



**SPEECH OF
THE COORDINATING MINISTER OF PEOPLE'S WELFARE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
IN THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 6TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR SAFEGUARDING OF THE
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
Denpasar, November 22nd 2011**

Good Evening,

- *Your Excellency, Madam Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO;*
- *Excellencies, the Ministers Responsible for Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO member countries and their Delegations;*
- *Distinguished Guests;*
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, let's pray God the Almighty for His blessing that enables us to gather here in Bali, Indonesia, this evening to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 6th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2011.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Indonesia government, please accept my deeps thanks and my highest appreciation to Madam Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO and the Ministers Responsible for Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO member countries and their delegations, who have attended in the opening ceremony to day. We are very pride and thanks deeply to UNESCO who has concluded that Indonesia as a host of the 6th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2011. Through this session we have a chance

to organize a meeting, lobby and cultural diplomacy with State Parties who were attending in the session in dealing with cooperation in the field of culture and tourism. Besides, we are able to build and push the understanding of State Parties to the importance of cooperation between nations through culture as an important thing of "***soft diplomacy***"

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia and some of countries in the world are very rich with cultural heritage, both *tangible* as well as *intangible*. We realize that cultural heritage is very valuable and informative for human being particularly in studying their cultural diversity of the past. We are very pride with our cultural heritage. It can be used to strengthen national identity. Moreover, every country are very pride if they have the *World Intangible Cultural Heritage* under UNESCO. Therefore, the *World Intangible Cultural Heritage* must be safeguarded and developed in order to make them in a good condition and can be utilized by next young generation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Safeguarding does not mean fixing or freezing intangible cultural heritage in some pure or primordial form. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is about the **transferring of knowledge, skills and meaning**. Transmission or communicating heritage from generation to generation is emphasized in the Convention rather than the production of concrete manifestations such as dances, songs, musical instruments or crafts. Therefore, to a large extent, any safeguarding measure refers to strengthening and reinforcing the diverse and varied circumstances, tangible and intangible, that are necessary for the continuous evolution and interpretation of intangible cultural heritage, as well as for its transmission to future generations.

Safeguarding measures must always be developed and applied with the consent and involvement of the community itself.

Ladies and Gentlemen,


That's why the method of assessment and criteria for *World Intangible Cultural Heritage* are important things to be discussed in the meeting.. The assessment method of *World Intangible Cultural Heritage* must be completed, accountable, measurable, and can be responsible to the scientific aspects, without any special interest. I hope through the 6th *Session UNESCO* in Bali can be formulated the strategic action in dealing with safeguarding of *Intangible Cultural heritage*.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At last but not least, I would like to say thank you for the Minister of Education and Culture the Republic of Indonesia who has well facilitates this meeting. In this opportunity, please accept my deepest appreciation and thanks for all audiences for participating to the program.

Finally, with the blessing of God the Almighty, I officially open the 6th *Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. May Allah bless our good effort.

Thank you.

Coordinating Minister of People's Welfare 

H.R. Agung Laksono

