

About the Author

Widjojo Nitisastro was born on 23 September 1927 in Malang, East Java. Right after graduating from the Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia *cum laude* in 1955, he was appointed Director of the university's Institute for Economic and Social Research succeeding Professor Sumitro Djojohadikusumo.

From September 1957 to March 1961 he continued his study in Economics and Demography at the University of California at Berkeley, California, USA. He received his PhD in economics with a dissertation titled "Migration, Population Growth and Economic Development: A Study of the Economic Consequences of Alternative Patterns of Inter-island Migration".

He was only 34 years old when the University of Indonesia appointed him as full professor of the Faculty of Economics on 1 June 1962. The title of his inaugural lecture was "Economic Analysis and Development Planning", delivered on 10 August 1963. From 1964 to 1968 he served as Dean of the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Economics. In addition, he served as Director of the National Institute of Economics and Social Sciences of the Indonesian Council for Sciences. He was also an instructor at the School of Staff and Command of the Army and at the Military Law Academy. Cornell University Press published his book *Population Trends in Indonesia* in 1970.

In 1966 he was appointed Team Coordinator for Economy and Finance of the Staff of Personal Assistants of the Chairman of the Cabinet Presidium of General Soeharto with the following members: Professor Mohammad

Sadli, Professor Subroto, Professor Ali Wardhana and Professor Emil Salim. In 1968 he was appointed to chair President Soeharto's economic advisory team with a larger membership.

When he was 39 years old he was appointed Chairman of Bappenas (National Development Planning Agency) on 20 July 1967 and retained the office for 16 years until 1983. In addition, on 9 September 1971 he became Minister for Development Planning and from 1973 to 1983 he was Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry.

From 1967 to 1983 he headed delegations to many international meetings, such as Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), Paris Club (1967–70), and others. Since 1983 he has been the government's economic advisor.

He was also member of the South Commission (headed by President Julius Nyerere) and the Policy Board of the Inter-Action Council (under the Chairmanship of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt).