

Remarks by Thomas Vargas, UNHCR Representative in Indonesia

Award Presentation to Mr. Drs. Carlo B. Tewu, Deputy V for National Security and Head of Desk for Handling Refugees and People Smuggling ; and Mr. Chairul Anwar, Assistant Deputy 3/ V and Deputy Head of Desk for Handling Refugees and People Smuggling of the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

On the occasion of the Indonesian and Refugee Youth Entrepreneurship Training:  
Meet the Local Entrepreneurs  
Jakarta, 19 October 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you here today to the Indonesian and Refugee Youth Entrepreneurship Training.

I would like to first thank our hosts for this important event Dompot Dhuafa represented by Bapak Sabeth Abilawa, and Atma Jaya University represented by Bapak Whidi Nugroho. We very much appreciate your partnership.

My colleague Ms. Michico Miyamoto, ILO Director for Indonesia has just mentioned the significance of our collaboration under this project. Of course UNHCR and ILO through our respective mandates are here to help support the Government as it looks after everyone in Indonesia. That is why I am so pleased to welcome here today Bapak Achsanul Habib Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bapak Agung Hendri, Section Head at the Directorate for Maritime Law Enforcement.

I am particularly honored to be with you here today to recognize the help and protection to refugees provided by Mr. Drs. Carlo B. Tewu and Mr. Chairul Anwar through their important roles as the Head and Deputy Head of the Desk for Handling Refugees and People Smuggling in the Coordinating Ministry of Political, Legal and Security Affairs. I would be here all day if I were to list all the reasons they deserve this recognition. So in the interest of time, I would like to share with you three key reasons.

First, under their excellent leadership, the Desk for Handling Refugees and People Smuggling very effectively brings together the various relevant ministries to address refugee issues. Excellent examples of how they have done this are recent coordination meetings and focus group discussions they have chaired in locations throughout Indonesia such as Makassar, Surabaya, Aceh and Kalideres in Jakarta. They skillfully led the discussion in these meetings during which representatives from various ministries considered a range of issues and concerns and reached a consensus on how best to find solutions. Thanks to their high competence, Bapak Carlo and Bapak Chairul always craft clear and concise recommendations

at the conclusion of these meetings that facilitate the necessary follow up to ensure refugees are helped and also –just as important- that the concerns of host communities and the Government are properly addressed.

Second, Bapak Carlos and Bapak Chairul at the Desk have made a significant contribution to ensuring the full implementation of Presidential Regulation 125/2016 for Handling Refugees. One vivid example I would cite centers on the transferring of refugees out of immigration detention centers (IDCs). By bringing together the relevant government agencies, as well as IOM and UNHCR, who are invited to Desk meetings, Bapak Carlo and Bapak Chairul have significantly helped to reduce the number of refugees detained in IDCs by transferring them to community shelters established by IOM or other arrangements through the help of multiple partners.

Third, I would like to commend the work of Bapak Carlo and Bapak Chairul to promote solutions for refugees. UNHCR is working closely with them to promote solutions such as resettlement to third countries. However, given the changing policies of governments, we are also promoting novel ways to better prepare refugees for the future by improving their skills and knowledge. That is why we are pleased to present Bapak Carlo and Bapak Chairul this award today in the presence of all of you --local entrepreneurs and refugees --who are participating together in the entrepreneurship pilot project to promote economic development in neighborhoods that are hosting refugees. Under this project, which we are co-organizing with our sister agency, the International Labor Organization under my colleague Ms. Michico Miyamoto's leadership and great team, we hope local economies will be stimulated and also will provide refugees the opportunity to give back to their host communities by sharing their talents and special abilities. Bapak Carlo and Bapak Chairul are very open to explore such innovative approaches to ensure that refugees can be better prepared for the future in a way that also helps host communities.

So, ladies and gentlemen, for these and many other reasons, and with great appreciation from UNHCR, I am honored to be able to present these awards of recognition to Bapak Carlo Tewu and Bapak Chairul Anwar.

Thank You