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International University Rankings from the Perspective of University as the Locomotive for Sustainable Civilization and Humanity

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Abstract
The key success for universities will be the dedication of the faculty members in research and teaching, the robust student body, and internationally-known researchers. The quality, breadth, and depth of universities intellectual resources can create a remarkable community of scholars, or various disciplines. Universities that combine high quality of academic systems with friendly, pleasant and green environment, and keep deep tradition while maintaining high spirit and dynamic of modernization, will doubtlessly able to build an active engagement in civil society, enlarge international contribution, the pursuit of sustainability in its social as well as its environmental forms, and commitment to global citizenship.

Universitas Indonesia on its quest to achieve a better position in global higher education institution’s ranking, expected to be able to address the global challenges, and to be able to contribute to a sustainable civilization and humanity. This paper will highlight the road of transformation of Universitas Indonesia in relation to World University Rankings and quality of education.

Key words: sustainable civilization and humanity, quality of education, ranking.

1. Introduction
In the globalization era and knowledge economy, university has to improve its quality to be able to win the global competition. In the international stage, university functions as the educational institution as well as the energizer to open the path to enter the global competitive market.

At the Universitas Indonesia (UI), the Board of Trustees has formulated the general guidelines for the development of the university. The Strategic plan of the Universitas Indonesia stated that the aim of the Universitas Indonesia is to preserve UI reputation as the best University in Indonesia by educating qualified graduates, who are able to compete in the global market demands and producing qualified research with international standard as well as producing Research & Design product that can support the national competitiveness. The vision of the Universitas Indonesia is to become an autonomous-modern research university, and gain an internationally reputable academic standard. This is in line with the educational legislation reform, i.e. National Education System Legislation (known as UU Sisdiknas 2003, PP 60 & 61, Higher Education Long Term strategy, 2003-2010), which is principally enforcing the improvement of the quality of education.
civil society, enlarge international contribution, the pursuit of sustainability in its social as well as its environmental forms, and commitment to global citizenship.

Universitas Indonesia is also positioned as a higher education institution, expected to be able to address the global challenges, and to be able to contribute to a sustainable civilization and humanity. The following section of this paper will highlight the road of transformation of Universitas Indonesia. In the connection with international university ranking, the question will be, whether the transformation is for the international university ranking, or whether the international university ranking will be one of the effects of the transformation.

III. Transforming Universitas Indonesia to be the Locomotive and for the International University Rankings

We are witnessing the era of globalization which opens many opportunities. These opportunities include the possibility to gain local resource as well as resources from overseas. It is also true that amidst the tight competition in national, regional, and international level, there are certain aspects which must be strengthened to ensure that Universitas Indonesia can serve in a maximum way to support the development of civilization and humanity.

As one of higher education institutions in the developing country, Universitas Indonesia continuously aims at contributing productively to the development of civilization and humanities in the world. The question will be how Universitas Indonesia can really contribute to the development of civilization and humanity. The answer to this question will be that Universitas Indonesia must produce ‘diamonds’ in the research and teaching.

World class universities frequently use the word ‘diamonds’, referring to competitiveness in its various meanings. Universitas Indonesia considers these ‘diamonds’ in research activities as the high quality, significantly important and useful research for the civilization and humanity. The highest indicator for such research output will be those which are awarded the Nobel Prize. The general and realistic indicator for such research will be academic papers published in the high-quality international academic journals, which bring deep impact to the society.

Apart from the ‘diamonds’ in research, Universitas Indonesia also aims at producing ‘diamonds’ in teaching. These ‘diamonds’ refer to the effort to educate younger generation to be the excellent leaders of the future who bear the spirit of entrepreneurship.

From the current condition, Universitas Indonesia will need an approximate of ten to fifteen years to be able to produce ‘diamonds’ in research. Whereas to produce the same ‘diamonds’ in teaching, Universitas Indonesia might need five to ten years. Diamonds will be able to appear only if Universitas Indonesia can positioned itself in the frontier of the development of science. To be able to achieve this, a significant number of resources, human resource as well as financial resource, will be in demand. Therefore, Universitas Indonesia will not be able to put forward all of its departments at the frontier of the development of science. Yet, Universitas Indonesia cannot choose only one or two departments to be put in the frontier, since such effort will be contra productive for the development of science.

An intelligent way to take Universitas Indonesia to the frontier of the development of science is by focusing on a niche of research and teaching, which can take many people and groups, be it in mono-discipline, oligo-discipline, or interdisciplinary areas. To decide this academic
University is the engine of the economy, the quality, productivity, status of our institution is vital.

We considered ranking as a critical factors in informing institutional reputation. We have used ranking to influence the organizational change particularly in supporting the civitas academica to be part of the Wikinomics era in which Information and Communication Technologies is the main enabler. University ranking means the improvement of academic quality culture in UI. This also means the concern for the author affiliation on academic papers becomes more important than ever. Integration of the university resources and evolutionary used of web 2.0 as the main enabler to be part of the informing society have been one of our major effort. It is time to take part as an uploading society with quality content. The location is no longer matters as information and social network is on the fingertips.

At UI, some concern on the ranking achievement has been elaborated into some effort to inform lecturers and all civitas academica of the international evaluation for the performance and achievement of the students, lecturers, alumni and all stakeholders.

In the verge of global obsession to ranking, we believe in brain circulation. Major effort to improve the infrastructure and facilities as well as improving the remuneration of the staffs have taken place at UI and will always become the priorities. In 2009, the government has planned to spend up to 20% of the gross national income for education, research and development expenditure. As the university has developed itself as a more autonomous self-managing university, UI which was corporatised in 2000, must take different measures to ensure that the vision to be a World Class University will be supported with enough funding.

Ranking is one of the measures to carefully asses and improve the quality of education. In summary, in transforming Universitas Indonesia to be the locomotive for Sustainable Civilization and Humanity, universitas Indonesia considers international benchmarking processes such as university ranking as utmost important. What our world looks like in fifty or a hundred years depend to a significant extent, on our ability to adopt and adapt, the ethical, political and economic challenges of the digital-genomics era [Juan Enriquez, 2001]. Therefore, all measures to ensure the high participation and enthusiasm of the civitas academica to adopt and adapt to the challenges of the borderless world will eventually lead to a meaningful contribution to humanity.

References


