



**Remarks at opening session**

***INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CSR AND COMBATING  
MALNUTRITION (December 13, 2010)***

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, let us all be thankful to God Almighty for only through His Grace we can get together today to attend the opening session of **the International Conference on CSR and Combating Malnutrition.**

It is both an honor and pleasure for me to have the opportunity to be part of this prestigious international conference on CSR and Combating Malnutrition, with a special emphasis on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As we all know, the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, have become a central aspect in our development plan. Since they were adopted by the Government of Indonesia through the Millennium Declaration in 2000, MDGs have become an integral part of our national goals that we need to achieve for our people.

Over the past ten years, a lot of effort has been made by the Government to ensure that we can achieve the MDG targets by 2015. Now, this year 2010 marks a decade of our hard work that we have all put into a great number of programs set up to achieve those goals.

There is no doubt that this year presents a very unique opportunity for us to review how far we have gone in attaining the MDG targets, and to see what we can do to improve in some target areas that we are lagging behind. It is precisely in this context that I warmly welcome the holding of this international conference with a view to combating malnutrition that still poses a major problem in many parts of our country. Our efforts to accelerate the achievement of MDG targets will be made difficult if we fail to address the issue of malnutrition effectively.

It is not superfluous to say the nutrition is the basis of our healthy daily life, a prerequisite for creating a healthy family and welfare of the nation. Without it, it is hard to imagine that the welfare of the nation can be attained. This two-day meeting will highlight various important aspects in nutrition that will contribute to the healthiness of the nation, and the achievement of MDGs as a whole. The importance of nutrition cannot be overemphasized in supporting the achievement of MDG targets. It is the backbone for attaining other targets. Without sufficient nutrition, families are vulnerable to various diseases, children will be hampered in their education, efforts to promote maternal and child health become even more difficult.

I believe that this international meeting will serve as an ideal forum of communication among the experts in nutrition and other relevant stakeholders, by sharing their invaluable experience in dealing with the problems of nutrition. I am also confident that this forum will offer some concrete



ways of dealing effectively with the problems of malnutrition in many parts of the country, particularly in regards to maternal and child health at the community level. Hopefully, what we are going to learn from the experts in this forum can be implemented on the ground, thereby making a concrete contribution to the effort to promote nutrition among mothers and children.

This forum also brings us an opportunity to work together with private sector and civil society organization in a more synergistic way than ever. As we are approaching the deadline of 2015 in achieving MDGs, the need to work closely together between the government and private sector and civil society is becoming more intense. We realize that government action alone is not sufficient in attaining MDGs by 2015. We need a more creative and sustainable collaboration between the government and private sector and civil society in accelerating the MDG achievement in our country, as part of our moral responsibility. And this forum is a desired model of such a partnership.

Finally, allow me to extend my profound gratitude to the organizing committee for putting together this international conference. The same appreciation goes to various organizations and companies involved in making possible this event. I sincerely hope that each of you will find this two-day conference a happy and rewarding experience. I believe that all the effort that you have put into the conference programs will contribute significantly to the acceleration of the MDG achievement in our country.

Thank you!