

PBNU Chairman Invites Indian Ambassador to Strengthen Peace within the Indo-Pacific Region

Kendi Setiawan | Friday, April 1, 2022



Chairman of the NU Central Board, KH. Yahya Cholil Staqf (right), meeting with Indian Ambassador Manoj Kumar Bharti. (Photo: NU Online/Suwitno)

Jakarta, NU Online — KH. Yahya Cholil Staqf, General Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board (PBNU), received a visit from India’s Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, the Honorable Manoj Kumar Bharti, on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Nahdlatul Ulama headquarters building on Jalan Kramat Raya in Central Jakarta.

At the meeting, the two figures discussed various challenges faced by India and Indonesia, as well as other nations in the Indo-Pacific region. They also discussed initiatives that Nahdlatul Ulama and religious communities in India can jointly undertake.

General Chairman KH. Yahya Cholil Staqf (“Gus Yahya”) emphasized that India has the second largest Muslim community in the world. Therefore, he hopes that close cooperation may be established between the two countries.

“With closer cooperation between NU and religious communities in India, we can make a significant contribution to resolving problems throughout the region — not only between

nation states, but also problems that arise between different elements within their respective societies.” said Gus Yahya.

He added that cooperation between Nahdlatul Ulama and India’s religious communities would be beneficial not only for Indonesia and India, but could also be expanded to neighboring countries — such as Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and others — via deliberate strategies capable of engaging and inspiring the deeply religious inhabitants of these nations.

For this reason, cooperation between NU and India’s religious communities has the potential to become a major endeavor, which must necessarily begin with an agreement between the respective parties to jointly advance a shared agenda.

Indian Ambassador Manoj Kumar Bharti said the meeting was both an honor and a pleasure from his side. According to the ambassador, Gus Yahya is a figure who educated [me], by sharing his knowledge and experience. Gus Yahya's vision is to promote peace and cooperation not only within Indonesia, but also throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

“This is a very wise approach — employing a unique strategy to unite all of us on the basis of the culture and traditions associated with any given religion. I understand that this strategy is called the ‘Ashoka Approach’,” he said.

Ambassador Manoj regards what Gus Yahya and PBNU have accomplished as extraordinary. He expressed his congratulations to Nahdlatul Ulama and Gus Yahya, who in his view conveyed ideas that have enormous potential. The meeting included a deep discussion of various philosophical and intellectual trends.

India, the Ambassador continued, will cooperate in realizing the concept and vision outlined by Gus Yahya and PBNU. He emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between India and Indonesia, and said that he is willing to attend or speak at NU meetings.

The Ambassador identified a number of additional areas for possible collaboration. These include professional training, by bringing experts from India to Indonesia, as well as online training and job training in India itself for Indonesian citizens.

“We also discussed other activities such as holding exhibitions in Indonesia that feature Islamic monuments and architecture from India. I am very grateful to accept an invitation to break the fast with Gus Yahya and NU during the forthcoming month of Ramadan,” said Ambassador Manoj.

Journalist: Kendi Setiawan

Editor: Alhafiz Kurniawan

Ketum PBNU Ajak Dubes India Kuatkan Perdamaian Kawasan Indo Pasifik

Kendi Setiawan | Jumat, 1 April 2022



Ketum PBNU KH Yahya Cholil Staquf (kanan) berdiskusi dengan Dubes India Manoj Kumar Bharti, Jumat (1/4/2022).

Jakarta, *NU Online*

Ketua Umum Pengurus Besar Nahdlatul Ulama (PBNU) KH Yahya Cholil Staquf menerima kunjungan Duta Besar India Manoj Kumar Bharti, Jumat (1/4/2022) di Gedung PBNU Kramat Raya Jakarta Pusat.

Pada pertemuan tersebut, kedua tokoh mendiskusikan berbagai macam tantangan yang dihadapi kedua bangsa bahkan bangsa-bangsa yang ada di kawasan Indo Pasifik. Kedua tokoh juga memikirkan berbagai hal yang bisa dilakukan bersama oleh NU dan komunitas keagamaan di India.

Ketua Umum KH Yahya Cholil Staquf (Gus Yahya) menegaskan India mempunyai komunitas Muslim terbesar kedua di dunia. Karenanya ia berharap dapat terjalin kerja sama yang erat dimulai oleh kedua negara.

“Dengan kerja sama yang lebih erat yang dibangun antara NU dengan komunitas keagamaan di India, kita bisa menyumbang secara signifikan untuk mengatasi berbagai masalah yang terjadi di kawasan ini. Bukan hanya masalah antara bangsa, tapi juga masalah yang muncul di dalam masyarakatnya,” kata Gus Yahya.

Ia menambahkan kerja sama kedua belah pihak nantinya bermanfaat bukan hanya untuk Indonesia dan India, namun dapat diperluas ikhtiar atau strategi untuk bisa menjangkau masyarakat di negara sekitar seperti Malaysia, Thailand, Kamboja, dan negara lainnya.

Karena itu, kerja sama tersebut akan menjadi agenda besar dimulai dengan kesepakatan kedua pihak untuk berusaha melakukan ikhtiar memajukan agenda ini.

Duta Besar India Manoj Kumar Bharti mengatakan pertemuan tersebut sebagai sebuah kehormatan dan kebahagiaan bagi pihaknya. Menurutnya Gus Yahya adalah sosok yang telah memberikan pendidikan dan pengalaman. Ide Gus Yahya untuk mempromosikan perdamaian dan kerja sama tidak hanya di tingkat Nusantara, tetapi juga di daerah atau wilayah Asia Pasifik.

“Ini adalah pendekatan yang sangat bijaksana untuk memberitahu orang-orang tentang satu trik yang menyatukan kita semua dengan dimulai dari budaya dan tradisi dengan agama apa pun. Ide yang saya pahami ini diberi nama pendekatan Ashoka,” ujarnya.

Dubes Manoj menilai hal yang dilakukan Gus Yahya dan PBNU sebagai sesuatu yang luar biasa. Dirinya menyampaikan ucapan selamat kepada Gus Yahya dan NU yang dinilainya telah memberikan begitu banyak potensi. Pada pertemuan itu kata dia begitu banyak pembicaraan mendalam tentang tren filsafat dan pemikiran.

India, lanjut dia, akan berjalan bersama seperti pemikiran dan gagasan Gus Yahya dan PBNU. Ia menegaskan untuk menguatkan kerja sama antara India dan Indonesia. Ia mengatakan bersedia turut hadir atau berbicara di pertemuan-pertemuan NU.

Dubes mengatakan ada sejumlah kerja sama yang dapat dilakukan seperti pelatihan profesi dengan mendatangkan ahli dari India maupun pelatihan online dan pelatihan kerja di India bagi warga Indonesia.

“Jadi kami juga berdiskusi tentang kegiatan lain seperti kebiasaan pameran monumen dan arsitektur Islam di India ke Indonesia. Saya sangat bersyukur di sini menerima undangan kami untuk berbuka puasa,” kata Dubes Manoj.

Pewartu: Kendi Setiawan
Editor: Alhafiz Kurniawan

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