

# Indonesia independence day

# Nation leads through growth plans, regional forums

Muhammad Lutfi  
AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA

members, friends and colleagues. It has been inspiring to see how the Japanese people have responded to the most difficult of historic experiences with great resilience and great spirit. I pray to God Almighty for quick recovery in affected areas.

The government and people of Indonesia always stand in solidarity with Japan and its people. We have distributed no less than 12 tons of aid to shelters across affected areas. An Indonesian Search and Rescue Team was also deployed to Ishinomaki and surrounding areas in Miyagi Prefecture.

As the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), H. E. President of the Republic of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono initiated the Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta, which demonstrated stronger solidarity between Japan and ASEAN member states in addressing natural disasters. He also visited the disaster-affected area of Kesennuma, Miyagi Pre-



At this moment, I would like to recall a few months earlier when Japan experienced an unimaginable disaster that took huge human and material losses. I offer my deepest and heartfelt condolences for those who have lost loved ones, family



Wildlife: The Komodo dragon is native to Indonesia and is the largest lizard in the world. MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

fecture, in June to reaffirm Indonesia's friendship and solidarity with Japan and its people in the darkest hour of the post-tsunami crisis.

**Growth with equity**  
Independence Day affords us the opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved since the republic was proclaimed in 1945. Independence is not just an event in our history. It is a landmark event. It is freedom for all our people. It is the liberation of all the people of Indonesia.

Today, we are witnessing the remarkable achievements that Indonesia has obtained in every field. Indonesia can boast that it is a middle-income, middle-power country, the world's third largest democracy, with political stability and economic dynamism. Among the Southeast Asian countries, Indonesia has the largest middle class, with an independent and active foreign policy. As an emerging economy, Indonesia is a member of the Group of Twenty (G-20) and a founding member and, this year, chair of ASEAN.

The Indonesian economy is now the 17th largest in the world, and in the coming decades, we aim to be in the top 10 largest economies. Our purchasing power parity (PPP) is approaching \$1 trillion. We have a balanced budget, owing to prudent fiscal policy with debt to GDP ratio at 26 percent, the lowest in our history. Our trade volume and foreign reserves are at record highs and foreign investment is rising sharply. However, there are plenty of challenges relating to poverty, inequality, corruption, infrastructure and bureaucratic inefficiency that need to be addressed.

Indonesia could minimize the impact of the 2008 global economic crisis. With a robust economic growth and a good economic posture, Indonesia is hopeful that we can make the accurate steps should the crisis at the global level return. We are optimistic that Indonesia's economy will be dynamic for many years to come.

To further support our economic performance, recently we have implemented the largest anti-poverty pro-poor program in Indonesia's modern history, which is part of our "growth with equity" development strategy. We have recently launched a Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia's Economic Development (MP3EI) for 2011-2025 to ac-

celerate and to expand Indonesia's economy.

Implementation of the MP3EI will include eight main programs that consist of 22 main economic activities. The implementation strategy of the MP3EI will integrate three main elements:

- Developing the regional economic potential in six Indonesian economic corridors: Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali-Nusa Tenggara and Papua-Kepulauan Maluku;
- Strengthening national connectivity locally and internationally;
- Strengthening human resource capacity and national science and technology to support the development of main programs in every economic corridor.

The MP3EI is formulated to drive the realization of high, balanced, fair and sustainable economic growth in Indonesia and includes two key elements, namely acceleration and expansion. It is expected that the plan — together with other potentials bestowed upon Indonesia as a nation with abundant natural resources, a large, productive and young population, and stra-

tegic access to the global mobility network — will be able to serve as a foundation to transform Indonesia into one of the 10 major economies in the world by 2025.

## Regional and global role

As the current chair of ASEAN, Indonesia sets out a framework to consolidate ASEAN Community building and to ensure a regional environment conducive to the development of ASEAN member countries. We also stress the need to prepare ourselves to make significant contributions to the global community of nations.

During the 18th ASEAN Summit in May, ASEAN Leaders accepted Indonesia's proposal to include new elements into ASEAN's vision. One is the imperative for ASEAN to achieve its strategic and diplomatic centrality by shaping the emerging regional architecture through the expansion of the East Asia Summit (EAS) to include the United States and Russia. Second, ASEAN has also agreed to task its foreign ministers to develop a platform on how ASEAN can play a more coherent role in the global community of nations.

ASEAN needs to focus on achieving a more consolidated ASEAN through ASEAN's connectivity, food and energy security, disaster management and the role of civil society as its priorities. In doing so, Indonesia is taking the lead to translate those priorities into real actions.

In the remaining months, Indonesia and ASEAN should also concentrate on formulating the road map for the EAS and the platform for ASEAN's global role. The 19th ASEAN Summit and the EAS in Bali in November are only three months away.

At the global level, Indonesia will continue to enhance its role in the solution of global problems. Indonesia strongly believes that the multilateral approach to addressing global issues is essential.

The role and contribution of Indonesia is carried out through various multilateral forums, such as the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, the Organization of Islamic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Attraction: Klayar Beach in the Pacitan area of Java has white sand amid the blue sea and lush mountains. MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

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TOKYO	GA881 11:00-17:30	DENPASAR	GA880 00:30-08:50
NAGOYA	GA889 11:15-17:05	DENPASAR	GA888 01:05-09:10
OSAKA	GA883 11:00-16:45	DENPASAR	GA882 00:45-08:30



# Indonesia independence day/world

## Building a global community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Cooperation (OIC), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), as well as the G-20. In addition, Indonesia is actively involved in various interregional cooperation forums, such as ASEM (Asia and Europe Meeting), FEALAC (Asia and Latin America) and NAASP (New Asia Africa Strategic Partnership).

Indonesia consistently strives to promote its own national interests, the interests of developing countries and the interests of the international community at the United Nations and beyond. Indonesia's diplomacy will continue to actively strive to promote consensus and, at the same, through concrete national actions, demonstrate what can be achieved if each nation shoulders its own responsibilities.

Indeed, in the years ahead we expect to witness an enhanced role by Indonesia in building bridges among divides. Our foreign policy will consistently

project Indonesia as part of the solution to various global challenges; of a country keen to highlight the overlapping of interests and concerns rather than competing interests and concerns.

### Relations with Japan

Both Indonesia and Japan continue to enjoy mutually beneficial relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in April 1958, which was strengthened by the signing of the Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership for Peaceful and Prosperous Future in 2006. The joint statement reflects that the two countries are strategic partners that share universal values such as democracy, human rights as well as the rule of law.

Both countries have greatly contributed to and also enjoyed the peace and prosperity in the region and the world. Both countries also share a commitment to promoting stability and

development of the Asia-Pacific region. Indonesia and Japan are firmly confident in strengthening the strategic relationship to address political and security issues, as well as reinforcing the long-standing economic relations.

This strategic partnership has been deepened by the Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, which entered into force in July 2008. During the official working visit to Japan in June this year, President Yudhoyono and the Prime Minister Kan agreed to elevate the Indonesia-Japan strategic partnership to a higher level in the areas of economics, politics and security, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Economic relations between Indonesia and Japan have grown stronger than ever. For Indonesia, Japan is one of the biggest traditional trading partners, with the total trade volume in 2010 reaching \$42.74 billion, consisting of Indonesian exports to Japan of \$25.78 billion and Indonesian imports from Japan of \$16.96 billion. Japan has also been a reliable partner that assists in the development of Indonesia as one of the main contributors to investment projects, with the cumulative investment value from 1990 to 2009 reaching \$21.6 billion.

During 2010, Japanese investment to Indonesia was \$712.6 million. With the projected Indonesian economic growth at 6.3 percent, it is expected that Japanese investment in Indonesia in 2011 will be higher than that in 2010. According to the 2010 Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) survey, Indonesia's position has risen from eighth in 2009 to sixth in 2010 as a foreign investment destination for Japanese companies.

As the backbone of the economic relations between the two countries, the private sectors play a prominent role. We witness the extensive cooperation between Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and Kadin Indonesia (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) to enhance the relationship between Japanese and Indonesian



Resources: An offshore oil field is set up near the Riau Islands. MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

businesspeople. Currently, we are noting the growing flows of goods, services, investments and natural persons.

We just initiated the Metropolitan Priority Area (MPA) project to attract greater foreign investments to Indonesia. We hope the MPA project will promote the implementation of the MP3EI. In this regard, we value the launching of the MPA Master Plan Study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in May to materialize the MPA project.

Our strong bilateral relationship has been built not only because we have excellent cooperation between our government officials and business communities, but also because of the determination of our people to maintain this friendship. Therefore, we need to relentlessly foster people-to-people contacts in our endeavor.

Within the regional context, Indonesia and Japan should continue to work closely together in shaping the future of the regional architecture. We hope Japan continues its participation in promoting ASEAN Community building through active engagement with ASEAN-led pro-

cesses. As democracies, both Indonesia and Japan would work closer in promoting democracy as a strategic agenda for Asia. As the co-chairs of the Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) last year, Indonesia and Japan have laid a solid ground for the two countries to maintain the momentum.

We are expecting the upcoming ASEAN-Japan Summit in November in Indonesia to be where a new horizon of ASEAN-Japan cooperation will be opened up through a new ASEAN-Japan joint statement and plan of action, by which Japan would enhance its participation in the realization of ASEAN connectivity based on the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

We are also assured that Japan will further intensify its cooperation in disaster management cooperation. We appreciate Japan's commitment to being a host of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx 2011) together with Indonesia immediately after the March 11 catastrophe. The ARF DiREx can be a basis to improve the region's emergency response capabilities. In addition, Indonesia com-

mends 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.

We also look forward to Japan's active participation in the EAS as a forum for discussion of a wide range of issues confronting our region today. Both countries should ensure that East Asia would become a site for cooperation, not a theater for strategic rivalry among major powers.

Within the global context, Indonesia and Japan could work together to contribute to the solutions of the global problems, such as climate change, food security and energy. While the two countries have cooperated closely on some of these issues, they should explore new ideas and initiatives on how they can play a significant role within the global context.

Looking at the state of the current bilateral relationship, I am confident that Indonesia and Japan will have stronger bonds if we can play a constructive role for a peaceful and prosperous regional and global order.



Traditional art: Special dyes and patterns combine to create batik cloth. BATIK DANARHADI

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