

Canada and Indonesia should play an important role in this special aspect of Indonesian life. If we are able to bring Islamic educational institutions into the mainstream of national education, the possibility of *madrasah* being misled or becoming the locus of some literal interpretation of Islam can be prevented. *Madrasah* in Indonesia are required to implement curricula instituted by the national Ministry of Education. However, most of the teachers are not qualified or are mismatched. We need to upgrade the quality of teachers in order to improve the quality of education at Islamic schools and *madrasah* so that the students will be able to compete with students of public schools. So here are my two suggestions. First, enhance cooperation in order to improve and strengthen the quality of Islamic education. Second, widen the cooperation to include civil society organizations that have been playing very important roles Indonesia, such as the Muhammadiyah. If we can cooperate with Muhammadiyah, for example, there will be a possibility to train teachers in the ideas of democracy, civil society, equality and so on, and they, in turn, can spread all of these to the masses at the grassroots level. Thank you.

Moderator: As we know there is a long standing relationship between UIM, IAIN and McGill University. What you are proposing, if I'm not mistaken, is that this cooperation should be expanded so as to include people from *madrasah* and others.

Azra: Let me elaborate on that point. Of course we have long standing cooperation especially between CIDA and the State Institute for Islamic Studies at the level of higher education. However, the cooperation has not reached the level of elementary and secondary education. It is clear that the role of CIDA in the modernization of Islamic higher education is very crucial and very instrumental. I would add that it would be very difficult for us to turn our university into a full fledged institute without the support of CIDA through McGill University. I think the CIDA project is crucial for what it contributes to institutes for Islamic studies, or Islamic universities by ways of disseminating ideas of gender equity, social services and things like that. We should therefore extend the scope of the project, especially at elementary and secondary levels as this is currently very limited.

Moderator: Thank you, now we turn to Rizal Mallarangeng, to make some comments or suggestions. Prof. Azra has made comments about the education and civil society, so perhaps your issues or suggestions could be more directed towards political society.