

Pidato untuk memperingati hari tahun ke-133 dari

Kebun Raya Indonesia

pada tanggal 17 Mei 1950

II Address delivered*) on occasion of the 133rd anniversary of the
Kebun Raya Indonesia
on May 17, 1950, by the Director of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia
Ir Kusnoto

Ladies and gentlemen!

To-day 133 years ago, as you all know, " 's Lands Plantentuin ' was founded under the direction of Professor Reinwardt. To-day, however, is the first time that " 's Lands Plantentuin " celebrates its anniversary as 'Kebun Raya Indonesia', under the changed circumstances following the transfer of Sovereignty on December 27, 1949.

The young Republic of Indonesia is confronted with, and must conquer tremendous difficulties and this, at present, induced me to honour this memorable day without ostentation or display.

On this day, we may well devote some quiet thoughts in homage, in deep admiration and gratefulness, to the founder and pioneer of our world-famous 'Plantentuin', Professor Reinwardt, to the unsurpassed merit of Hortulanus Teysmann, to the inspiring Directorship of that great organizer Professor Melchior Treub, who made " 's Lands Plantentuin " to a centre of research into tropical biology and natural sciences. We recall also, after a period of reduced vitality, the vigorous efforts by Dr. van Mook and Professor Baas Becking to reorganize and rebuild.

Certainly, I would not be surprised that some doubts and anxieties should assail those, who are now no longer with us, were they alive, and those who join us from afar in thought on this anniversary of our Gardens and all who are *true friends* of the 'Plantentuin'; they might feel uncertain about the destiny awaiting this great institution of learning and research into tropical biology under the new conditions.

Naturally, the question was raised whether the young Indonesian Republic was justified to entrust the directorship of the 'Kebun Raya Indonesia' to one of her own sons, who was judged to be worthy of this distinction, whether the Government of Indonesia would assign the 'Kebun Raya Indonesia' a place in her Administration in accordance with its international repute and its international calling as a leading centre for basic research into the national sciences.

I fully realize that many doubted and worried as to in what light popular sentiment would see what is, in my modest opinion, necessary: a maintenance or even an increase of European, and in particular Dutch, members of the staff.

And there are, possibly, even more problems of that character which originate as a matter of course from a feeling of uncertainty.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Staff of the Kebun Raya Indonesia!

*) The address was delivered in Indonesian but translated into English when published in our Bulletin (Ed.)

I may be allowed, on this occasion, to assure you of my unshakable belief in the co-operation and support of all of you and I wish to impress onto your mind that as long as in the new era the safeguarding of the 'Plantentuin' will be entrusted, in last instance, to me, I will do everything within my power to preserve untarnished the first principle and object of the Kebun Raya Indonesia: To conduct and execute research into the biological and natural sciences for their own sake and in view of their application, and the distribution of knowledge, to the welfare of Indonesia and to the benefit of the world.

Ling live Hortus Bogoriensis! Long live Kebun Raya Indonesia!