



SEEDING PLURAL AND
PEACEFUL ISLAM

THE WAHID INSTITUTE





FOUNDERS

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H.E. KH Abdurrahman Wahid

KH Abdurrahman Wahid, or also known as Gus Dur, was an important figure of Islam and peace. In Indonesia, he was known as a prominent intellectual figure as well as the main figure of modernist Islam. He was very world renowned as a man of peace and anti-violence. His thoughts and his movement was aimed to find an understanding to reduce various tensions and conflicts around the world, including between Islam and the West. He led the biggest Islamic organization in the world – Nahdlatul Ulama – for 15 years (1983-1998), when he introduced the tradition of inter-religious and -cultural dialogues, not only in Indonesia, but also throughout the world, for the purpose of achieving peace and promoting democracy. His leadership as the fourth President of Republic of Indonesia (1999-2001) was during a time of crisis and full of turmoil; nevertheless he succeeded in putting the foundations of the country for law enforcement, military repositioning, people oriented economic development, as well as fostering the cooperation among religions to support democracy and law enforcement in the country.



Dr. Gregorius Barton

Dr. Greg Barton is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Since the late 1980s he has researched the influence of Islamic liberalism in Indonesia and its contribution to the development of civil society and democracy. One of the central figures in his research has been Gus Dur, whom Barton has come to know better than perhaps any other researcher.

Yenny Zannuba Wahid

Yenny Wahid, the second daughter of H.E. Abdurrahman Wahid, was a former journalist for Australian newspapers, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Graduated from Harvard Kennedy School of Government and obtained a master's degree in Public Administration, she was appointed as a special staff for political communication for President Yudhoyono in 2006, which she left a year later to concentrate on her work on the grass roots. In 2009 she was named as one of the Young Global Leader honorees by the World Economic Forum, along with the likes of Tiger Woods and Mark Zuckerberg. Currently she serves, among other positions she holds, as a member of the Global Council on Faith.



Ahmad Suaedy

Ahmad Suaedy is an activist of progressive Islam. Since 1990s he has been facilitating the progress of Islamic youth movements, many were critical to the democratization process of 1998. After 1998 reform, he has been involved in the advocating movement of religious minorities and traditions in Indonesia. For the past 5 years, he's been actively conducting research on Islam as minorities around South East Asia; such as in South Thailand, South Phillipines, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, East Indonesia, and Malaysia (Penang); as well as building the vast network of South East Asia progressive Muslims.





The WAHID Institute was established with its launching on September 7, 2004, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Jakarta. It was founded during a time when the world has not yet healed from the pain and panic caused by the 11/9/2001 tragedy in New York, and when Indonesia has seen numerous communal violences triggered by clash of religions or ethnics happening in many places around the country, including in big cities.

BACKGROUND OF THE WAHID INSTITUTE

Eventhough Indonesia has entered the democratization era by having political procedures since 1998, nevertheless the emergence of violence in various forms has confirmed that democracy with its philosophy has not yet embedded in to the culture of the society. Many factors were in play, but one of the most important is the role of religions – particularly Islam, because of the number of its devotees within the country – and ethnics that has been molding the cultures of the society. In the mean time, the world is

full of fear caused by violence and terrorist acts and the many counter movements against them.

The WAHID Institute emerged with the dedication to realize the intellectual commitment of KH Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) in advancing the development of both Indonesian as well as Islamic society, improving the welfare of lower class of the society, building democracy and fundamental justice, and expanding peace and non-violence throughout the world.

At the regional and world level, The WAHID Institute facilitates dialogues and understanding between Muslims and other religions and cultures, including between the Islamic world and the West. In Indonesia, The WAHID Institute fosters the emergence of young promising thinkers and activists to realize the commitment and vision of Gus Dur. The WAHID Institute organizes education events for youth, capacity buildings for Muslim clerics to generate cross-religions, cross-cultural, and cross-ethnics dialogues, and assists and promotes them to actively participate in the process of building economic welfare and justice and good governance.



OUR VISION

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The WAHID Institute seeks to achieve the intellectual vision of H.E. Abdurrahman Wahid for the development of Indonesia, the welfare of the nation, and the social justice of humankind based on Islamic values that upholds pluralism, multiculturalism, democracy, and human rights.

The Wahid Institute strives for a just and peaceful world by espousing a moderate and tolerant view of Islam and working towards welfare for all.

“All too many Muslims fail to grasp Islam, which teaches one to be lenient towards others and to understand their value systems, knowing that these are tolerated by Islam as a religion.”

Abdurrahman Wahid

"I told the students
that we can
exert pressure
without resorting
to violence, and
that we can move
towards democracy
without violence;
that way, God will
allow it."

{Abdurrahman Wahid}

OUR MISSION

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Cultivating, maintaining and spreading the Islamic values of peace and tolerance.

Cultivating dialogues among local and international cultures to expand harmony between Islam and various cultures and religions of the world.

Fostering initiatives to strengthen civil and society and good governance in Indonesia in expanding democracy.

Promoting active participations of various religious groups in cultural dialogues and dialogues for peace.

Developing initiatives to improve welfare and social justice.



WI PROGRAM

CAMPAIGN ON ISLAM, DEMOCRACY, AND PLURALISM

This program seeks to spread the values of peaceful and tolerant Islam which aligns with pluralism, multiculturalism, democracy, and human rights.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PROGRESSIVE ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS IN INDONESIA

Capacity development program for individual & NGO networks of The WAHID Institute throughout Indonesia.

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RESEARCH

This program focuses on conducting researches to examine, understand the current conditions within the scope of religious and culture tolerance, state, democracy, and human rights; and to provide with analysis on existing problems and the possibilities to handle the conditions.

