Rector of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) Prof. Dr. Herry Suhardiyanto, officially opened the activities of the 19th Tri-University International Joint Seminar and Symposium, Monday (22/10), at the Auditorium of Andi Hakim Nasoetion, Dramaga Campus of IPB Bogor. This is the first time held outside the founding father countries, namely Mie University of Japan, Jiangsu University of China, and Chiang Mai University of Thailand.

Rector said that, since its participation in the 10th Tri-U, IPB has been very supportive and actively involved in the event of this year. "For IPB, the activity Tri-U is an excellent forum to give an opportunity to young researchers or students to be with senior scientists and professors from universities in the international community," said Rector.

Present on the occasion were the founder or originator of Tri-U, Prof. Nobutaka Ito, Deans of IPB, a number of foreign students in IPB, and observers from several countries.

Meanwhile, in a press conference in Rector Meeting Room, Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs Prof. Dr Yonny Koesmaryono said, this event is attended by 110 delegates: three universities from Thailand, one from China, two from Japan, one from Indonesia, one from Australia, and one from Malaysia.

Indeed, according to Prof. Yonny, IPB was asked to be the fourth founder of this event. However, in honor of the icon that was initially formed by the three founders, IPB saw no need to change it to "Four-U". It is this encouragement that then made Indonesia the host of this event this year.

As the host, Indonesia is granted the right to invite sister universities. In this case, IPB invites The University of Adelaide Australia and University Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Four topics raised each year in seminars and symposia are food, population, energy, and environment. Indonesia as the host also has the right to add a topic. So the topic of ecology is taken. "It is selected by IPB because the ecology is very important to pay attention. If ecology is well maintained, the ecosystem can be saved," said Vice-Chairman of the Committee Dr Muhammad Agil, accompanying Prof. Yonny.

To be participants in the event, IPB adopts some requirements. A participant must have a paper that is a result of his own scientific research, not a study of literature. Then he must be proficient in English and has a good attitude. "These requirements apply only internally in IPB; other countries may use different requirements," said Ir. Sri Endah Agustina, MSc, a figure that continues to monitor the involvement of IPB in Tri-U. She said that the noble goal of Tri-U activity is the world peace. Tri-U activities will end October 26, 2012. Next year, Tri-U will be held in Japan. (Mtd)