

Background

From all the priorities made by politicians in Southeast-Asia countries, we believe that there isn't more important than education. Education is the core foundation of a country in achieving its goal in many aspects for the goods of its citizens. Most leaders realize that they will lose certain investments that support their economic growth because they lack of experts in the matter. Hence they need to increase the teaching quality and keep more children in schools a lot longer in order to learn more. Indonesia is unexceptionally left behind in terms of education. How can it not as the school expansion results small numbers of graduates with the knowledge and skills required in building strong and pride communities especially in the recently competitive economic field. This is shown by the lower ability of 8th grade (Junior High School 2nd grade) compares to neighbor countries in the international tests during year 2001 up to 2007, when Indonesia doesn't escalate significantly, on the contrary having some setbacks. It shows pretty clear that the school expansion in Indonesia is still not followed by the quality improvement.

Table 1. Students Performances on Mathematics and Physics Tests in 1999

Country	Mathematics Grades and Levels	Physics Grades and Levels
Singapore	604 (1)	568 (2)
South Korea	587 (2)	549 (5)
Taiwan	585 (3)	569 (1)
Hong Kong	582 (4)	530 (15)
Japan	579 (5)	550 (4)
Malaysia	519 (16)	492 (22)
Thailand	467 (27)	482 (24)
Indonesia	403 (34)	435 (32)
Philippines	348 (36)	345 (36)

Data Source : TIMSS

Tabel 2. Students Performances on Mathematics and Physics Tests in 2003

Negara	Mathematics Grades and Levels	Physics Grades and Levels
Singapore	605 (1)	578 (1)
South Korea	589 (2)	558 (3)
Taiwan	585 (4)	571 (2)
Hong Kong	586 (3)	556 (4)
Japan	570 (5)	552 (6)
Malaysia	508 (10)	510 (21)
Thailand	-	-
Indonesia	411 (35)	420 (37)
Philippines	378 (42)	377 (43)

Data Source : TIMSS

Tabel 3. Students Performances on Mathematics and Physics Tests in 2007

Country	Mathematics Grades and Levels	Physics Grades and Levels
Singapore	593 (3)	568 (2)
South Korea	597 (2)	549 (5)
Taiwan	598 (1)	569 (1)
Hong Kong	572 (4)	530 (15)
Japan	570 (5)	550 (4)
Malaysia	474 (20)	492 (22)
Thailand	441 (29)	482 (24)
Indonesia	397 (36)	435 (32)
Philippines	-	-

Data Source : TIMSS

Thailand for example has extended the school compulsory years from 9 years to 12 years and has begun making the free-15-year compulsory study policy. Malaysia is targeting the participation numbers in universities up to 40% by the year 2012. From the explanation above we can only morn that until now, Indonesia hasn't made any significant progress compares horizontally with the education budget that increases each year (table 4). The insufficient school facilities in remote areas, considerably expensive school fees, and the teachers' low welfare are still the main concerns that block the development of Indonesian education.

Table 4 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS in Education Functions, 2006-2012. (in billion rupiah)

No.	FUNCTIONS/SUBFUNCTIONS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
		LKPP	LKPP	LKPP	LKPP	LKPP	APBN-P	RAPBN
1	Toddlers Education	306,3	444,1	496,2	612,4	1.225,2	280,0	294,1
2	Elementary Education	22.773,9	22.494,5	24.627,5	37.205,7	33.301,5	19.473,1	20.457,0
3	Middle Education	4.703,9	4.118,3	3.842,7	7.346,3	7.133,5	7.271,3	7.638,7
4	Non Formal and Informal Education	837,3	1.202,8	779,4	1.265,2	1.100,0	3.829,4	4.022,9
5	Specialty Education	722,2	213,1	274,3	160,8	188,6	557,6	585,8
6	University Education	9.729,0	6.904,4	13.096,4	22.189,3	27.230,8	30.609,6	32.156,3
7	Aid Services towards Education	3.863,5	5.078,4	11.089,7	14.984,8	17.467,0	9.440,7	9.917,7
8	Religious Education	2.081,5	192,4	287,7	607,2	725,7	3.550,5	3.730,0
9	Research Education	259,8	550,8	803,5	547,9	609,3	1.241,8	1.304,5
10	Youth and Sports Trainings					1.836,7	860,3	903,8
11	Other Education	26,5	9.644,6	0,8			13.887,0	14.588,7
Total		45.303,9	50.843,4	55.298,0	84.919,5	90.818,3	91.001,3	95.599,6

Source: <http://www.anggaran.depkeu.go.id>

From the table above, you can see that the educational budgets is increasing from 2006-2012 (which is still in the Government Budgets called RAPBN) due to good increase in state economy. The fund allocation based on the 1945 Basic Laws (UUD 1945) Decree 31 (4) clearly states that the Country shall prioritize the education budgets at least 20% from the country income and expense budgets as well as states income and expenses budgets to fulfill the national education needs. Sadly thing is this 20% already includes the teachers' salaries, which obviously limits the children privileges to enjoy school life.

In the neighbor countries, they provide more than 20% for their educational budgets and they spend more on the teachers' salaries in separate budgets, so that the focus on fulfilling the facilities and educational infrastructures can be optimized. The question raised nowadays is when will the Indonesian government pays serious attention in taking care of educational matters in Indonesia, which is clearly an absolute price in the rise and glory of a developing country in order to be developed and achieve success.