



**INSTITUTE OF OCCIDENTAL STUDIES (IKON)
SEMINAR SERIES 2007**

Title:

Mendalami Pemahaman Kita Mengenai Indonesia

Presenter:

Budiman Sudjatmiko*

Executive Director of ResPublica Institute, Indonesia

Date, Venue and Time:

Wednesday, 11th July 2007

10:00 am

Sudut Wacana, Tingkat 3, Bangunan ATMA

ABSTRACT:

Indonesia has been undergoing a democratic transition from her authoritarian past towards a liberal democratic system. The weakness of secular/democratic organized social movements (relatively to the religious ones and business circles connected to Soeharto's cronies) due to the severe repression during 32 years of Soeharto's era is the main factor of the failure of the new system to protect the minority rights and welfare of the people. There is a necessity to consolidate democracy by exercising it effectively through the reform of electoral and party system on the one hand, and eradicating the religious fundamentalism on the other hand by promoting spirit of pluralism, tolerance, justice and solidarity. Those objectives should be the values of Indonesian governing bodies in the future.

BIODATA:

*The son of a Jakarta factory worker, Budiman Sudjatmiko, 37, is former chairman of the Left-leaning People's Democratic Party (PRD), who was arrested during a crackdown by Suharto's New Order regime in 1996 and subsequently sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment on subversion charges. He was released after Suharto stepped down in May 1998. Since then, he has gained two prestigious masters degrees, both in international relations, from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and Cambridge University. Although the PRD remains active, Sudjatmiko himself has moved on into the political mainstream, joining ex-president Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesia Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) in 2005. He is a member of the party's central board and was part of an eight-man PDI-P delegation which visited Washington recently to meet with Democrat congressmen and explain what was being done to empower the people of Papua. In perhaps a reflection of his long-held ideals, he called on the Democrats to press American resource companies such as Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Chevron and ExxonMobil to pay greater attention to the environment and the empowerment of local residents. Sudjatmiko is currently executive director of ResPublica Institute, a Jakarta-based think tank focusing on political-economy, defence and technology policies. He and National Awakening Party (PKB) deputy secretary-general Hanif Dhakiri are also associates in SGP, an Indonesian-owned management firm specializing in security. Sudjatmiko writes columns for *Kompas*, *The Jakarta Post*, *Tempo*, *Suara Pembaruan* and *Sinar Harapan* on a wide range of international issues and domestic issues.

ALL ARE INVITED

(For further details regarding the seminar, please contact 03-8921 3782/3781)