

A Night in Unity

Indonesia Steps up the Fight to End TB

3 August 2019, Jakarta, Indonesia. Over 100 business leaders, TB survivors, representatives of cross-sectors development agencies and public health as well as TB ambassadors gathered together to advance the fight against TB beyond the UN HLM at a gala dinner event 'A Night in Unity' held in Soehanna Hall, Jakarta.

The event, supported by the Stop TB Partnership, was co-hosted by the Ministry of Health of Indonesia and the Stop TB Partnership Indonesia, with the aim of raising national TB awareness and call for a joint effort across sectors to end the disease.



In this momentum, the Minister of Health, Prof. Dr Nila Moeloek, emphasized that TB should be a priority for all sectors. "Currently the Government of Indonesia is building and expanding infrastructures to connect regions, which would increase people's mobility across provinces and islands. If all of us keep working in silo without aligning our efforts to end TB, this infection would spread and pose an even larger burden to the country", she said.

Arifin Panigoro, president and founder of Stop TB Indonesia, further elaborated, "TB affects all. Indonesia's demographic bonus would turn into a public health burden without cross-sector partnerships to end TB."

Fresh perspectives and inputs from multi-stakeholders with different backgrounds are urgently needed to bring new ideas that stimulate innovation in planning and implementation of TB strategies. In her speech, the Stop TB Ambassador Dr Sonia Wibisono said, "TB needs serious attention from us because this infectious disease is airborne and can affect anyone. The risk of contracting TB is not only for those living in slums but also doctors, nurses, young executives and even celebrities."

The Stop TB Ambassador Dr Reisa Broto Asmoro added "We now live in an online and digital era, everyday each of us can utilize digital media to build TB awareness through content in video-logs, YouTube, Instagram and other social media channels."