

# Global Ethics Forum

## Panel member #1

❖ *Tian Belawati, Rector Universitas Terbuka Open University, Indonesia. Past President ICDE represented by Dewi Padmo, Vice Rector, Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia*

Ethics in Higher Education:

Open and Distance Learning Perspective

# Ethics



- Ethics as a scientific discourse concerns itself with what is good or right in human interactions.
- It revolves around three central concepts: self, good and the other, ethics does not merely consider what is good and noble for oneself, but for others (Rossouw, 2010)

# Ethical standards for open and distance learning

- Designed to articulate expected attitude and behaviors of all stakeholders of open and distance education
- Emphasis on ethics principles and codes of conduct in various aspects in the realm of ODL (student-teacher relationship, research ethics, faculty, tutors).
- Enables distance education authorities to be accountable to self and community (Faharani, 2012).

# Open and Distance Learning



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- Characteristics include openness, self and mastery learning, technology-based (enhanced) learning.
- Provides educational access and opportunities to people who may otherwise not be able to enter higher education system
- Provides access to anyone to quality education without having to leave family, home, work, or losing career opportunities.



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# Universitas Terbuka

## Indonesia Open University

- Indonesia:
  - ✓ The largest archipelago with >17,000 islands (>80% water), >245 million people, various ethnic groups, and >1,000 languages
  - ✓ Participation rates in Higher Education is about 30%
- Universitas Terbuka (UT):
  - ✓ >400,000 students spreading throughout the country and in >25 countries
  - ✓ > 5% of students are working adults and 75% are practicing teachers
  - ✓ >1.3 million alumni



# Ethical issues and priorities in ODL Institutions

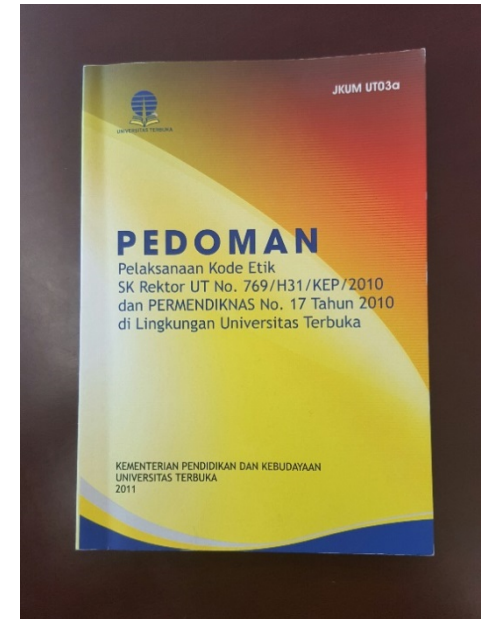
- Ethical issues arise in a wide range of situations and at all level of operations, management, and academic affairs
- Ethical issues range from academic freedom to plagiarism, and from transparency, public interest disclosure to confidentiality of information

# Implementation of Code of Ethics at Universitas Terbuka

- **Rector Decree of Code of Ethics  
& Guideline of Implementation**

## **For Faculty**

- Ensures the best quality of program and instructions
- Ensures the best quality of research and publication
- Develops clear policies for academic dishonesty
- Provides software for plagiarism review (Turnitin)



# Implementation of Code of Ethics at Universitas Terbuka

## For Students:

- Challenges: cheating in examinations is rather common phenomena among students, plagiarism is often detected, there are issues of student authentication
- UT conveys a consistent message to students that ethical behavior is expected
- Analysis of variables and behaviors that lead to cheating, such as pressures for good grades, the testing environment, lack of understanding of academic regulations, personality characteristics, and development of moral reasoning

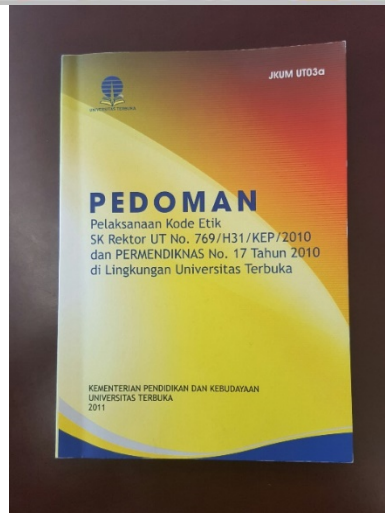


# Implementation of Code of Ethics at Universitas Terbuka

- UT,s strategies include:
  - ✓ Development of an Item Bank to produce unique examination manuscripts
  - ✓ Simultaneous examination times throughout the country
  - ✓ Analysis of Students' responses (Pattern of Wrong Answers)
  - ✓ Double markers for essay examinations
  - ✓ Reward for catcher of student cheaters
  - ✓ Provides online examinations



# Implementation of Code of Ethics at Universitas Terbuka



- ✓ Implements strict penalties for academic dishonesty
- ✓ Provides an orientation program for new students, including about ethics and academic honesty
- ✓ Provide handbooks and information regarding ethics and academic honesty

# Concluding Remarks

- Ethical attitudes and behaviors are at utmost important at higher education
- The code of ethics should be written and disseminated in a way that is understandable, detailed, and executable
- ODL institutions are responsible to create a healthy academic atmosphere to:



- ✓ honor the dignity and reputation of the institution and individuals
- ✓ develop students' awareness and respect of academic ethics
- ✓ produce honest and good character of graduates

*“Educating the mind without  
educating the heart is no  
education at all.”*

*Aristotle*

*Terima kasih  
Thank you*