

## The Fight Against Covid-19 Pandemic – Indonesian Perspective

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The first two confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in Indonesia were announced by the President on March 2, 2020. At the beginning, LITBANGKES (National Institute of Health Research and Development -NIHRD) was the only laboratory authorized to perform PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection. When the number of cases increased significantly and rapidly, more laboratories are authorized to do the PCR test. Not only the laboratory but also the Government expanded the capacity of treatment by increasing the number of hospitals and beds, including isolation rooms and intensive care units, as well as providing various kind of antivirus agents. Research and development activities were also accelerated to domestically produce respirators, diagnostic tools and reagents, AI-based hospital equipment, etc., including the Covid-19 vaccine. Currently, six institutions are involved in developing the Merah Putih (Red & White – the colors of Indonesia's National Flag) vaccines, using different platforms. Geographic, demographic, and socio-cultural situations are additional challenges in this fight.



Professor **Amin Soebandrio** graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Indonesia, obtained Clinical Microbiology Specialization from the same institution, and was awarded a PhD in Immunogenetics by the Osaka University/Kobe University Japan. His research focuses on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance. He served as Chairman of the Expert Panel of the Indonesian National Committee for Zoonotic Diseases from 2009 until 2017. From 2000 until 2013, he served as Senior Advisor and Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Research and Technology, Advisory Board Chairman of the i3L (Indonesia International Institute for Life-sciences), Steering Committee Chairman of the Asian Partnership for Emerging Infectious-diseases Research (APEIR), Board Chairman of CORDS (Coordinating Organization for Regional Diseases Surveillance), Member of the Expert Panel of Indonesian GHSA Committee, Member of National Committee for Bioethics, and Member of Expert Committee of Covid-19 Special Task Force. He has been the Chairman of the Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology since 2014.