



Volume 8(1) October 2016

ISSN 2085-0980

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FOREWORD

As the implementation of MoA (Memorandum of Agreement) between FAH UIN SGD (Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University, Sunan Gunung Djati) Bandung and ASPENSI (the Association of Indonesian Scholars of History Education) in Bandung, the TAWARIKH journal can be issued and published – also in online version – for the second edition, on October 2016. The existence of FAH UIN SGD Bandung in performing the MoA with ASPENSI is based on the same scientific core as ASPENSI's of which FAH focuses more on historical and Islamic, linguistic, literary, and cultural studies.

History is one of utmost important humanities studies to get much attention from scholars as studying history contributes to the new horizons of human life system. Through historical studies, various problems encountered, consisting of political, social, cultural, and economical problems, can be solved because the existing past historical evidences can be a lesson for nowadays and the future. FAH UIN SGD Bandung attempts to keep history as an important scientific base, so that motivates people or scholars to pay more attention to the history, as stated by Soekarno, the first President of the Republic of Indonesia, that "never leave history" which is now popularly known as JASMERAH (Jangan Sekali-sekali Meninggalkan Sejarah).

Besides history, it is also of utmost importance to pay much attention to study the linguistics, literature, and culture. By studying them, the national identity can be easily adopted by all people, especially young generations. The serious problem occurring in this nation nowadays seems to be caused by the national identity crisis, which leads to cause some conflicts, such as the horizontal conflicts happening in several areas in Indonesia.

If we understand what the philosophy of culture is, the conflict should not be happening. The existing culture product is one of the creations and innovations of culture users, which is ruled by comprehension and territorial norms toward various realities. If the process is understood well, the horizontal conflict could be decreased, even anticipated.

By studying linguistics, literature, and culture, the result is deeply hoped to be part of a solution to the problems encountered by our nation and is able to struggle for keeping the code of ethics existing in linguistics, literature, and culture. To make scientific core of FAH UIN SGD Bandung coincide with ASPENSI's as aforementioned and to get much attention from scholars, TAWARIKH journal attempts to give beneficial information relating to history, linguistics, literature, and culture to all scholars for strengthening and developing the horizons of studies and attempts to provide the solutions to the problems encountered.

As indicated by the articles published in the TAWARIKH journal, issue of October 2016, which come not only from scholars of Indonesia but also from India, although not all of them study on the history of Islam. As stated also in previously edition that the study of an event at a certain place in the past obviously has had relationship with current context and trends into the future. So, the study of past events is felt relevance to the awareness of the present and the future. If there is a statement from a prominent historian that "the true history is contemporary history", then, whatever kind of studies done about the past, there must be a function and its relevance to the present, as a preparation for moving on in the future.

Scholars of Indonesia, for example, have studied on "folklore and phenomena of history"; "biography of Thomas Stamford Raffles"; "sufi tradition and Islamic civilization"; "friction in Islamic political party of Indonesia"; "philosophical and traditional arts in historical perspective"; "socialization and internalization of Qur'anic verse"; and "Muslim minority on learning and religious teaching". All of them concentrate to study not only the conventional history but also the "modern history", in the sense of outside from political study in history.

Meanwhile, scholar of India has studied pertaining a figure's thinking on spiritualism and humanity. The figure is A.B.N. (Acharya Brajendra Nath) Seal of India. According to the author, fact remains that A.B.N. Seal was a man of great mind and not only got in touch with different branches of knowledge, but also analyzed human mind as well as the universe as a whole. He wrote a good number of articles and a few books; and whatever may be the number of his works, it remains to say that he was really a typically representative Indian. At a moment whenever we are concerned very much about the intellectual anarchy, the thoughts of A.B.N. Seal may open a new dimension as to the relief we may seek for at this moment. He developed his "Jivan Darshan", stood for "Manav Samghati" (Unity of Mankind), and above all professed humanism and spirituality from his scientific insight.

Finally, I would like to many thanks to Director of Minda Masagi Press and Chairperson of ASPENSI in Bandung who willing to give opportunity the Lecturers of FAH UIN SGD Bandung to contribute the articles, as research results, to be published in the TAWARIKH journal, so that hopefully it will give benefit academically to whom for caring and sharing in historical studies generally and Islamic studies particularly.

Do enjoy to reading the articles presented in the TAWARIKH journal, may be useful.

Bandung, West Java, Indonesia: October 28, 2016.

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