strengthen research and help establish higher education collaboration with other countries. With this support, we hope that we will ultimately achieve common goals, promote peace and harmony and improve the quality of higher education in Indonesia.

I believe this forum will provide room for dialogue for policy makers and influencers, researchers, academics and HE practitioners participating today to discuss and debate the benefits and challenges of multilateral collaboration and consortia working to find solutions to the global grand challenges.

I am also pleased that this year's conference is held in partnership with the Forum of Vice-Rectors for International Collaboration. Dikti would like to take this opportunity to welcome the vice-rectors or universities' representatives as well as the international delegates from the UK and other neighbouring East Asian countries. I am extremely grateful to all of you for contributing your time, your skills and your knowledge to participate in this conference. I believe there will be many things Indonesia could learn from our UK and Asia Pacific countries counterparts.

The Indonesian government has identified expansion of higher education, research and innovation as vital elements in the maintenance of Indonesia's current impressive economic growth, which presents tremendous opportunities for research collaboration and business. To enhance our national capability to solve social challenges, as part of the global community, we will require stronger, more effective, coherent and purposeful collaborations. Thus, the topic: "*The Power of Consortia: how universities can solve the grand global research challenges?*" is strategic to the HE research in Indonesia. Prioritising research and increasing the research budget allocation are commitments expressed by our newly elected President, Joko Widodo.

I am very pleased to see a significant development as reflected in the increasing number of cooperation between Indonesia and other international institutions: the establishment of research consortia between and the UK in health, marine energy, biomedical engineering, agriculture and fisheries to name a few of them.

Finally, I personally hope that the Global Education Dialogue will produce outcomes that will lead to innovative solutions to current grand global research challenges that are not only useful to Indonesia but also worldwide. This dialogue will surely be a media to strengthen research



collaborations between Indonesia, the UK and all other Asia Pacific countries that are participating in this GED and synergize all of our potentials so we can give the best benefits of research to our countries as well as global humanity, as it is the main objective of this forum.

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