

Foreword

PROF. DR. ROCHADI ABDULHADI
PRESIDENT OF THE INDONESIAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY INDONESIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES (LIPI)

I am extremely pleased to see that “Primates of the Oriental Night” has, at last, been completed. This book is a fabulous example of the benefits of true collaboration between researchers of many nations. The list of authors includes people from Australia, England, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States of America. It is wonderful what we can accomplish when we all work together. We live in a globalized world, and it is increasingly necessary that we do so. I am particularly pleased to see several Indonesian authors are involved, and that the book is being published in Indonesia, by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. We can point to this book as proof that many Indonesians are mentally prepared for the globalized world.

Indonesia is a country of vast biodiversity resources, but also vast conservation challenges. When looking for conservation solutions, too often we focus only on the large charismatic animals like orangutan, tiger, and elephant. In Indonesia we are blessed with a wealth of animals like this, to the extent that we forget that there are small charismatic animals. Tarsiers and lorises, the *primates of the oriental night*, also have tremendous charisma. We need only point to examples from popular movies, such as the Yoda character and the Ewoks, from the “Star Wars” movie series, to see the powerful influence of these charismatic animals on the global society. Unfortunately, we can also point to the prevalence of tarsiers and lorises for sale in the markets of Indonesia and other southeast Asian countries to offer proof that the general public is fascinated with these creatures.

The publication of this book marks a sea change in the knowledge about tarsiers and lorises that is available to readers in southeast Asia. I am delighted to learn that one hundred copies of this book will be distributed free of charge to scientists and schools throughout Indonesia. I hope that this effort motivates other Indonesians to follow in the footsteps of the Indonesian authors who contributed to “Primates of the Oriental Night” and become serious biodiversity scientists, committed to the pursuit of knowledge about, and the preservation of, Indonesia’s vast and valuable biodiversity.