Plenary 2: Promoting a Culture of Peace

Preventing Religious Radicalism in Indonesia

Indonesia, a majority Muslim country in the world, declared its independence in 1945. Some Indonesian Muslim leaders wanted Indonesia to become an Islamic state. In 1947 S.M. Kartosuwirto, a Muslim leader declared the Islamic State of Indonesia (NII) that was quelled by President Sukarno in 1962, but resistance from radical Islamic movement is not reduced. Resistance continues to occur despite the banning of the NII, either through formal resistance (by forming political parties), or through violent means (including creating alliance with Jemaah Islamiyah /JI). After Osama bin Laden was killed, support for the JI stopped, but radicalization continues through internet networking, driven among other things, by ISIS, and began to penetrate schools and universities. University of Indonesia since 2009 until now has implemented a de-radicalization program for former terrorists, but with the development of cyber radicalization, other measures are needed to counter radicalism. This paper describes how de-radicalization efforts undertaken as a research project at the UI correlates with de-radicalization project and counter radicalism program undertaken by the government agency, the National Agency for Counter-Terrorism/BNPT), which aims at reducing conflict, enhancing cooperation and promotion of a culture of peace in Indonesia.