

Third Party Evaluation Opinion on Syiah Kuala University Development Project

Syiah Kuala University (SKU) in Banda Aceh played a major role for the development in the province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam. It is obviously recognized that in majority the local government officers, provincial and district/municipality are graduated from SKU. Therefore the presence of the university is not only highly relevance to the development objective of the Government of Indonesia in their human resources development program, but also for the development of the region itself. SKU development project has resulted highly performance and academic activities in particular in the Department of Engineering, Science and Agriculture, through the successful program on fellowships for about 280 lecturers, researches, facilities including the infrastructure in the campus, as well as support for the academic activities centre, which is during the post tsunami programming and actions, such centre has a major role.

The Project is considered highly relevant and resulting good impact as reflected by some conditions: Firstly, the main intellectual support for the regional development comes from the SKU. Secondly, during the programming phase of tsunami reconstruction, the university has a major input on scientific analysis, in particular in social and cultural aspects, as well as in political dimension. Having learned that, the agenda of post tsunami development will take years and years in longer perspectives, it is important to consider the new department set up, namely Department of Culture. Thirdly, the presence of the Academic Activities Centre is important not only for the centre on academic matters, but also the centre that makes the university is leading and involved in, by the establishment of SKU for Aceh Reconstruction. As well as for the students activities in politics such as discussion on their concerns to the regional development, critics to the local government in an appropriate way. Fourthly, the emphasize to the Department of Agriculture and Engineering is strategically in-line to the regional requirements for the residential sites, agro-industry and social public services. Moreover, the development of the Science Department which is in the same building as in Engineering Development might be considered to be having their own facilities related to the challenge for the scientific justification due to the major changes on landscape of the area as the tsunami occurred. Another thing to be considered is the presence of the new local government units which is requiring support on knowledge and skill for the officers and the community, as well as the new format of the local government in the province, in line to the Mou of Helsinki, and the new Law for Aceh Government (UU-PA Law Number: 11 of the year of 2006, issued on the 1st of August, 2006). Therefore it is necessary to consider to the presence of the new department on Politics (and Government) at SKU.

The SKU project development supported by JBIC as a whole has a good impact, not only for the employment during the construction period, but also improving the regions for the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, it is important to maintain the operation of SKU with the support of The Provincial Government of Aceh under the special autonomy budget which is allocated for education improvement. In completing the O & M program due to the highly intensity of the role of SKU on Aceh Reconstruction, there is a necessity from JBIC for supporting O & M program, as well as the building for teaching hospitals, and skills on university management which is performed based on researches.

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