

Title: CAPAS-CSEAS Symposium 2008 "Islam for Social Justice and Sustainability: New Perspectives on Islamism and Pluralism in Indonesia"

Date and Venue: September 16-17, at Kyodai Kaikan, Kyoto

Co-hosting Organizers:

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

Center for Asia-Pacific Area Studies (CAPAS), Academic Sinica, Taiwan

Center for Islamic Area Studies at Kyoto University

Global COE Program "In Search of Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and Africa"

Activity Record:

The symposium aimed to evaluate Islamic thinking and movement in Indonesia from a historical perspective. Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, is now in the process of sweeping democratization and decentralization and we witness a myriad of serious debates over the nature of Islamic thinking and movement under these new settings. It was thus considered as an urgent task for us to try to understand these debates and the social and political struggles they represent so that we may be able to discern the different possible pathways to political stability and social justice.

The symposium was opened by the keynote speech by Mr. Masdar Farid Masudi, Head of Executive Board of Nahdlatul Ulama, in place of former President Wahid, who had to cancel his visit due to health problems, and two brilliant comments from Prof. Kosugi Yasushi (ASAFAS) and Prof. H.H. Michael Hsiao (CAPAS). This was followed by five sessions: Session 1: Mapping Indonesian Islam; Session 2: Islam in Historical Perspective-from Banten Area; Session 3: Gender and Pluralism in Indonesian Islam; Session 4: Diversities in Indonesian Islam; and Session 5: Islam and Health in Comparative Perspective. There were 14 papers presented in the symposium. It should also be noted that as many paper presenters were scholars of younger generation, this was a good opportunity to introduce perspectives of young scholars to generate future discussions regarding Indonesia Islam. The symposium was attended by about sixty people altogether, many from other parts of Japan outside Kansai areas, including visitors from abroad.

In the end of the symposium, it was agreed that all the papers would be revised and

published in journals in Taiwan and Kyoto; and we are now seeking possibilities to publish them as an edited book in Indonesia under the names of three institutions, Wahid Institute, CAPAS and CSEAS as well.