



## **FORUM TAMAN BACAAN MASYARAKAT (Forum of Community Library of Indonesia)**

Gd. E Komplek Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Cipete  
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Dear Ms. Audrey Azoulay,

*Salam Literasi - Long Live Literacy!*

We, Forum Taman Bacaan Masyarakat (Forum of Community Library of Indonesia), fully welcome and completely support Jakarta City's effort to become the UNESCO World Book Capital City 2022. It is also an honor for us to be one of the strategic partners involved in the success of Jakarta's efforts to become the UNESCO WBCC 2022 and also involved in a literacy activities in Jakarta.

Forum Taman Bacaan Masyarakat (Forum TBM) is a non-profit organization which works together with volunteers of community library (TBM) and literacy activists. Here we continue to strive to be a part--and also give meaning--in the long journey of literacy movement in Indonesia. TBM(s) and Forum TBM are run by people who have the passion and belief that literacy is a way to empower people and have a better quality of life.

When Indonesia gained its independence, the number of literate Indonesians was only 5% of the people. Now, the number of illiterate Indonesians is merely 5%. This achievement does not mean that the struggle of the Indonesian people in the literacy movement has reached the finish line or made easier. In fact, the challenges they are about to face would be more severe: how to make sure that 95% of the Indonesian people will not be back to being illiterate and continue to be literate within the true meaning and definitions, which means that they have the skills and potential to become lifelong learners. In this context, TBM continues to improve, develop, and transform. TBM's activities are not confined to lending books to the people, but also to a broader and more functional aspect of literacy. This includes non-formal education such pre-school/kindergarten (PAUD), equivalency programs for out of school children (Paket ABC), skill courses and many empowerment based which have an impact to improve the livelihood quality of society in their own environment.



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To make the literacy movement a priority and a strategic activity in institutions (ministries) and regional governments, we need the political will from the leader itself. Forum TBM records this track record clearly. When Mr. Anies Baswedan served as the Minister of Education and Culture, he launched the Gerakan Indonesia Membaca (Indonesian Reading Movement) and the 15-Minute Reading Program every day before the teaching and learning activities at school starts. The commemoration of International Literacy Day, which is set by UNESCO every September 8, is also enriched with the activities of the Festival Literasi Indonesia (Indonesian Literacy Festival). This has become a milestone for the literacy movement in Indonesia. The Indonesian Reading Movement then built the Gerakan Literasi Nasional (National Literacy Movement). Now, literacy is an exotic word that becomes the concern of most local institutions and governments in Indonesia. Salam Literasi, the symbol of two fingers, with the thumb and index finger forming the letter "L", are compulsory greetings for literacy and book activists in Indonesia.

Now, in Mr. Anies Baswedan's leadership as Governor of DKI Jakarta, literacy became one of the governor's strategic policy. This was also strengthened by the existence of regional regulations. The collaboration between Forum TBM and related elements of literacy in Jakarta provincial board has increased. The launch of TBM's regulation by Jakarta government are strengthen the presence of TBM(s) in the midst of society. BacaJakarta: The Jakarta Reading Challenge program is attended by thousands of participants and involves hundreds of volunteers and activists of literacy, and many other breakthroughs.

Furthermore, Jakarta has also long been a witnesses to the journey and development of the literacy movement as well as a "home" for book ecosystem, communities and literacy activists. Balai Pustaka, a century old publisher and other number of publishers started their business in Jakarta and growth here. Also bookstores and many related industries. Late 1960's, Jakarta's government provided a village at the heart of the city for art and cultural activities named Taman Ismail Marzuki. The village also a place for center of literary documentation of Jakarta city, named PDS HB Jassin.

Making Jakarta the UNESCO WBCC 2022 is a huge milestone and a strong foundation for the literacy movement, not only for Jakarta, but also for Indonesia. The choice to become a UNESCO WBCC in 2022 is also a very strategic and appropriate consideration because Jakarta will elect a



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leader for the next period in that very year. Making Jakarta as the UNESCO WBCC 2022 will be a strong foundation and legacy for Jakarta's next leaders in the next period, specifically in formulating directions and policies for the citizens of Jakarta. Making Jakarta the UNESCO WBCC 2022 will also be an example for other regions in Indonesia to also pay greater attention to the literacy and book movements in their respective regions.

Based on this, the TBM Forum is confident to provide full support for Jakarta's nomination as UNESCO WBCC 2022. We also hope that you have the same trust and belief as us, that Jakarta is worth the chance and needs to be UNESCO WBCC 2022.

Thank you and once more, *Salam Literasi!*



Dr. Firman Hadiansyah  
Chairperson of Forum Taman Bacaan Masyarakat of Indonesia