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Foreword

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Foreword

Agog with enthusiasm and curiosity, twice a year we always look forward to the publication of *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia* – the journal of the Faculty of Humanities of Universitas Indonesia which is accredited and indexed by Scopus. As a medium for scholarly discussion of studies of humanities and social sciences, this peer-reviewed journal is published thematically consisting of a double issue in April/May and a single issue in October/November every year.

Today another impressive milestone has been achieved. It is with great pride and excitement I welcome the publication of this issue of *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia* Vol. 22 Nos. 1 and 2 on “Languages of Nusantara”. This double issue of *Wacana* is a special publication dedicated to Waruno Mahdi. He is a remarkable man and excellent scholar who has also had an exceptional life history. He graduated with honours as a chemist in 1965 at Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology in Moscow, but he also developed a broad interest, particularly in linguistics and culture history. His journey began in Moscow when his passport was invalidated because of the political situation in Indonesia under Suharto. In the USSR he ended up in Voronezh before, without having any legal documentation, he succeeded in fleeing to West Berlin where he has now lived since 1977 and still holds a guest appointment at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin.

On the basis of his extraordinary expertise, he has made many academic relevant contributions to the field of Malay linguistics and the languages and societies in Indonesia. We are now very pleased to present this wonderful publication as the result of the close-knit cooperation between *Wacana* (Dr Susi Moeimam) and the two experts in the field: Dr Tom Hoogervorst (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies/KITLV) and Dr Aone van Engelenhoven (Leiden University Institute for Area Studies/LIAS).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors of the articles for their valuable contribution. Needless to say, with great appreciation I also

thank both the editors of this double issue of *Wacana* and the staff of *Wacana* for their efforts and hard work in preparing this special publication. I hope it will provide an additional stimulus to study the language and cultural discourse in Indonesia and inspire more scholars to do research in this very rich area.

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