

**ADDRESS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. PHAN KIEU THU, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COLOMBO PLAN
– AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON ENHANCING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY 2020**

9TH NOVEMBER 2020

Address the Guests:

1. Mr. Setya Utama, Secretary of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia
2. Mrs. Gati Wibawaningsih, Director General of Small, Medium and Multifarious Industry, Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia
3. Dr. Gogor Oko Nurhayoko, Senior Advisor for Minister of State Secretariat in Politics, Defense and Security Affairs
4. Mrs. Nanik Purwanti, Head of Bureau for Foreign Technical Cooperation, Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia
5. Mrs. Maria Renata Hutagalung, Director for Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
6. Mr. Wisnu Utama, Director for Foreign Policy and International Development Cooperation, Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia

And the other distinguished guests and all participants from the Colombo Plan Member Countries.

I am honoured to take part in this unique knowledge sharing program, particularly for the Colombo Plan member countries.

The Knowledge Sharing Program on Enhancing the Development of Small and Medium Industry 2020 on the Theme that is selected on the Impact of Industry 4.0 in Enhancing Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Especially during the Covid-19 Pandemic is a timely subject. It is relevant not only to all of us but in general to the whole economy of the world, I could say. Therefore, at the outset, On behalf of the Colombo Plan Secretariat and my own behalf, I congratulate and express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, designates the Directorate General of Small, Medium, and Multifarious Industry of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia as the implementing agency of the program, for arranging this training program at a time that is very specific to the challenges and difficulties we are facing due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

This is a unique event. Maybe some of you must be experiencing a virtual workshop for the first time connected with many countries in the Southeast Asia region. The Covid 19 pandemic has devastated the lives of millions, and it has affected the global economy as never before. Sadly, it continues to devastate

life, industry, and economy. It has sent many countries to a state of indefinite lockdown. Economic forecasts in recent months point to a global economic recession triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. The SME's both on the supply and demand sides are in a bad state.

The purpose of the course is to provide participants from the Colombo Plan member countries an opportunity to update the measures taken in introducing the implementation of industry 4.0 for Small and Medium Industry (SMI), particularly of SMI in Indonesia from the policy, services, cooperation and SMI experiences.

Therefore, this knowledge sharing program on enhancing the development of Small and Medium Industry 2020 is of great importance. There will be a lot to learn from the Indonesian experience. So, take this as a good platform to share your knowledge with one another and learn from one another the good practices that can help to boost the SMEs in your own country. We could say that Indonesia's SMEs are the primary engines of their country's economic growth. It is also a fact that, in Indonesia, the majority of their business are micro enterprises. Indonesia also has given special emphasis in the harnessing of digital technology and their proactive policy making has levelled up the SMEs to higher levels and added new value chains. So, it is important to learn and share their experiences on the positive impacts on digital technology such as Cloud Computing, Social Media, E-Commerce, and Sharing Economy etc. that empower the growth of SMEs in Indonesia.

At the end of the program, you are expected to have an understanding on some of the key issues discussed in this program, such as:

- Overview on the development of SMI in Indonesia
- Indonesia's policy and best practices on the development and promotion of SMI
- The role of local government in supporting, developing, and promoting SMI in Indonesia
- Capacity Building Cooperation and Partnership with SMI in Indonesia
- Implementation of industry 4.0 especially for SMI in Indonesia
- Success story of Indonesia's SMI entrepreneurs who have implemented industry 4.0

You are also expected to review and propose insight for the betterment of SMI development either in Indonesia or in their respective countries deriving from their improved knowledge and experience of the relevant approach on the policy, strategy, and main activities of enhancing the development of SMI.

I am happy that the Colombo Plan Secretariat together with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, designates the Directorate General of Small, Medium, and Multifarious Industry of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia as the implementing agency of the program have come together to give you this vital and valuable program virtually. I am sure all of you will benefit immensely and you will no doubt be able to share the knowledge gathered from this experience with your own colleagues and contribute it for the growth and enhancement of the SMEs in your own country.

Thank you.