

## **Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Mulawarman University (UNMUL) Development Project**

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### **Relevance**

The objectives of the project were consistent with the national and regional development plans, i.e. the priority of the sixth five-year national development plan (REPELITA VI: 1994-1998) on the education sector which placed percentage share increases in science and technology student numbers as one of the focus of human resources development policy. The project objectives have gained more relevance with current national development plan, PROPENAS 2000-2004 and the onset of regional autonomy since 2001 that has placed greater emphasis on human resources development at the regional level by giving more roles to universities such as Mulawarman University in East Kalimantan.

Science and technology graduates have been mainly produced by national and established universities in Java, whereas needs for such graduates in the regions have been increasing especially for provinces rich in natural resources and based on the agriculture sector such as East Kalimantan province. In addition, East Kalimantan province needs capacity building in the sustainable management of its natural resources which Mulawarman University is in a unique position to assist by providing advocacy, training and practical research outputs.

There are many complementary projects in progress financed by the Ministry of National Education that focuses on the development of the management capacity at the Department level, including human resources development of the teachers. The projects mentioned include all discipline, in the social and natural sciences field. The Mulawarman University Development Project scope and target, therefore is highly appropriate and complement other existing higher education development initiatives undertaken by GOI.

### **Sustainability**

Concern has been voiced regarding the adequacy of funding for operations and maintenance from the existing limited budget of Mulawarman University. The University has envisaged to cover the necessary operational and maintenance shortfall through revenues from provincial government and commercial research activities using the facilities. A system of cross-subsidization has to be developed to ensure that any revenues from commercial endeavour using the facilities are recycled back to support and develop the facilities.

The sustainability use of the facilities also hinges on available human resources capacity to operate and use the materials and equipments, including expensive equipments. Lack of sufficient personnel with adequate skill is one of the deficiencies of the project, and hence reduce the effectiveness of the project.

Another concern is on the current use of the facilities as compared to the intended beneficiaries when the project was initiated. The use has been mostly confined to the medical school where it should have been also used by the forestry, agriculture and natural science schools. However, the mechanism for a more integrated use of the facilities by several parties has to be carefully planned to ensure its sustainability. For example, which school would then be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the facility, and how should the cost sharing be divided among the relevant parties if the facilities are to be jointly utilized.