

## **EXECUTIVE MATERIAL SUMMARY**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) OF PURNOMO YUSGIANTORO CENTER (PYC)**

**MAY 20, 2017**

#### **“WOMEN IN ENERGY”**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Focus Group Discussion of PYC’s topic about “Women in Energy” is a part of the endeavor to understand the dynamics between women and energy. As mentioned by Mrs. Filda Yusgiantoro in her welcoming remarks, PYC facilitates the encounter between stakeholders of energy to nurture new ideas. The FGD was held on National Awakening Day, the moment which was also still in midst of Kartini Day spirit celebrated some weeks before. Hence, the discussion was indeed timely to figure out the evolution of women’s role in energy and how it develops into the future.

The discussion features several parts, namely women’s role in energy sector (past, present and future), chances and challenges either locally or globally faced by women in energy, and country’s interest combined with personal aspiration. The discussion managed to touch those aspects from three different perspectives from the panelists. As the FGD progressed with the opening speech from Mr. Luky Yusgiantoro who also suggested the discussion to be less tense, the vibe went on more relaxed as participants and speakers all loosened up throughout the rest of the event.

#### **The Panel**

The first speaker, Dr. -Ing Evita Herawati Legowo, the Former Director General of Oil & GAs of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and a Lecturer at Swiss German University started her presentation with her personal experiences as a professional in oil and gas bureaucracy. Her story inspired the audience, that even in the past when men were dominating majority of the industry, she could achieve the top position as the Director of Research and Development Center “Lemigas” for Oil and Gas Technology and the Director General of Oil and Gas at the Department of Energy and Mineral Resources.

According to the official data, the number of female employee in oil and gas industry in 2011 is around 12 percent. However, Mrs. Evita assured that in the future, women will have a bigger role in energy sector. Despite the perspective that oil and gas industry is a male-dominated area, she highlighted that there are still a lot of opportunities for women in energy sector, quite notably with regards to the recent development in renewable energy and technology which are noted for its more women-friendly environment.

The second speaker, Dr. Maria Soetopo, Co-Chair at Universitas Pelita Harapan – Institute for Economic Analysis of Law and Policy (UPH-IEALP), gave an optimistic perspective as well. She broadened the opportunity scope for women in energy not only in the domestic oil and gas industry, but also in multinational energy corporations. She challenged as well as encouraged women to involve as agents of change in the energy sector. Mrs. Maria also highlighted that women should be the core agent to improve energy accessibility in Indonesia. While the energy consumption will rise 30 percent by 2020 in conjunction with Indonesia’s development, still it has potential to create massive inequalities. Nowadays, a large number of villages and poor societies lack the access to energy, leaving them behind as the country

trails forward would never be an option. Thus, the role of women is highly sought in the spirit of eradicating energy poverty across the nation.

Similar to Mrs. Maria's point of view, the third speaker, Mrs. Emilia Emil (CEO of several oil/gas such as EASCO East Sepanjang and investment companies) also underlined the importance of women empowerment in energy sector. She presented an interesting organization, *Solar Sister*, which engages in the use of woman-to-woman direct sales to get solar lighting and efficient cook stoves to remote communities. Mrs. Emilia Emil also shared her experience as a woman energy leader who does not have a specific background in oil and gas education. Nonetheless, she also reflected on the experience growing up in the family of oil and gas business, which enriched her "hands-on" experiences in the field. She highlighted that regardless of such common perception about women in male-dominated oil and gas industry, woman's nature also gives some leverages. She gave away several tips and tricks to participants on how to survive and thrive in energy sector as a woman, some of them are willingness to ask and learn from people as well as the necessity to have a mentor in the career development. The discussion was also enriched by the audience's input from Mr. Paul Soetopo, a former Indonesian Central Bank Director, who gave several thoughts about his optimistic future view on women gaining more roles in the energy sector.

While there was a wide range of questions addressed to all speakers, it all boiled down to the fact that women's role in energy has a combination of challenges and opportunities. While there are many external factors from working environment faced by the women in energy, the need to balance them out with aspects such as parental and household roles is also necessary.

### **Focus Group Discussions**

Afterwards, the smaller discussions took on three main topics. Each topic was discussed by one group consisted of around 8-12 people. The first group was assigned to give their analytical solutions about the challenges and the future contribution of women who work in energy. This group argued that technology could be the solution since it facilitates women to cope with physical ability especially in the fieldwork. As outlined in their presentation, the group gave an interesting example that in the future, women in oil exploration could work remotely from the office due to the data communication facility. However, they suggested that in the early years of a woman's career, they should work in the field to give them firsthand perspective on the workloads and responsibilities within the sector.

The second group was given a topic about women empowerment in rural area, especially in the energy domain. The group explained that empirically, women in rural area are the main actors in the family. Therefore, it is important to give them awareness about energy, such as energy saving or renewable energy potential in their area.

The third group had a chance to discuss about the role of young women generation in energy sector. In their presentation, they came up with several interesting ideas. They presented that today's young generation who are digitally-native and highly active in social media are pretty much caught in the recent pop-culture. They use social media for many topics around music, travelling, and culinary stuff. However, this group examined that there are plus values that young people can actually gain from social media. They argued that social media is also a perfect tool to spread many ideas about the importance of energy. They also suggested the establishment of a digital-forum that connects young people with mentors and experts in energy.