



Kemendikdasmen

Kompleks Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah,
Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, Senayan, Jakarta 10270

Posel: pengaduan@kemendikdasmen.go.id

Laman: www.kemendikdasmen.go.id

Pusat Panggilan: 177 **Whatsapp:** 081218040427

PRESS RELEASE

Number: 557/sipers/A6/VI/2026

Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education Transfers Management of Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO to Ministry of Culture to Strengthen National Synergy

JAKARTA, July 6, 2026 – The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE) has officially transferred the management of the Secretariat of the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO (*Komisi Nasional Indonesia untuk UNESCO/KNIU*) to the Ministry of Culture. The handover was finalized through the signing of an official record (*Berita Acara Serah Terima/BAST*) in Jakarta on Monday (6/7). This transition is part of an institutional shift designed to streamline KNIU's governance while ensuring the continuity of its duties and functions under the coordination of the Ministry of Culture.

Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Cultural Affairs, Pratikno, praised the work of the KNIU, which has served as Indonesia's bridge to UNESCO for over seven decades. "We anticipate even greater contributions and achievements in the future," said Pratikno.

He emphasized the importance of strengthening cross-ministerial and inter-agency coordination to produce concrete results both domestically and internationally. Furthermore, he highlighted the need for synergy in budget support, the strengthening of human resources as focal points within each ministry or agency, and broader outreach to local governments, as many UNESCO programs and heritage sites are spread across various regions in Indonesia.

"We hope it becomes a national movement driven by synergy, characterized by sound management, strong coordination, qualified human resources, and the commitment of all stakeholders," he added.

Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Abdul Mu'ti, noted that Indonesia's relationship with UNESCO has been a vital part of the nation's journey in advancing education, science, culture, communication, and information. For over 70 years, the KNIU has served as a strategic bridge strengthening cooperation between Indonesia and UNESCO.

Through the KNIU, Indonesia has shared its ideas, experiences, and best practices with the global community, while leveraging global perspectives to strengthen national development.

Minister Mu'ti highlighted several key milestones achieved through collaboration with UNESCO. In education, Indonesia received the Avicenna Gold Medal in 1993 for its success in expanding educational access, and in 2023, the Indonesian language was officially adopted as a language of the UNESCO General Conference.



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In the field of culture, Indonesia boasts six World Heritage sites, 16 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage items, and seven cities recognized as part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. In science, Indonesia holds four UNESCO World Heritage natural sites, 12 UNESCO Global Geoparks, and 21 UNESCO biosphere reserves. In communication and information, Indonesia has inscribed 16 items in the Memory of the World program, including the archives of R.A. Kartini's letters.

Additionally, Indonesia has been elected to the UNESCO Executive Board nine times. In June 2026, Indonesia was appointed to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2026–2030 period—a testament to the nation's active contribution to advancing UNESCO's values globally.

Minister Mu'ti added that the institutional systems and international networks built while the KNIU was under the coordination of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and its predecessors provide a solid foundation for its future role.

"We believe this transfer is not merely a shift in responsibility, but a relay of service," said the Minister. "Only administrative governance is changing; the spirit and commitment to advancing world peace through education, science, culture, communication, and information remain firmly intact."

Minister Mu'ti reaffirmed that the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education would continue to provide support, particularly for UNESCO programs related to education. He expressed optimism that the existing synergy would continue to grow stronger.

"On behalf of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, we hand over the management of the KNIU, along with all its archives, documents, and administrative records, to the Ministry of Culture. We are confident that under the leadership of the Minister of Culture, the KNIU will become stronger, more adaptive, and better equipped to bolster Indonesia's diplomacy on the international stage," he concluded.

Bureau of Communication and Public Relations
Secretariat General
Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education

Website: kemendikdasmen.go.id

X: x.com/Kemdikdasmen



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#KemendikdasmenRamah

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