

THEE KIAN WIE

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you, for a degree of the University, Dr Thee Kian Wie.

Thee Kian Wie is one of Indonesia's, and Southeast Asia's, outstanding academics and public intellectuals.

Born in 1935, he was educated at the University of Indonesia and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, from where he obtained his doctorate in Economics. He has devoted his entire professional life to research, teaching and public affairs in Indonesia. Throughout this period, he has been a staff member of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

His academic output has been prodigious. He has authored or edited some 17 books and monographs, and about 70 book chapters and journal articles. In addition, he is a frequent author of opinion pieces in the quality Indonesian press. Most of his academic writings have appeared in English, which is actually his third language after Dutch and Indonesian.

In the Indonesian context, with its challenging academic environment, this record is quite remarkable. No other social scientist matches this sustained academic productivity.

Dr Thee's original field of research was economic history, and here he is one of the leading authorities in Southeast Asia. He is the author of several seminal publications, commencing with his doctoral dissertation. Most recently, he is the co-author of *The Emergence of a National Economy: An Economic History of Indonesia* (Allen & Unwin, and KITLV Press, 2002), which is bound to become the standard reference in the field. He has made a remarkable contribution to keep the discipline of economic history alive in Indonesia.

Dr Thee is also Indonesia's leading academic authority on industrialization issues. He has produced major works on foreign investment, technological development, small-scale industry, and various manufacturing sectors. His contributions have been unrivalled in their analytical depth, diversity and policy relevance.

Dr Thee has been a tireless public intellectual. Somehow, he finds time to publish academically while maintaining a heavy schedule of media commitments, especially in the quality print media, such as the *Kompas* and *Tempo* newspapers. In 'retirement', he is currently editing the premier economics journal in Indonesia, *Economics and Finance in Indonesia*.

Throughout his professional career, Dr Thee has been a passionate advocate for the underdog, and for those left out of the development process.

He has served for several years as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the SMERU Research Institute, which is now Indonesia's leading academic think tank for research on poverty and social issues.

Dr Thee has been one of Indonesia's most important academic bridge builders to the international community of scholarship and academe. He is constantly on call from the international academic, official and business communities. He has been extraordinarily generous to a constant flow of visitors, from Ambassadors to junior researchers.

Dr Thee has made a deep and sustained contribution to the work on Indonesia at this University, and more broadly to the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

Dr Thee has visited the University on several occasions for periods ranging from several weeks to some months. He has been exceptionally diligent in supporting the work of the University's Indonesia Project, writing for its journal, the *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, attending the annual Indonesia Update conference series, hosting graduate students, and much else. He also played a major role in assisting the late Professor Heinz Arndt in the establishment of the University's *Asian-Pacific Economic Literature* journal in 1987.

More broadly, Dr Thee has contributed significantly to Australia-Indonesia relations, as an always friendly and constructive voice on our behalf. The bilateral relationship has had its vicissitudes, and it is the strength of enduring ties with people like Dr Thee in the Indonesian academic community which has assisted Australia to manage these challenging periods.

Dr Thee has received awards and recognition, both in Indonesia and abroad. In August 2002, he received the *Bintang Jasa Utama*, Indonesia's highest award for public service. He has held numerous fellowships, including in the US, Europe, Japan, Singapore, and Australia. In April 2000, the *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* produced a special issue to commemorate his contribution to the work of the University's Indonesia Project.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Thee Kian Wie, that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on the grounds of his distinguished achievements as a scholar in the field of Indonesian economic development, and for his contributions to the development of closer relations between the scholarly communities of Australia and Indonesia.

Professor Ian Chubb AO
Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University

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