

**Inaugural Speech  
to the Regional Workshop of Technology Assessment For  
Universal Service Obligation Practices in ASEAN Member  
Countries (  $\tau$  (tau)-Project**

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Distinguished guests, ladies n gentlemen, good morning.

I'm very warm welcome to Yogyakarta, on the honor for me to meet you all here. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to celebrate with the government of Japan to inaugurate the regional workshop with the theme '*Finding the telecommunication solution for rural community development in Asean region*'.

It is a great pleasure to be in vibrant city of Yogyakarta, and therefore, I'd like to thank and congratulate the provincial government of Yogyakarta as well as Gadjah Mada University for participating in the major regional event in Yogyakarta.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Telecommunication is the fastest growing industry that places an important role in the achievement of development objectives. Universal Service Obligation in communication has been a central focus on the development in the telecommunication sector, contributing to larger development objectives of reducing poverty through creating access for the rural community and thus the new opportunity to improve the livelihood and to enable rural community, poor people, and less-developed region to explore their social and economic development.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia in telecommunication for the rural and remote area has a new policy of USO program in providing telecommunication access to the remaining 38.000 of the 70.000 villages scattered throughout the archipelago. Based on the new policy, maintenance and management risk are responsible by operators and also possible for sustainable access and services in telecommunication.

I believe that the associated USO program in Indonesia is a strategy towards managing the digital divide, mainly between the urban and rural access in

Indonesia. Also, that is the one way elevating the living standard of the people in the rural areas that will be the better future for the whole mankind.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The government of Japan through the Asean Secretariat has granted funding support for the Directorate General of Pos and Telecommunication, Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, to conduct project and later technology assessment for universal service obligation practices in Asean member states. The project is officially started on 2 January 2007 and is expected to be committed by 1 November 2007. The Center of Transportation and Logistics Study of Pustral Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta has been assigned by the Directorate General of Pos and Telecommunication as the project implementation unit of this project. In this occasion, I'd like to express gratitude to the government of Japan for contributing the project.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

This project consists of initial findings related to USO implementation in Asean member countries. The findings include the digital divide issues in Asean countries, survey result on USO implementation in several Asean countries and the possible telecommunication technology on rural areas. We hope that the result of the project can be one of the considerations for USO implementation in rural areas especially for Asean member countries. The workshop discussion over the next two days will be a significant impact on the telecommunication landscape of our nation. We are in position in shift our regulatory policies and practice in a manner that is progressive and that facilitate and analysis the development in the global instance. I hope all of us to continue the excellent work we have done and to be bordered will on the intention of the effort of this event.

I wish all participants every success in this morning, in this workshop and for our foreign guests; I wish you a pleasant stay in Indonesia.

Thank you