

Photos by Singapore Management University (SMU)



SMU'S PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS FORMER MINISTER PROFESSOR MARI PANGESTU


by Zuraidah Ismail

In an ever-changing world, we have to be extra innovative, creative and smart. That is one of the key messages Professor Mari Pangestu conveyed to the audience at the Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series held at the Singapore Management University (SMU).

With a population of about 250 million and a vast land area of almost two million square kilometers, Indonesia faces a challenging journey towards economic growth. The Mochtar Riady Auditorium was fully packed with an audience which consisted of mostly Indonesian staff and students coming from various institutions, all eager to listen to the insightful opinions of the eminent speaker.

Professor Mari Pangestu was the Minister of Trade for the Republic of Indonesia from 2004 to 2011. As Minister of Trade, she played an active role in the WTO; initiated various Ministers of Trade meetings; and provided leadership in regional cooperation at ASEAN in 2011. Before becoming minister, she provided policy advice on international trade and

investment issues, political economy of reforms and sustainable development issues. In her speech, she mentioned that one of Indonesia's social issue is on poverty and inequality.

Having to be part of the government for more than a decade, the topic on the 'New Normal' is dear to her heart as an economist as well as an Indonesian. 'New Normal' is a terminology based on post 2009 global crisis. As the economy recovers from the crisis, it comes back to a 'New Normal', with more uncertainties for many countries like Indonesia. 

Here are some of the important issues Prof. Mari mentioned that Indonesia needs to take note of:

- Indonesia needs to develop more on creative industries
- Indonesia needs to diversify exports and focus lesser on commodity-based trading
- More focus to be put on infrastructure and logistics
- Indonesia needs an investment stimulus
- Bureaucratic reforms are important

Prof Mari Pangestu

Profesor Mari Pangestu memberikan ceramah dalam acara Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series yang diadakan di Mochtar Riady Auditorium, Singapore Management University (SMU). Beliau berkata bahwa walaupun Indonesia akan menghadapi tantangan dalam pertumbuhan ekonomi, dengan kebijakan dan institusi yang tepat, kehendak dan kepemilikan politisi, ekonomi Indonesia akan dapat tumbuh.