

Ministry of Education and Culture Launches Eighth Emancipated Learning: The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School

Jakarta, 17th March 2021 --- The Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) launched the eighth episode of Emancipated Learning: The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School online in Jakarta on Wednesday (17/3). The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program manifests the vision of President Joko Widodo regarding improving vocational education as a strategy for developing Indonesian human resources (HR).

"The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School is a comprehensive breakthrough aimed at responding to challenges in the context of improving the current condition of Vocational High Schools so that they are more in line with the needs of the working world," explained the Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud) Nadiem Anwar Makarim when delivering his presentation.

The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School Program aims to yield graduates who are absorbed in the working world or become entrepreneurs through an in-depth and comprehensive alignment of vocational education with the working world. The school that is chosen in the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program expects to be a reference and make an impact in encouraging the improvement of the quality and performance of the surrounding Vocational High Schools.

"To achieve that vision, alignment between the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School and the working world is not only realized through the MoU but must take place in-depth and thoroughly," explained the Minister of Education and Culture.

The efforts to achieve harmony between vocational high schools and the working world can be pursued through the fulfillment of eight aspects of link and match.

First, the curriculum was designed collaboratively and aligned with empowering aspects of soft skills, hard skills, and work-based character as workplace needs. Second, learning strived based on the real projects of the workplace (project-based learning) to ensure reliable hard skills, soft skills, and character. Third, enhancement number and role of teachers/instructors from the industries also practitioners from the workplace. "Significantly increased until achieved in a minimal 50 hours/semester/skills program," explained Minister Nadiem.

Fourth, field/industry work practice for at least one semester. Fifth, for graduates and teachers/instructors, competency certification must comply with the standards and needs of the working world. Sixth, teachers/instructors must update technology through regular training. Seventh, conducting applied research that supports teaching factories based on real industrial cases or needs. Eighth, commitment to the absorption of graduates by the working world. Then, the Ministry of Education and Culture also encourages collaboration with the working world to be further enhanced, including through the possibility of scholarship collaborations and/or official ties, donations in the form of laboratory equipment, and others.

“The 2021 Centre of Excellence Vocational High School is prioritized for 895 vocational high schools with seven priority sectors including the creative economy, machinery and construction, hospitality, care services, maritime, agriculture, and foreign cooperation,” said Minister Nadiem.

“Hopefully, this is the beginning and can be the seed for the transformation of our vocational high schools throughout Indonesia. So we hope that the participating Vocational High Schools can become the trainers and mentors who can show the work and innovation of Vocational High School graduates so that they will be coveted by industry players and our best university” added the Minister of Education and Culture.

The General Director of Vocational Education (Dirjen Diksi), Kemendikbud, Wikan Sakarinto added, that this program does not only emphasize the context of excellence for the education unit itself. However, more than that, the meaning is to create superior human resources that accelerate other vocational high schools to become excellent. “The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School becomes an accelerator, a trainer Vocational High School for other vocational high schools,” said Wikan.

Through the video, the Minister of Industry (Menperin), Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita, welcomed the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program. Vocational High Schools play an important role in providing qualified national industrial human resources. For this reason, the Ministry of Industry (Kemenperin) continues to facilitate link and match strengthening of the education and industrial sectors according to the President's mandate to improve the economy through more competitive industries in the global arena. “With an increasingly strategic and comprehensive approach, we hope that the link and match between Vocational High Schools and industry can be more optimal,” said the Minister of Industry.

Similarly, Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo expressed his support for the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program. “We hope that the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School will become a bridge for the target of superior human resources towards a century of independence for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI),” he said.

Chairman of Commission X of the House of Representatives (DPR RI) Syaiful Huda hopes that the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program will be a refinement of previous vocational education revitalization programs. “Congratulations on the launch of the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program. Hopefully, this initiative and initiation will be part of our acceleration to make more vocational graduates meet their needs and become workers who fill job vacancies in Indonesia,” he said.

The Six Supports from the Ministry of Education and Culture at the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School

The Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program carries the spirit of Independent Learning that focuses on strengthening human resources and bringing the world of education closer to the professional world. This program has expected to be an initiative for vocational high schools in Indonesia to improve the quality of student learning outcomes following the standards of the business and industrial fields (DUDI) or the working world.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has prepared six forms of support, the first one is human resources strengthening. The Minister of Education and Culture re-emphasized the importance of strengthening school principals, school supervisors, and teachers through intensive training and mentoring programs. "This aims to realize work-based management and learning," he said.

Furthermore, the second is learning competencies that are ready to work and have character through learning, oriented to strengthening competencies following the needs of the working world and character development under Pancasila values. Third, reinforce the practical aspect of students by providing grant assistance to improve infrastructure that focuses on the completeness of standardized practical learning facilities for students.

