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ISSS – INDONESIA'S FIRST SPACE SCIENCE SOCIETY

Abstract

Indonesia Space Science Society or ISSS is the very first kind of community in Indonesia that was established to explore space from different perspectives. Its main mission is to increase public's interest in the cosmic world that is anticipated to provide millions of possibilities for innovation and invention for the future. ISSS utilizes art as a crucial tool to help communicate with the public who can contemplate the space issue that affects our daily lives. In this article I discuss the role that ISSS plays in the Indonesian society whose interests and efforts in space science are far behind other countries. In order to illustrate the compelling reason for the subject, I begin explaining the urgency for space exploration in Indonesian context. Then I go on introducing SETI – Search For Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, an international conference organized by ISSS every year as a platform where various individuals across disciplines meet and share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the space. I also discuss the Indonesian government space science agency called LAPAN and its recent plan in building a new astronomical observatory that will be located far east of the archipelago. Essentially, this article hopes to reveal the fundamental truth that space exploration not just helps balance our society from any ideologies in a confrontational scheme, but it also fosters our humanity because if we look at us from the hundred light years of the universe, we are but a trivial being.

Keywords: ISSS, space science, space art, extraterrestrial intelligence, SETI