

Indonesian president's visit

Enhancing friendship, solidarity

Yudhoyono makes strengthening of important strategic partnership a priority

Muhammad Lutfi
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA

Having experienced several natural disasters in recent years, Indonesians were deeply shocked by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In the past, Japan has shown great solidarity with Indonesia, and we were very grateful for the sympathy and support of the Japanese people after the Indian Ocean tsunami that swept Aceh in 2004, Yogyakarta's earthquake in 2006 and the Merapi volcanic eruption in 2010. Japan's cooperation in the area of disaster management has contributed to Indonesia's quick response to disaster-affected areas and improved our nation's counter-disaster capability.

As a friend of Japan and its people, Indonesia is therefore determined that Japan will not be alone in this time of great distress. We have swiftly shown our solidarity by providing assistance, including the provision of relief aid, and we also promptly deployed an Indonesian Search and Rescue Team to search for survivors in the devastated areas of Ishinomaki and Kesemnuma in Miyagi Prefecture.

In addition, on his own personal initiative, H.E. President



Expressing solidarity: Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (center), Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto (left) and Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa join hands during the Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta on April 9. AP

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia will visit Japan from June 16 to 18, to reaffirm Indonesia's friendship and solidarity with Japan and its people. Prior to this, President Yudhoyono initiated the Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta, which demonstrated stronger solidarity between Japan and

Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states in addressing natural disasters.

Throughout this crisis, Indonesians have been greatly impressed by the incredible resilience, courage and unity of the Japanese people and Japan's commitment to disaster management cooperation. In March, immediately after the catastro-

phe, Japan and Indonesia held the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx2011). The ARF DiREx can be a basis to improve the region's emergency response capabilities. In addition, Indonesia values Japan's assistance to the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, which is expected to serve as ASEAN's main mechanism to respond to natural disasters collectively.

Indonesia and Japan's relationship has grown not only as friends with close economic and cultural relations, but also as partners that share universal values such as democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Indonesia, a country with the world's largest Muslim population, has achieved stability, prosperity and a democratic system by overcoming a number of political and economic challenges. Indonesia now has risen as an emerging economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of around 6 percent, and an increased international leadership role, including its part in ASEAN and more recently as a member of the Group of 20.

Japan has also been a reliable partner that assists in the development of Indonesia as one of the main contributors to investment projects. Currently, Indonesia and Japan are working hand-in-hand to enhance economic cooperation, including infrastructure development, with the promotion of the Metropolitan Priority Area. The two countries shall also cooperate to improve the conditions allowing Indonesian nurses and care worker candidates to work in Japan, based on the Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (IJ-EPA).

Furthermore, Indonesia and Japan are committed to raise the level of strategic partnership through multidimensional cooperation, not only in the economic area, but also in politics and security. Particularly, Indonesia and Japan will strengthen cooperation in the field of security, such as in maritime security and disaster relief.

With such commonalities and modalities, Indonesia and Japan share the view that it is essential to take responsibility for the peace and prosperity not only of our region but also of the world. With regards to cooperation in the East Asian region, Indonesia, as the chairman of ASEAN and the East Asia Summit this year, appreciates Japan's continuous efforts to further strengthen relations with ASEAN, including the latest support for ASEAN Connectivity.

Indonesia and Japan shall also work together hand in hand to cooperate in addressing global issues. Japan highly appreciates the Bali Democracy Forum, initiated by President Yudhoyono, as it serves as an attempt to build an institutional foundation called democracy in the region. Japan also has been eager to join hands with Indonesia in promoting peace and the democratic process in the Middle East.

The Indonesian people pray for the quick recovery of Japan and its people, and may the maturity of bilateral relations between Indonesia and Japan always bring peace and prosperity, not only to the benefit of our peoples but also to the people in the region and the world.

Profile of the president

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono won over voters in Indonesia's first direct presidential elections in 2004 and was inaugurated on Oct. 20 that year. He was re-elected in a landslide, with over 60 percent of the vote, in July 2009.

Yudhoyono was born into a simple home in Pacitan, East Java, on Sept. 9, 1949. After graduating from high school, Yudhoyono followed his father into a military career and graduated from the Indonesian Military Academy in 1973, receiving the prestigious Bintang Adhi Makayasa medal for graduating at the top of his class.

In the 1980s, Yudhoyono was sent to the United States to take military training courses. While there, he also obtained a master's degree in business management from Webster University in St. Louis.

He was Indonesia's chief military observer in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995-96 and later held territorial commands in Jakarta and in southern Sumatra. He was appointed chief of the armed forces' social and political affairs staff in 1997, and was known in the media as the "Thinking General" due to his popular ideas and concepts in reforming the military and the nation.

He retired from active service on April 1, 2000, due to his appointment as a government minister, and received his doctorate in agricultural economics from the Bogor Institute of Agriculture on Oct. 3, 2004.

