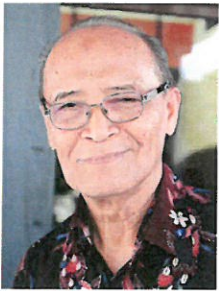


## USA and Europe, April-May 2017



**Ambassador Jakob Tobing** is the President of the Leimena Institute in Indonesia. Considered as Indonesia's second founding father, he chaired the 1999 National Committee for the first democratic election after 32 years. Then he laid the foundations for democracy by leading the rewriting of Constitution in the Parliament in 1999-2002, which transformed the world's largest Muslim majority country with 260 million people into the world's third largest democracy. Afterwards, during his tenure as the Ambassador to South Korea in 2004-2008, he orchestrated a summit in Indonesia between North Korea's nominal head of state and President of the Supreme People's Assembly, Kim Yong-nam, and South Korea's Prime Minister Lee Hac-chan. For his remarkable service, he was awarded the Ganhwa medal, the the Republic of Korea's highest diplomatic award. He received his MPA from JFK School of Government, Harvard University.



**Dr. Ahmad Syafii Maarif** is one of the world's most influential Muslim scholars (Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre, Jordan, 2016) and former Chairman of Muhammadiyah, the world's second largest Muslim organization with more than 20 million people. An Islamic state supporter in his youth, he later rejected the fundamentalist views after his in-depth study of Islam. He is now a leading reform voice in Islam. He said that "Only in a climate of freedom can we become full human beings. The core of Islamic faith system teaches that freedom cannot be deprived for any reason, in any place, by anyone." His turning point was captured in a play, "Fundamentalist Repented". In 2008, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago.



**Dr. Alwi Shihab** is the Indonesian President's Special Envoy to the Middle East and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. He was formerly the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare and the Foreign Minister of Indonesia. A leading scholar on interfaith relations, especially between Muslims and Christians, he is the author of the best selling book, "Inclusive Islam: Toward an open attitude in religion". He also serves in the Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary in Connecticut and in the Advisor Council of Fetzer Institute that promotes love, forgiveness, and compassion. He was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's World Religions Center and completed two doctoral degrees in Ain Shams University in Cairo and Temple University in Philadelphia.



**Dr. Amin Abdullah** is Professor of Islamic Philosophy and the first Rector of the State Islamic University in Yogyakarta. He is the Chairman of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences's Cultural Commission. His work on religion and science integration and interconnection has greatly influenced the Islamic higher education in Indonesia. A prominent scholar on Qur'anic hermeneutics, he develops a new hermeneutical approach to the Qur'an and advocates a new path in Islamic epistemology that is open to dialogue and integration with many different sources of knowledge. His PhD in Islamic Philosophy is from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey, with post-doctoral study at McGill University, Canada.



**Dr. Azyumardi Azra, CBE** is is one of Southeast Asia's most prominent Muslim intellectuals. He is Professor of History and former Rector of the State Islamic University in Jakarta. A former Deputy of Indonesia's Vice President, he was a Visiting Professor at New York University, Oxford University, University of Melbourne, and many others. He has authored or contributed to more than 30 books in Indonesian, English, and Arabic. For his outstanding services to interfaith understanding, he was awarded the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, and the Fukuoka Prize in Japan. He completed three master degrees and a doctoral degree in Columbia University.