



## OPENING REMARKS

### RECTOR OF UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA

Distinguished Speakers and Participants,

It is an honor for me to welcome you to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Journal Antropologi Indonesia. Precisely 19 years after its first initiation, I am beyond happy to be a witness to this year's symposium in Yogyakarta. I would first like to send my gratitude to all the participants and speakers for your participations. I would also thank the many people who have put their best efforts into making this symposium happen.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Today, we can see how diversity in Indonesia resembles a two-edged sword. If handled injudiciously, diversity could be a reason for conflicts therefore it is considered as a threat to Indonesian national integration. However, if we see it wisely, diversity could be something that colors nation-building processes. It is this issue's relevance to Indonesia's social landscape that inspires this symposium' theme of "The Use and Abuse of Diversity: Anthropological Responses to the Threat of Disintegration".

The symposium serves as an agora for scholars, activists, as well as practitioners to exchange ideas about the threats and opportunities posed by our diversity from an anthropological perspective. It is also a great thing to see how anthropological discourse in the country has developed in many directions. The many papers about to be presented in this very symposium cover diverse issues both in rural as well as urban areas. It is with high hopes that this year's symposium could contribute and complement the ways to strengthen our bond as a nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Social sciences and anthropology in particular, might have often been overlooked in Indonesia's academic landscape as a discipline with a little contribution to national development. In reality, anthropology has contributed many things to understand our society. Anthropology's cultural sensitivity and in-depth approaches to society have enabled it to see phenomena around us in a thorough, non-judgemental way. In a diverse country like Indonesia, anthropology is therefore very much needed.

Ladies and Gentlemen. I think it is also worth mentioning that the organizing universities that make this symposium possible, UI and UGM, are two universities with huge significances in Indonesia's intellectual history and development. Founded in 1924 and 1949 respectively, UGM and UI have since becoming the sources of intellectuals and practitioners in various disciplines in the country, including in the discipline of Anthropology. Therefore, the collaboration between these two academic giants shows a synergy in the spirit of intellectualism that is worth recognizing.

Ladies and Gentlemen. This symposium is about to begin, please allow me to wish you all the very best of luck. I hope these four days of the symposium will leave you with a wonderful, inspiring, and enriching experience.

**Prof. Ir. Panut Mulyono, M.Eng., D.Eng., IPU, ASEAN Eng.**  
Rector of the Universitas Gadjah Mada