



## MEDIA RELEASE

### MINISTER OF RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND HIGHER EDUCATION INAUGURATES FIRST VOCATIONAL PULP AND PAPER STUDY PROGRAM IN RIAU

*Collaboration among PT RAPP, Tanoto Foundation and Riau University*

**Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia - 29 January 2019:** The Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education (Menristekdikti) of Indonesia, Mohamad Nasir, today inaugurated the DIII (Vocational) Pulp and Paper Technology building at the Department of Chemical Engineering at Riau University. The building will host a new pulp and paper technology study program, the first of its kind in the province of Riau.

The program was created through a collaboration among the [Tanoto Foundation](#), PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (PT RAPP), and Riau University.

The inauguration was marked by the signing of an inscription by the Menristekdikti, witnessed by the President Director of PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, Sihol P. Aritonang, the Global CEO of Tanoto Foundation, J. Satrijo Tanudjojo, Riau University (UNRI) Chancellor, Aras Mulyadi, and the Head of the Riau Research and Development Agency Arbaini, MT.

In his remarks, the Menristekdikti thanked PT RAPP and the Tanoto Foundation for their commitment to supporting the government's efforts to strengthen the pool of human capital, amid increasing intense competition in the workplace.

"I appreciate the collaboration between the private sector and the university in supporting education, especially in the field of pulp and paper. We hope Indonesia's [best students can take advantage of the new program and facilities](#), so that they will be able to answer the need for skilled personnel in the pulp and paper industry," he said.

J. Satrijo Tanudjojo, Global CEO, Tanoto Foundation, said Riau province was one of [the leading pulp and paper producing regions in the world](#). Riau University has been in a partnership with the Tanoto Foundation, on a leadership development program, since 2006.

"Inspired directly by the founder of Tanoto Foundation, Mr. Sukanto Tanoto, and Mrs. Tinah Bingei Tanoto, we have received a mandate to create the DIII facility. This is in line with our commitment to improving the quality of education in Indonesia, and with our philosophy that quality education can accelerate the creation of equal opportunities," he said.

Sihol P. Aritonang, President Director, PT RAPP, said he hoped that the study program could lead to the [development of experts in the paper industry](#), who might in the future become the driving force of the country's economy.

"The presence of DIII Pulp and Paper can only strengthen the correlation between the competence that education builds and the expectations of industry, in order to encourage more employment opportunities. The development of Riau University as a center of excellence that will help foster human capital for the pulp and paper industry will also contribute to national efforts to build a better future," he said.

The support for classroom facilities from the Tanoto Foundation and PT RAPP comes in the form of a building with 2,092m<sup>2</sup> of space, with six classrooms, six research laboratories, two meeting rooms, a library, and direct access to the pulp and paper industry, as well as the support of lecturers and practitioners. This year, [29 RAPP employees have been helped to pursue further education opportunities](#) in the department.

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**About APRIL Group**

*APRIL Group is a leading producer of fibre, pulp and paper with manufacturing operations in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau Province, Indonesia. APRIL is a pioneer in the implementation of sustainability best practices in Indonesia's pulp and paper industry, including the elimination of deforestation from its supply chain. APRIL Group is working towards conserving, protecting and restoring one hectare of high value conservation forest for every hectare of renewable plantation concession. For more information, visit [www.aprilasia.com](http://www.aprilasia.com) and follow Twitter @aprilpulp.*

**About Tanoto Foundation**

**Tanoto Foundation**

*Tanoto Foundation is an independent philanthropic organization founded by Sukanto Tanoto and Tinah Bingei Tanoto based on the belief that every person should have the opportunity to realize his or her full potential. Tanoto Foundation started its works in 1981 when our founders established Kindergarten and Elementary School in Besitang, North Sumatra.*

*Tanoto Foundation programs stem from the belief that quality education accelerates equal opportunity. We harness the transformative strength of education to realize people's full potential and improve lives.*

*Tanoto Foundation focuses on making an impact in three areas: improving learning environments, future leaders development, as well as medical research and sciences.*

*Related to improve learning environments, Tanoto Foundation invests in Early Childhood Development and basic education through SIGAP (Strengthening Indonesia's early Generation by Accelerating Potential) program. We also enhance education ecosystems through PINTAR (Promoting Improvement to INnovate, Teach, and Reach) program.*

*In the future leaders development, we have a TELADAN (Teaching LeADership, Advancing the Nation) program to develop leaders in higher education environments who will make a positive impact in communities.*

*Our work in medical research and sciences facilitates knowledge and understanding of health conditions that are more prevalent in Asian communities.*