

Signature d'une convention-cadre de partenariat entre l'UNC et l'université indonésienne Gadjah Mada

Mot d'accueil du président de l'UNC

Nouméa, le 26 août 2019.

Mister Rector-president,
Misters the representatives of the French state,
Mister Consul-general,
Mrs the dean,
everyone,

Welcome to the University of New Caledonia.

Before we begin our program this morning, which will be quite dense in terms of information sharing, I would like to say a few words of welcome on behalf of our academic community, which I represent in my position as President.

I am particularly pleased to receive today the delegation from the prestigious Gadjah Mada University accompanied by Indonesia's diplomatic representation in New Caledonia to begin writing a new page in the book of Franco-Indonesian relations, a page that will be a part of the university cooperation chapter.

Indeed, as part of its outreach policy and the development of its international relations, to foster academic mobility (students, lecturers and researchers) and research, the University of New Caledonia gives particular importance to the development of its international networks, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Although we have already signed more than forty partnerships with foreign universities, this one will have a special significance in New Caledonia given the historical, cultural and even family ties that exist between the two countries.

As you will see during your stay, the population of New Caledonia is rich in cultural diversity. A diversity and richness to which the Indonesian community of New Caledonia, whose first arrivals date back to the end of the 19th century, contributes particularly.

Today, in all the classes of New Caledonia's schools and of course among UNC students, you will find the young descendants of these first arrivals, who came mainly from the island of Java.

Today we have the pleasure to contribute developing the ties between our two countries.

I do not want to anticipate too much on the possible academic and scientific variations of the general agreement that we will sign this morning, but it seems only natural to me that one of the thematic subjects of work between our two universities could be the study of the historical and cultural ties between New Caledonia and Indonesia.

This history, relatively unknown, at least outside the community of Caledonians of Javanese origin, deserves to take its rightful place in university research.

In addition to history and sociology, we can imagine many other common research topics, such as the nickel mining and metallurgical industry, since Indonesia, like New Caledonia, is a nickel-producing country and I understand that the two countries have deposits with very similar characteristics (laterites).

We see many common grounds between UNC and UGM, not only in terms of research but also through the interest of student mobility opportunities towards Indonesia for New Caledonian students and vice-versa.

For this morning together, we have therefore prepared a rather dense program starting with a general presentation of the university and then the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Then we will have the pleasure of showing you part of the campus and in particular our new research center, which was commissioned at the beginning of this year and is gradually gaining momentum.

We have only a little over 3000 students while Gadjah Mada University is, compared to UNC, a major player in higher education and research in Indonesia but we will try to compensate our small size by the quality of our welcome and the strength of our collaboration.

These are the few words of welcome I wanted to say before starting the program that we have prepared, with my teams, for you this morning. And once again, welcome to the University of New Caledonia.