"Then the fourth is data-based school management which is carried out through assistance to schools. Including planning based on data evaluation and the digital platform utilization," explained the Minister of Education and Culture.

Fifth is accompaniment by the university. The sixth is the synergy between the central government and local governments in assisting the implementation of a sustainable vocational high school.

Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), Rosan Perkasa Roeslani, stated that vocational education and training are inseparable because they are interrelated in increasing national productivity. Likewise, the employment issues in Indonesia are indivisible from the world of education, especially vocational education. He believes that improving the quality of Indonesian human resources cannot be instant but must go through a process that involves all stakeholders.

KADIN appreciates the government's effort to encourage vocational development, including awarding 200% tax incentives for companies that join the vocational program together with the government. "We from KADIN always support the steps of the Ministry of Education and Culture in the field of vocational education to improve our human resources in the future. God willing, we can produce a superior, skilled and competent workforce so it can increase industrial competitiveness and grow the economy," said Rosan.

The chairman of the Ma'arif NU LP, Z. Arifin Junaidi, stated that for his institution, the characteristics of professionals are competence, consistent and consistent attitude, commitment, competitiveness, and character. Therefore, LP Ma'arif NU also prepares graduates who are ready to enter the working world, set to open employment opportunities, and set to continue their studies to a higher level for those who want it.

"LP Ma'arif NU welcomes the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program launchings from the General Directorate of Vocational Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Hopefully, this program runs and succeeds well, according to its objectives," hopes Arifin Junaidi.

Chairman of the Muhammadiyah Educational Education Council, Baedhowi, appreciated the launch of the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program. The role of Vocational High Schools is essential to create a skilled workforce. With excellent Vocational High Schools, the graduates expected will be more ready to work, be competitive, and become reliable entrepreneurs.

"With these existing advantages, the expected vocational high school graduates, especially for the Centre for Excellence Vocational High School, will become an example for other Vocational High Schools," said Baedhowi.

Centre of Excellence Vocational High School Program Innovation: Assistance by Universities

One of the main supports towards the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program is the inter-level synergy achieved through the assistance from universities covering aspects of planning and managing the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program.

"Universities with good experience and track records are encouraged to help accelerate access for vocational high schools to partner with the working world, also strengthen program planning and management. This program also helps maintain the continuity of higher education and vocational high schools in developing expertise and competency skills and networks," explained the Minister of Education and Culture.

Director of the Electronic Engineering Polytechnic Institute of Surabaya (PENS) and the Chairman of the Indonesian Director Forum of State Polytechnics (FDPNI), Zainal Arif, stated that the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program is very beneficial for improving and strengthening vocational education for both higher and secondary education, especially in SMK. For higher vocational education, this program is very worthwhile for implementing the Tridharma of Higher Education for the academic community as community service in developing Vocational High Schools as Centres of Excellence.

Collaboration with higher education will provide its own experience for Vocational High Schools in expanding their network with the business world of the industrial world (DUDI) as their learning partners. "Polytechnics are ready to support the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School, greetings for innovation, greetings for vocational training," he said.

At least there are more than one hundred candidate universities for the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School, including Politeknik Negeri Bandung (Polban), Electronic Engineering Polytechnic Institute of Surabaya (PENS), Yogyakarta State University (UNY), Bogor Agricultural Institute (IPB), Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Malang State University (UM), Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Telkom University, Sebelas Maret University (UNS), Padang State University (UNP), ATMI Solo Polytechnic, Batam State Polytechnic, and many other universities.

To make the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program a success, the Ministry of Education and Culture invites local governments to participate in monitoring and evaluating its

implementation. "Intense collaboration and coordination between the central and local governments are essential to support the sustainable implementation of the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School," said the Minister of Education and Culture.

Meanwhile, to the education unit, the Minister of Education and Culture invited Vocational High Schools to join the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program that has officially launched today. "Be a part of this Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program by registering at smk.kemdikbud.go.id/smkpk," he invited.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mendagri), Muhammad Tito Karnavian, invites all parties and the local governments to support the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School program. "Direct according to the potential that exists in each area. If the potency is in the animal husbandry or fisheries field, create a vocational high school in that field so that as soon as the student comes out, they are immediately absorbed in the job field," said the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Minister of Home Affairs also requested all regional governments to provide budgets for education in their respective regional budgets to support Emancipated Learning Episode 8. "If you need support from the central, please submit the request to the level central. We will discuss it later," he said.

Expert Staff to the Minister for Government Affairs at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Suhajar Diantoro, added that the Ministry of Home Affairs' real support is strengthening the regulations through Permendagri Number 64 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for the Preparation of the 2021 APBD. "So this becomes a guideline that 20 percent of the APBD will use for the education sector. We fully support the Centre of Excellence Vocational High School," he said.

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Sources : SIARAN PERS Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Nomor : 80/sipres/A6/III/2021