

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
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To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Wahyd Vannoni for more than two years and in this period I have had ample opportunity to appreciate his inexhaustible intellectual interests, inspirational communications skills and extensive cultural background.

In particular I deeply appreciate his astonishing talent in bringing together people of disparate backgrounds. He is comfortable in facilitating dialogue between experts in different fields such as science and technology, economics, medicine, philosophy, religion, and the humanities, intervening with relevant remarks when needed and steering the conversation for the benefit of all. He brings the best out of everyone.

In fact some of the most enriching conversations that I have had recently did not take place at Harvard or MIT but in Mr. Vannoni's dining room thanks to his extraordinary social skills. I was sincerely impressed by the way he constantly probes his interlocutors. He is a born leader, but one who always opts for collaboration and who founds his authority on example and curiosity. His attitude is extremely positive and constructive but there is more than that: a contagious desire to understand and to communicate.

In my capacity of Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, I am used to looking for fluency in foreign languages and breadth of knowledge. Wahyd Vannoni possesses both to a very high degree. His command of French, Italian, and Spanish is outstanding and allows him to jump effortlessly between one language to the other.

Furthermore, he is able to instantly switch from theory to practical matters, from history to current events, from innovative business models for the newspaper industry to a discussion of the origin of the Greek concept of *kairós*.