Yudhoyono was appointed mines and energy minister in the government of President Abdurrahman Wahid in 2000, but was soon promoted to the key position of minister for security and political affairs. One of his chief tasks was to devise a means for ensuring that the military played a much reduced role in Indonesian politics, a goal very much in line with his reformist ideas on the future of the Indonesian military and a view he has held since his days in the army policy center.

"Since 1988, the military has decided to stay out of day-to-day politics," Yudhoyono has noted. "The basic ideas of military reform is to go back to the role and function of the military as a defense force and move them away from politics systematically. The trend is moving in such a way that there is no so-called 'dual function' of the military, there is no so-called 'social and political mission' for the military."

Yudhoyono was reappointed minister of security and political affairs by President Megawati Sukarnoputri in 2001. Following the October 2002 Bali bombing, he oversaw the hunt for and arrest of those responsible and gained a reputation both in Indonesia and abroad as one of the few Indonesian politicians serious about the war on terrorism. His speech marking the first anniversary of the Bali attack was praised by the foreign media and Indonesian public alike.

During his candidacy for the presidency, Yudhoyono put forward broad policies for the future of Indonesia, and his manifesto during the campaign was built on four pillars: prosperity, peace, justice and democracy. At the top of his agenda was a plan for increasing economic prosperity, attaining economic growth of at least 7 percent, and reviving small and medium-size enterprises. He also put forward policies to offer better credit lines, to



President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia

cut red tape, to improve labor laws and to root out corruption from the top down. He told an interviewer: "If we are to reduce poverty, create jobs, increase purchasing power and rebuild infrastructure, then we will need new capital. Of course, to be able to invite investment, I have to improve the climate — legal certainties, political stability, law and order, sound tax policies, customs policies, good labor management. I will improve these guarantees to encourage investors to come to Indonesia."

Yudhoyono's reputation for integrity, his strong personality and his excellent communication skills made him the front-runner throughout the election campaign, according to opinion polls and election commentators. He won the second round of the 2004 elections with 60.8 percent of the popular vote. Soon after his inauguration as the fifth president of the Republic of Indonesia at the People's Consultative Assembly in Jakarta on Oct. 20, Yudhoyono spoke of his commitment to the people of Indonesia, noting that he had received the mandate directly from the people and that he was determined to act not only as the president of the Republic of Indonesia, but also as the president of Indonesians. He promised to maintain this noble political contract with the people and dedicate all his time and energy to promoting and protecting the peace and prosperity of every Indonesian.

The president's administration has strove to consolidate economic recovery and foreign direct investors are once again demonstrating their confidence in the Indonesian economy. In 2004, Indonesia's gross domestic product grew at 5.3 percent — the highest since it weathered the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98, an achievement largely driven by rising exports and a surge in foreign investment.

After dealing with the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that devastated Aceh Province, Yudhoyono helped Indonesia reach a historic peace agreement with armed separatists in the province in 2005.

In May 2011, Yudhoyono signed a decree to place a two-year moratorium on new permits to clear 64 million hectares of virgin forest.

Heartiest Welcome

to His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,
President of the Republic of Indonesia,
on the Occasion of His Working Visit to Japan



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Agenda of president's working visit to Japan

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, president of the Republic of Indonesia, and his wife, Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, are visiting Japan from June 16 to 18, following the invitation of the government of Japan, to further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and Indonesia.

The agenda includes an audience with Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and a meeting with Prime Minister Naoto Kan.

Also, President Yudhoyono

and his wife will visit the city of Kesemnuma, Miyagi Prefecture, which was devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

This trip marks Yudhoyono's fifth to Japan as president, following an official visit in May 2005; a state visit in November 2006; a trip to attend the outreach session of the Group of Eight summit at Toyako, Hokkaido, in July 2008; and a trip to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's 18th Economic Leaders' Meeting in Yokohama in November 2010.



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NAGOYA	GA889	11:15-17:05	DENPASAR	GA888	01:05-09:10	NAGOYA (TUE/FRI/SUN)
OSAKA	GA883	11:00-16:45	DENPASAR	GA882	00:45-08:30	OSAKA (Daily)



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Indonesian president's visit

The goodwill Caravan of ASEAN Youth helps out Tohoku region

The member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, led by the ASEAN foreign ministers, reiterate their sincere condolences and deep sympathy for the tremendous loss of life and physical destruction suffered by the Japanese people due to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

The Great East Japan Earthquake, the subsequent tsunami and the on-going nuclear power plant crisis have brought about a high number of deaths, a widespread area of destruction and much suffering among the thousands of survivors in over 2,000 evacuation centers across Japan. On top of the immediate human tragedy, the catastrophic disruption to the Japanese economy is also immense. This is the worst cri-

sis that the Japanese people have ever faced since World War II.

Japan has been a most generous Dialogue Partner of ASEAN and has been instrumental in the industrialization and economic development of the ASEAN region since the late 1960s. Japanese private investment and the government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) have poured into the member countries of ASEAN in large amounts for the part four decades, accelerating infrastructure and human resources development. The reason that the ASEAN countries have benefited from the growth of East Asia, particularly the economic dynamism of China and India today, is due in large part to the earlier waves of Japanese devel-

opment assistance and investment in our region.

