



**REMARKS OF THE RECTOR**  
**THE OPENING OF #AUSSIEBANGET CORNER (#ABC)**  
**AT UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA**  
**8 MAY 2017**

**The Honorable:**

- Minister Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Mr. Steven Barraclough,
- Head of Indonesian Association of Australian Studies, Dr. Dafri Agussalim,
- Vice Rectors and Deans of UII,
- Director of International Program UII, Ir. Wiryono Rahardjo, Ph.D,
- Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen.

***Assalamu'alaikumWarrahmatullahiWabarakatuh,***

On this special occasion, let us offer our praise and gratitude to Allah SWT for it is with His mercy and blessing that we are able to gather in this occasion to attend the Opening of Aussie Banget Corner (#ABC) at UII.

First of all, I would like to extend my warm welcome to Minister Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Mr. Steven Barraclough and head of Indonesian Association of Australian Studies, Dr. Dafri Agussalim. On behalf of our university, I am honored and very pleased to have your visit today. To Mr. Steven, welcome to the city of Yogyakarta and especially to our university, Universitas Islam Indonesia. UII is the first nationally founded university in Indonesia which established by this nation leading Islamic figures, 40 days prior to the Independence of Indonesia.

***Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,***

In the era of globalization challenges, not only we face and discuss about economics and politics, but it also has shifted and evolved gradually into many forms. Globalization has come closer to the people. For example, in the field of education and culture, globalization provides opportunity to begin the massive exchange of idea, knowledge, and culture between people around the world. We could embrace the cultural diversity through learn, share, and understanding. I believe with understanding of culture we will gain the harmony among peoples.

Today, we will witness the new chapter of relations between Australia and Indonesia, especially at UII. Indonesia and Australia have similar traits as one of

multicultural nations in the world with various ethnicity, culture, and religion. The identity as multicultural nations have shaped our society to uphold tolerance and harmony in order to co-exist.

It is therefore I believe that dreams, geography, and future bind us. The two countries are not just friends and not just neighbors. We are strategic partners and I believe that Indonesia and Australia have a great future together.

The opening of ABC today is one of excellent initiatives to strengthen the relations between Australians and Indonesians. ABC will become the valuable center of both for Indonesian students as well as Australian in Yogyakarta. Especially considering that ABC in UII is the first and the only Australian corner to be established in Yogyakarta.

I believe that the opening of ABC will initiate the globalization at home in UII, as one of efforts to bring positive opportunity from the outside into our close environment. It also means that people from different background could feel the joy of learning Australia culture, language, as well as many interesting aspects about Australia in UII. Through this effort, UII academicians and Australian people could gain mutual benefits.

***Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,***

Before I conclude this remark, once again I would like to express my gratitude to Australian Embassy for entrusting ABC to UII, and my warmest welcome to Minister Counsellor, Mr. Steven Barraclough. We do hope that in the future there will be more initiative and action to strengthen the relations between Indonesia and Australia at UII. Thank you very much.

***Wasalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,***

Yogyakarta, 08 May 2017

Rector,

Nandang Sutrisno, SH, LLM, M.Hum,Ph.D.