

The Need of MT for Indonesia.

Iman Sudarwo

Director for the Assessment of Technology  
in Electronics & Informatics  
The Agency for the Assessment & Application of Technology  
INDONESIA

The possession of natural resources is of great of utility for the development of a Nation. However it is not the key to it. Without the capacity to acquire, possess and further develop the technology, the possession of natural resources is not a guarantee for the achievement of nationhood. Japan has shown that by possessing of an abundance of highly skilled and industrious working force capable to absorb and develop technologies, the lack of natural resources is not an obstacle to the development of the country, Therefore, to build Indonesia, we have to strengthen our capacity on technology where information is one of the key. We have to make use the scientific and technological information both for building up our capacity to absorb technologies as well as for minimizing costs by avoiding unnecessary technological efforts.

On that frame of mind, our Agency consider that machine translation technology will bring a new opportunity for Indonesia and therefore, is very keen in participating the development of MT system. I personally believe that even though the effort to develop such a machine translation system consumes a lot of time and costs, it will result a positive impact to the development of Indonesia.

The Activities in Indonesia

The research on MT system in Indonesia is still in a very preliminary stage. Our Agency is developing a prototype of English-Indonesian Computer aided translation System. We are now preparing the involvement of our researchers in the R&D Project which is promoted by Japan Government to develop multilanguage Machine Translation. We are very keen to be involved in this R&D Project because we believe that the results of the project will able to enhance the information exchange between Japan, Indonesia and other involved countries and therefore will able to improve the technology and cultural cooperation. We are also expecting that this project may show a good example of the need of a concrete R&D cooperation between technologically developed country and technologically less-developed country for the benefit of both.