



Brief Introduction about Indonesian Protein Society (IPS)

Protein research in Indonesia has been dominated by isolation and characterization of extracellular enzymes mainly glycosyl hydrolases from microorganisms. The main reasons because majority of researchers either in universities or government research institutes have education background in microbiology, and extracellular proteins are easy to isolate, while function of enzymes can be analyzed using spectrophotometer, which is already available widely in Indonesia. Scientific activities of those researchers are accommodated by i.e. Indonesian Society for Microbiology, Indonesian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, etc.

Since 2000s, many Indonesian researchers returned home from Japan, Germany, US, etc after studying more diverse aspect of protein research such protein engineering, protein crystallography, protein biophysics, etc. Although there has been no significant improvement of research facilities for protein research in Indonesia, those researchers introduces new techniques which requires less investment such as protein bioinformatics, new type of proteins to study such as oxidoreductases, channel proteins, etc, and even new application of old equipment such as small-angle neutron scattering. Thus, to promote more research on protein research, in 2003 Arief Budi Witarto who just returned from Japan after finishing study protein engineering in 2000, invited Maggy Thenawidjaya Suhartono, senior researcher in protein biochemistry graduated from US in 1982 to initiate the establishment of Indonesian Protein Society (IPS). Finally, in 2006 IPS was formally established in Surabaya city with Arief Budi Witarto as the first chairman. To promote more research on protein in Indonesia, the organization of IPS is composed of expertise sections namely protein expression, protein purification, protein biochemistry, protein biophysics, protein structure, and protein engineering. There is also section responsible for organization administration such as annual meeting, publication, cooperation, and branch establishment. IPS has advisory board with senior researcher as members such as Bambang Sugiharto, etc. The logo of IPS – showed on the top – was designed by Ali Rohman, which illustrates 20 amino acids with emphasizes on IPS. [Text by Arief Budi Witarto on Dec. 19, 2011 for APPA]