When the Asian financial crisis devastated the ASEAN economies in the late 1990s, Japan led the international efforts under the direction of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to offer a generous package of financial aid known as the Miyazawa Plan. Many ASEAN member states benefited and, indeed, started to stabilize their economies and restore their financial institutions with that unprecedented multinational rescue package.

When the global economic crisis came again in 2008, this time originating in the West, all the ASEAN member states along with the larger economies of East Asia have not only been shielded from the brunt of the

worst global downturn in 70 years, but have also been able to bounce back faster than the rest of the world. And East Asia, along with the ASEAN economies, have been leading the global economic recovery, serving as the new growth center and locomotive that is pulling the world economy out of its depth of crisis.

For this very reason, the ASEAN member states, led by the ASEAN foreign ministers, have shown their sincere condolences and deep sympathy for the tremendous loss of life and physical destruction suffered by the Japanese people. The outpouring of good will and continuous streams of donations have been flowing from the governments, the general public and the private business

sector all across the ASEAN landscape ever since the March 11 disaster.

An unprecedented meeting between all 10 ASEAN foreign ministers and their Japanese counterpart took place at the ASEAN Secretariat on April 9. The ministers agreed that they would do everything possible to extend a helping hand to Japan and the Japanese people to recover from the "triple catastrophe" with immediate and short-, medium- and long-term strategies. They all realized that it would take much effort, a large scale of resources, and a long time for Japan to get back on its feet again. This, the ministers agreed, is the time to reciprocate the generosity and good will that the Japanese people have shown to the people of ASEAN through the years.

Caravan of Goodwill

Realizing that hundreds of thousands of unfortunate victims of the triple catastrophe are still being housed in many evacuation centers, in northeast Japan in particular, the ASEAN and Japanese foreign ministers endorsed a proposal to organize a quick Caravan of ASEAN Youth to show the good will of the ASEAN people.

It was agreed that a small group of ASEAN youth would travel to northeast Japan to pay a visit to a few evacuation centers, perform some cultural shows, share their own person-



Caring: Volunteers of a goodwill caravan from Southeast Asian nations serve meals to survivors of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, on June 4. KYODO

al, painful experiences from similar natural disasters in the recent past, and strengthen the human bond that has long existed between the Japanese and ASEAN people.

The group consisted of many individuals representing young generations from ASEAN member countries that share the common ideal to ease the burdens of the victims in affected areas.

The Indonesia Embassy in Tokyo nominated three Indonesian students to join the program: Riskina Juwita and Hendika Rahmadi from the University of Tokyo, and Annisa Mahdia Pratiwi from Keio University. The students embraced the idea of joining the caravan and were more than resolute to commit to and be devoted to the program.

The program itself lasted for

three days, from June 3-5, and the students along with other participants gave cultural performances to entertain the victims at evacuation centers and organized other communal activities, such as serving hot meals to the people at the centers.

Information provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia



Assistance: Supplies from Indonesia are sorted at a disaster prevention base in Saitama soon after March 11. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA



Incentives for Japanese firms to have bases in Indonesia

On May 13 in Osaka and May 16 in Tokyo, the Indonesian missions in Tokyo and Osaka, together with SMBC Consulting Co., hosted seminars titled "The Progressing Indonesian Economy and ASEAN."

The events attracted more than 200 Japanese business entities and entrepreneurs.

Indonesian Ambassador Muhammad Lutfi, in his remarks and presentation at the seminar, noted that Indonesian economic growth will be substantially robust in the coming years and that Indonesia's considerable contribution to the Association of Southeast Asian Nation's regional gross domestic product will reflect the country's strong market power

and in turn will benefit the region as a whole.

Japanese industries and manufacturers will find Indonesia has great potential as a regional base and for investment, as Indonesia offers many advantages and benefits. Political stability and democratic conditions in Indonesia have paved the way for the nation to be a major foothold in the region for many economic activities.

Sizeable markets for Japanese products and free trade agreements that exist between Indonesia and neighboring countries act as incentives to drive the economic ties of Japan and Indonesia, which have shared mutually beneficial relations for decades.

Ambassador Lutfi congratulates successful Indonesian nurses

On May 21, Indonesian Ambassador Muhammad Lutfi invited Indonesian nurses who passed the Japanese national nursing exam to visit the Indonesian Embassy. A total of 15 Indonesian nurses (13 from the EPA first badge and two from the EPA second badge) have been certified to exercise their skills and commit their service to Japanese medical institutions.

The ambassador in his remarks complimented the many people who undoubtedly had contributed toward the success of the program so that the

nurses could pave their way to become certified caregivers in Japan.

The event was also attended by representatives of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, JAPINDA, JICWELS and AOTS.

During the event, Ambassador Lutfi presented the qualifying nurses with congratulatory letters that signified their achievement.

Their success has been applauded by many and will hopefully inspire their colleagues to pass the exam.

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