The research program also includes conducting periodical classes of Islamology for non-Muslim clerics and classes of Gus Dur's Thoughts for public.

MONITORING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

This program monitors issues related with religious tolerance, government-imposed restrictions on religions, religious hostility within society, and conflicts based on religious differences. The result of this program is documented in a monthly report, trimonthly bulletin, and an annual report that portrays the current religious life in Indonesia.

ADVOCACY FOR GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND MINORITIES

This program advocates issues of religious tolerance and pluralism to foster government regulations as well as case settlements that are fair and just towards minorities.

ADVOCATING FOR & EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS

This program advocates society at the grassroots level to aim a strong level of society socially, politically, and economically. Included in this program is the formation of cooperative and small-scale business units as well as these following programs:

■ Microfinance for religious and ethnic harmony. This program is especially designed to create more understanding





and dialogues between community members of different religious and ethnic backgrounds while trying to empower them economically at the same time. Connecting people to economic opportunities as well as to each other.

■ Women empowerment of Majlis Ta'lim members. This program is designed to empower the women of Majlis Ta'lim to be financially independent and creative, and to develop their political awareness to be involved in the political decision making process in their regions, particularly within the budget allocation process.

GUS DUR AID FOR HUMANITY

This program aims to manifest Abdurrahman Wahid's thoughts and action, particularly in encouraging philanthropic activities and disaster

responses throughout Indonesia. Since 2004 to 2010, The WAHID Institute distributed and provided humanitarian aids and social services for tsunami victims in Aceh (2004); earthquake victims in Yogyakarta (2006); Babelan flood reliefs in Jakarta (2007); and assistance for Merapi eruption and Mentawai tsunami reliefs (2010).

DISCUSSION FORUMS, SEMINARS, & DIALOGUES

This program seeks to build understanding and promote Islam as a bearer of grace and peace in and for the universe. The program's

scope includes Indonesian society and the international world.

CENTER FOR ISLAM & SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES (CISEAS)

This division examines development of Islam in Asia, and works with progressive Muslims throughout this region, such as from South Phillippines, Penang, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bali and NTT. The studies are published in books and journals.

RIYANTO SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year hundreds of junior and senior high school students from both state and religious schools in Indonesia have benefited from Riyanto scholarships. The program is named to pay respect to Riyanto, an NU Banser member who was killed during his heroic act of removing a bomb on Christmas Eve of 2000 in a church in Mojokerto. This program aims to create educated, peace-minded and tolerant children.

DOCUMENTATION, COMMUNICATION, & PUBLICATION

This program seeks to document and disseminate the results of our programs and events, as well as the instrument to spread the message of the institute. Included in this program are: monthly reports, trimonthly bulletins, annual reports, website (www.wahidinstitute.org), magazine inserts, newspaper inserts, reports on projects and events, and documentary films.

"If today there are people calling Islam bad names, we will teach them that Islam is peaceful."

Abdurrahman Wahid

NETWORK – FUTURE EXPANSION

OUR NETWORK



2. Radicalization containment. This program will look into various methods of spreading radical teachings as well as hate speeches, and design several mechanisms to prevent radicalization from spreading from different points.

3. Abdurrahman Wahid University. This program is critical to expand, maintain, and spread the ideas and values of Gus Dur, which closely related to the development of democracy in Indonesia.

4. University scholarships. This program aims to provide aids for bright, young students to achieve higher education. It also aims to create educated, peace-minded and tolerant young leaders.

5. Youth program. This program aims to involve young leaders as agents of change and to provide young leaders with peace and tolerant mindset to expand peace through the dynamics of the youth.

FUTURE PROJECTS

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The WAHID Institute seeks to expand our programs in the near futures. Future programs include:

1. Islam, Integrity, and Corruption Erradication. The program is part of the commitment to promoting transparent, effective, and accountable government, which is vital to the development of good governance and democracy in Indonesia.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can support The WAHID Institute by:

YOUR ACTION

Report to us when you encounter religious, cultural, or ethnic intolerance happening around you.

Help us spread the message of peace and tolerance.

Help those whose religious rights are abused by providing them with moral and social support.

WORK WITH US

Participate in our events and projects.

Discuss your ideas with us on how to spread the message of peaceful and tolerant Islam.

Build a partnership between your organization/ community/company with us and create a project together.

DONATION

You can donate your money to:

- Gus Dur's Aid for Humanity to help with natural disaster reliefs
- Riyanto Scholarships to help add one or more child to our scholarship benefactors
- Microfinance program to help create economic opportunity for people in the lower economic strata and to foster peace and tolerant-minded society
- Other projects or programs
- Operational of our office

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Donations can be made to:

Yayasan Lembaga Abdurrahman Wahid
Bank Mandiri cabang Gedung Bidakara
A/C: 070.00.0468962.1

For additional information about The WAHID Institute and our work, visit:

www.wahidinstitute.org

Resources available include:

- Descriptions of our events, programs and projects
- Monthly reports on religious issues
- Annual report on religious freedom and tolerance
- Media news on religious issues and tolerance
- Reports, studies and evaluations of our program work
- Collections of our library and bookstore
- Book reviews related to Islam, religious and tolerance issues
- Opinions of Muslim intellectuals on current issues

Library of The Wahid Institute is open for public on weekdays (except on public holidays). Resources available include:

- Numerous books on various issues related to Islam, religious dialogues, tolerance, and other religious issues
- Clippings of media news
- Collection of audio and video documentations
- Journals and magazines

Toko Buku 8 (The Bookstore) carries numerous books related to the issues of Islam, religious dialogues, tolerance, culture, human rights and democracy. The bookstore is open for public on weekdays (except on public holidays).



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