Minister of Education and Culture Officially Opens IPB’s Common Educational Building
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Posted by admin on 01 May 2012

Minister of Education and Culture, Prof. Mohammad Nuh inaugurated the Common Educational Building of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) on Friday (26/04), in the Dramaga Campus of IPB, Bogor. The official opening was marked by pressing the siren button, cutting the ribbon, and signing of the inscription. Besides the Minister of Education and Culture, present in the ceremony was Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Suswono.

The design and interior of the new building is very similar to that of the building of which the first stone was laid by the first President of Indonesia, Sukarno 60 years ago, exactly on 27th April 1952. IPB Rector, Prof. Herry Suhardiyanto said that in the commemoration of 60 years of Indonesian Agricultural Education, all people need to reaffirm the importance of agricultural education in an effort to strengthen the national food security and sovereignty. "We embody our national spirit into the construction of the common building with lecture rooms in the Dramaga campus of IPB with the architectural design that mimics that of IPB's Baranangsiang Campus," said Rector.

The construction of this educational building is divided into three activities. The first is the construction of the building consisting of common lecture rooms, which cost Rp 120 billion, the second is the library building, and the third is the expansion of the building value that needs the cost of Rp 30 billion. According to Director of Facilities and Construction of IPB, Dr. Erizal, the fund of this educational building is from the State Budget. "This construction has started from 2003 until now," he said.

This new educational building consists of 26 classrooms with a capacity of 2,500 people, a large hall with a capacity of 500 people, an administrative room, a faculty room, a counseling room, the secretariat of the United Student's Parent Organization, a termite research laboratory, and four tennis courts. Classrooms are also being built in the area of student dormitories. In front of the Common Educational Building, lab facilities are being built as well. "Thus, the students do not need to ride motorcycles around the campus to get to the lecture hall," said Rector of IPB, Prof. Suhardiyanto.

Apart from inaugurating the educational building, the Minister of Education and Culture, who was accompanied by the Head of Research and Development Division in the Ministery, Prof. Khairil Anwar Notodiputro, handed prizes and awards to the winners of the Inspiring Scientific Writing Competition and Article of Opinion Writing Competition in newspapers for students, university students and lecturers.

Minister of Education and Culture said that IPB is one of educational elevators that can promote the students socially. With this new building, Prof. Nuh advises that IPB play its good role in dealing with social problems, especially in agriculture. "Education is the social elevator, and IPB has its role in it," said Education Minister. (Mtd)