

Minister Mari Pangestu speech at IDEAS 1.0 Graduation

UID President, Board of Trustees, Cherie, Dr Alan White - Senior Dean of MIT Sloan School of Management, Excellency, Ambassador, Distinguished guests and of course the newly IDEAS graduates, ladies and gentlemen. Don't worry, I'm not going to give a keynote address because keynote address are very long and all of you are probably very hungry and have already heard so many addresses. I would like to emphasize on a few of the positive points that we have heard this morning. Also, to reflect myself as a user of the graduates because we have 2 of our people who have gone through the program. We were also lucky enough to participate in UIC – the first program which was international.

I have been a great support of this program from the beginning when Cherie got us all into this. Cherie first talk to me and I was very excited and I responded to her within days. She asked if I have a candidate and I said yes! When she came to me with the idea of IDEAS Indonesia, I was more than happy to support it. All the key words that all of you touch upon this morning were very important. The idea of the journey, the journey that all of you went on together with the experience of not only the formal part of the education being taught about systems and leadership but actually implementing it in a group setting. The journey and networking is a very good process.

I'm a great believer in networking. Being involved in various opportunities since my student days where we have to network, we have to form groups. I believe this enriches oneself no matter how smart you are, how professional you are, you will always need something or some information from somewhere to work together with other people. You can never do it in your own way. I am a believer of networking from the beginning.

It is very interesting that Dr Alan White mentioned that the most defining experience he had was with the Peace Corps and not at the MIT School. I do hope that this is a defining experience for all the graduates. I never had the opportunity to participate in something so comprehensive like IDEAS Indonesia. But, I had similar experiences before but never in one so comprehensive where you experience different dimension and going through this journey with your group. Believe me; I think you will be friends for life.

It is very interesting for me to see the graduates and congratulate you in the diversity in background, gender of these students and I believe all the students were given equal treatment although some are professors. This must be a good experience to have everybody in the same room, same situation and being challenge with problems that you have to solve. I'm also a great believer in how you can achieve change having gone through in my own experience in becoming minister.

How do you make change sustainable? When we talk about democracy, reforms, how do we make it stick? The only way to make it stick is when you get buy-in or ownership from a lot of people. This is exactly what it's being taught in this course. You are the agents of change. But, for you to make your change sustainable, you really have to be involved with the communities, to dive in deep. Get the communities involve because they are the one that will ensure that the change is sustainable but also in their own way become agents of change. You are only successful as agents of change if you make change sustainable and also produce other agents of change and that is the only way you can spread sustainable change. Get the youth, get the children to be involve as they are the ones that will affect their parents.

I'm very optimistic and hopeful in the graduates today including those that have won the young entrepreneur awards. This is for the future of Indonesia. Let's be proud! We have a creative nation, we have a lot of potential and you are the pioneers' agents of change. I'm sure you will all continue to be agents of change and produce more agents of change. We are going forward towards a better future for Indonesia and let's be proud of that. I'm sure we will be doing things that are, and I quote 'prorakia', empower, enabling the society to prosper and the faster you do it, the better! Congratulations! Thank you.