

Media Update

## Freeport Campaigns Connecting U: Educating on the Important Role of Copper in Life

**Manado, February 25, 2025** -- More than 1,000 students from Sam Ratulangi University Manado (UNSRAT) enthusiastically participated in the *Connecting U* Campaign: Leader's Talk by PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) with PTFI President Director Tony Wenas at the UNSRAT Auditorium on Monday (2/24). *Connecting U*, or abbreviated as Cu, is the symbol of the chemical element copper, where this campaign is designed to educate young generations about the important role of copper for life and the future.

"Copper is the main product of PT Freeport Indonesia. Through this campaign, we want to introduce young generations to the important role of copper that is always present in everything in our daily lives. And how copper has connected the young generation with dreams and the future. That's why we call it *Copper is Empowering, Copper Connecting U*," said Tony.

He said copper plays an important role as a connector in human life. From waking up, daily activities until bedtime, humans cannot be separated from the role of copper. "The most well-known benefit of copper is as the main material for electrical cables, electronic devices, motor vehicles, and so on," said Tony.

Tony said copper is a mineral of the future because it plays an important role along with the increasing demand for electric vehicles and renewable energy. As much as 75 percent of copper in the world is used for electrical networks that facilitate activities. Even in the context of the country, copper can contribute greatly in the form of foreign exchange; copper also makes Indonesia one of the largest producer countries in the world.

"This is truly an extraordinary pride as our provision towards Golden Indonesia," he said.

PTFI, Tony continued, currently operates the largest underground mine in the world and the largest single-line smelter in the world. This makes PTFI the largest copper cathode producer in the world and the largest integrated upstream-downstream mining operation in the world.

The Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at UNSRAT, Prof. Ir. Arthur Gehart Pinaria, M.P., Ph.D, in his welcome speech said that the collaboration between UNSRAT and PTFI is expected to improve the quality and development of relevant research in accordance with industrial developments to realize Golden Indonesia 2045. In response, Tony conveyed PTFI's commitment to provide 20 scholarships for outstanding UNSRAT students.

In the event held at the UNSRAT Auditorium, students had been arriving since morning to participate in various activities such as the *Wall of Inspirations* where they could write their inspirations about copper and the future, enjoying Amungme Papua coffee and the story about its uniqueness, PTFI information and education booths where students got education about PTFI's production process from upstream to downstream, and providing direct experience to see the form of mining products until they become cathodes and derivative products.

More than 1,000 participants came from 11 faculties including students from Papua who are studying at UNSRAT. The question and answer session was the most anticipated session by students. They competed to ask various things about PTFI such as environmental management, programs, internships, skills that must be mastered to work at PTFI, social investments in health and education, to questions about leadership and tips for success as CEO of PTFI while maintaining a music career that continues to this day.

All questions were answered clearly and thoroughly by Tony Wenas. He also agreed when students asked him to sing. Two songs by Queen were chosen. In succession, "We Are the Champion" and "Love of My Life" were performed while playing the piano. Professors and students seemed absorbed in the music, applause thundered when Tony finished the second song.

One of the participants from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences UNSRAT, Gabriela Liao, admitted to being very enthusiastic about the activity. "There are many things I can get today. How I get to know the mining world, the development of Indonesia's economy going forward," said Gabriela.

### **Community and Environmental Development**

In this *Connecting U Leader's Talk*, in addition to sharing knowledge and experience regarding leadership, Tony also explained about sustainable mining practices run by the company.

"I always believe that no company can survive in the midst of a failed society and environment. Companies must grow with the community and protect the surrounding environment," said Tony.

Tony explained PTFI's contribution to the country in the form of taxes, royalties, dividends, and others from 1992-2023 amounting to approximately 29.3 billion US dollars with Social Investment reaching 122 million US dollars in 2023. Social investment for community development includes education, health, economic, infrastructure, cultural, and sports programs.

"The sustainable mining practices that PTFI runs go hand in hand with the implementation of community development programs around the company's operational areas, which come from the Amungme Tribe, Kamoro Tribe, and five related tribes, to other Papuan communities," said Tony.

PTFI is also committed to reducing the environmental impact of each operational activity, including reclamation programs, utilization of tailings or mining waste sand, to carbon emission reduction programs targeted to reach more than 30 percent by 2030.

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
	<p>President Director of PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) Tony Wenas at the <i>Connecting U Leader's Talk</i> at Sam Ratulangi University (UNSRAT), Manado, Monday (2/24). PTFI introduced the <i>Connecting U</i> campaign, or abbreviated as Cu which is the symbol of the chemical element copper. <i>Connecting U</i> is a creative platform and technology to show copper as a connector for humans toward a better future.</p>
	<p>The <i>Connecting U Leader's Talk</i> event with the theme "Building Indonesia's Golden Generation" was opened by the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of UNSRAT Prof. Ir. Arthur Gehart Pinaria, M.P., Ph.D at the UNSRAT Auditorium, Manado, Monday (2/24). The event was attended by more than 1,000 students from 11 Faculties including Papuan students who are studying at UNSRAT.</p>
	<p>Enthusiasm of Papuan students, Nias Tabuni from the Faculty of Economics and Business UNSRAT when interacting with the President Director of PT Freeport Indonesia Tony Wenas at the <i>Connecting U Leader's Talk</i> at Sam Ratulangi University (UNSRAT), Manado, Monday (2/24).</p>
	<p>In the <i>Connecting U Leader's Talk</i> at UNSRAT, Monday (2/24), in addition to sharing knowledge and experience about leadership, President Director of PT Freeport Indonesia Tony Wenas also explained about sustainable mining practices run by the company.</p>

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**About PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI)**

PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) is a mineral mining company affiliated with Freeport-McMoRan (FCX) and Mining Industry Indonesia (MIND ID). PTFI mines and processes ore to produce copper minerals, which contain gold and silver.

PTFI markets concentrate throughout the world, and especially to domestic copper smelters, PT Smelting. PTFI's mining operations are located in the Grasberg mineral area, Papua -- Indonesia. Currently, PTFI operates the world's largest underground mine using the block caving method. In carrying out its operational activities, PTFI prioritizes responsible business practices.