Bogor Agricultural University announced the establishment of a National Zoonoses Research Center, on Thursday, 19 April 2012, at the IPB International Convention Center (IICC). The center is expected to become an excellent international research center for zoonoses, particularly to carry out research programs, education, community service, as well as information dissemination, "For the last few years, zoonoses in Indonesia have been considered important from the perspective of both human and animal health. The zoonotic diseases include avian influenza, rabies, anthrax, brucellosis, leptospirosis, cysticercosis, salmonelosis, and toxoplasmosis," said Chairman of the Committee for the National Seminar on Zoonoses, Dr.drh. Heru Setijanto.

Bogor Agricultural University as one of the leading universities in Indonesia with a core competence in the field of agriculture can play an important role in preventing, controlling and eradicating zoonoses. According to Dr. Heru, the major science playing its role in zoonoses is the veterinary medicines, which are offered by Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, other disciplines involved in zoonoses research are socio-economics, wildlife conservation, agricultural technology, animal husbandry, fisheries and human ecology. "These excellent subjects become the strength of IPB and the background of to establish a national and international zoonoses research center, with a holistic and integrated approach because zoonoses control does require a multidisciplinary approach," said Secretary General of the Veterinary Association of Indonesia.

Dr. Heru cited several cases of zoonotic diseases. For example, birds may transmit avian Influenza, while monkeys may transmit the tuberculosis disease and rabies to humans. Similarly, dogs can transmit rabies. "Especially, at present there are a lot of “topeng monyet” (monkey dance show) in the community. We should check the health of those monkeys as early as possible to prevent us from the infestation by zoonotic diseases," said Dr. Heru. The most effective prevention and eradication of zoonoses is by controlling the zoonotic carriers, namely animals, in addition to adopting the host-pathogenic agent-environment approach as well as a multi-disciplinary approach.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Herry Suhardiyanto, Rector of Bogor Agricultural University strongly supports for the establishment of the National Center for Zoonosis Study. "IPB welcomes the initiative of the national experts to establish the national center to enhance the synergy among the stakeholders, universities and communities to control zoonotic diseases. We must work together to protect our community from zoonotic diseases," said Rector.

Guest speakers in this special event were Prof. H. Kida (Hokkaido University, Japan), Dra. Nina Sardjunani (Head of Bappenas for Human Resources and Culture), Drs. Perwira Teluambanua, (Head of Sub Systems Organization and Procedures, Directorate of Disaster Prevention and Protection, Directorate-General Government of the Ministry of Home Affairs), Prof. I Wayan T. Wibawan (Faculty member of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Bogor Agricultural University), Prof. Ani Mardiastuti (Ornithologists of the Faculty of Forestry), drh.
Elly Savitri Siregar, M.Sc (Senior National Veterinary Advisor / FAO ECTAD Indonesian Program), Dr. Marlinggom Silitonga (National Professional Officer-Disease Surveillance and Response, WHO Country Office), Prof. Ali Ghufron (Deputy Minister of Health), and Dr. Illah Sailah (Director of Learning and Student Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs). The event was officially closed by Vice Rector for Research and Cooperation, Prof. Anas M. Fauzi. (Wied/Mtd).