

Stateent of Purpose

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I. INTRODUCTION

In relation to the Hasanuddin University's New Engineering Campus Development Project (JICA Loan No. IP-541), a research fellowship program has been offered to interested faculty members, arranged in a 6 (six) month visit to a university in Japan. This program is intended to enhance the concept of Laboratory-Based Education (LBE) that is planned to be implemented at the new campus. This paper is to describe my plan to participate in the program tentatively starting in May 2012.

II. BACKGROUND

I was the chairman of the department in 2003 when I received a feedback from my former student who worked at an oil refinery plant. He told me that the control systems he dealt with in his daily work were very different from the control systems he learned during his study in the Department of Electrical Engineering at our university. It was really a surprise for me because to the best of my knowledge at that time, our curriculum was designed to conform with the international standard, and the syllabii for all Control Systems courses were derived from standard textbooks for Electrical Engineering. After a quick investigation, I realized that our former students who worked at physical plants of manufacturing companies were positioned more or less as process control engineers, rather than as electrical or electronic engineers. In fact, until now, our university - which is the largest and the oldest university in the eastern region of Indonesia - has no Department of Chemical Engineering nor Department of Engineering Physics that would have graduated process control engineers. Nevertheless, the surrounding industrial world in the eastern region of Indonesia, where our university is located, has positioned our electrical engineering graduates at the process control engineers' positions. Realizing this fact, I took an initiative to accommodate the subject of Process Control Systems and Technology in our Electrical Engineering curriculum, and became one of the features of our study program, both in our undergraduate as well as our graduate programs.

A couple of years ago I started to supervise a Ph.D. candidate to conduct a research project on the development of the miniature of a process control plant for solid materials [1]. The project was completed in 2010 and the mini-plant is now installed at our laboratory (see Figure 1). Several undergraduate final projects and Masters' thesis were produced based on this Ph.D. project. I strongly believe that the field of research in the process control technology will open a wide opportunity for our department in its future new engineering campus.

In 2004 our laboratory proposed to develop a large Process Control Training System consisting of several mini-plants originally created by Syntek Group, a process control specialist from Malaysia. The main goal of the development was to build an industrial training center on campus. We were very certain that such an industrial training center would open the gate to the collaboration between the academic world and the real industrial world. A set of boiler drum for temperature control is currently in the procurement process, funded by a central government's agency: the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Another set of air pressure and temperature control will be purchased through the Hasanuddin University's New Engineering Campus Development Project (JICA Loan No. IP-541) Package 2. In the future, when our department moves to the new campus approximately in 2013 or 2014, our laboratory will not only be able to support the academic program of our department - the Laboratory-based Education (LBE) program -



Fig. 1. The Miniature of a Process Control Plant for Industrial Solid Materials

but more than that, it will take its role as the important part of an industrial training center serving the industrial community in the surrounding area, the eastern region of Indonesia.