

## Indonesia independence day

## A shared future of peace, progress and prosperity

Yusron Ihza Mahendra  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
INDONESIA

For many of us, a major occasion serves as a moment of reflection. It is a time for us to take a hard look upon what we have done so far, to identify lessons learned and to chart a future course for further progress.



And just like people, nations also have such moments of reflection – a special day that goes to the heart of the nation's identity and existence, which provides a source of strength for their journey ahead.

For Indonesians, our Independence Day that we commemorate every Aug. 17th serves as that special moment. A day that establishes Indonesia as a nation – diverse in its identity, yet united in its determination.

This year's commemoration provides even more important momentum for Indonesians to reflect upon, as this year serves as a special milestone for Indonesia, when the people of Indonesia just reaffirmed their identity as the world's third largest democratic nation through a series of parliamentary and presidential elections. Another important milestone has also been reached in the economic field, through the World Bank's classification of Indonesia as the world's ninth largest economy measured by purchasing power parity.

Thus, on this happy occasion of the 69th anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day, let me offer my own reflection on Indonesia's journey as a nation as well as its relations with Japan, a long-standing development partner for Indonesia.

It has not been an easy jour-



Indonesian Ambassador, Yusron Ihza Mahendra met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo on April 10. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

ney for Indonesia to reach those accomplishments. Indeed, Indonesia has come a long way from its humble beginnings. The first president of Indonesia, H.E. President Soekarno, once reflected that, aside from the spirit of freedom, Indonesia in 1945 was only equipped with four simple items: a short text of an independence proclamation; the red-and-white national flag along with the national anthem; Pancasila (the Five Principles) as the country's philosophical foundation; and the constitution. The years after independence were also marked with many ups and downs, including most recently, the 1998 Asian financial crisis that in Indonesia developed into a "three-pronged crises" in the economic, political and social fields. The magnitude of the crises was so great that many observers at that time predicted it would be the end of Indonesia as a nation.

Yet, Indonesia managed to turn the tidal wave of crises into opportunities, emerging stronger than ever before. To me, this reflects the resilience of Indonesia as a nation. Indonesia has the determination to remain united despite its diverse characters and to make progress against all odds. Thus, rather than succumbing to the

magnitude of challenges, Indonesians decided to take their bitter lesson and implemented much needed reform in all areas.

In the economic field, we opted for an open and progressive economy while implementing sound and prudent economic management. In the political field, we enabled a much greater participation of our people by creating a decentralized and accountable political system. In the socio-cultural field, we were determined to restore our social cohesiveness by regarding our cultural diversity as an asset to our great nation, hence upholding the spirit of "unity in diversity."

What has emerged then is a new Indonesia, proud of its diversity and confident about its future.

At the moment, Indonesians have started to reap the dividends of their hard work. The first sign of this could be seen during the 2008 global financial crisis. With a stable macroeconomic environment, supported by a rapidly growing middle class, Indonesia successfully shielded itself from the negative impact of the crisis in the midst of global uncertainties.

Such resilience is also evident in the following years, as

Indonesia continued to grow positively with an average growth of 5.9 percent per annum between 2009 and 2013. And while the newest estimates predict that Indonesia's economy will grow slightly slower than expected, as seen in the World Bank's prediction of 5.3 percent growth this year, this is largely due to the still relatively weak global economic conditions and the determination of our policymakers to apply prudent economic management by easing economic growth to avoid economic overheating. At the bottom line, our economy remains solid and our fundamentals remain stable.

We are pleased that such a positive outlook has not gone unnoticed by the international community. Citigroup, for instance, has predicted that by 2030, Indonesia will be the seventh largest economy in the world, and will continue to grow to become the fourth largest by 2050. The World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index places Indonesia's overall position at 38th in 2013, a 12 place jump from the year before. Additionally, Indonesia's macroeconomic stability index is ranked 26th out of 148 countries. Along similar lines, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation ranks Indonesia first in terms of a prospective destination for Japanese companies' overseas business expansion in 2013, an upgrade from third in 2012.

We are also pleased that growing international confidence in Indonesia is found not only in the economic field, but also in the political field. The elections this year served as an important catalyst in this regard. The dynamic yet stable campaigns between the contestants and the peaceful elections themselves clearly show how the Indonesian democ-



Selamat Datang Monument in Central Jakarta is one of the historic landmarks in Indonesia. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

racy has reached a more mature stage.

As the country with the largest Muslim population, Indonesia has proven how democracy is compatible with Islamic values. Indonesia has also proven that modernity can progress alongside respect for traditional cultures, and that diversity can be an important aspect for a nation to grow.

Indeed, at the moment, Indonesia is one of only a few countries in the region that can combine economic growth with democracy and stability at the same time.

Throughout this process of economic and political transformation, Japan has remained faithful as a reliable development partner for Indonesia – a fact that many Indonesians acknowledge and will not forget. For many Indonesians, Japan

is not a fair-weather friend. That is why Indonesians think very warmly of Japan. A recent poll by the BBC, for instance, reveals that 82 percent of Indonesians surveyed have very favorable views of Japan. Another survey by the Lowy Institute in 2012 found that many Indonesians scored Japan highest in terms of foreign policy outlook.

Perhaps the most vivid example about the strength our friendship can be found when our two nations were facing the most formidable challenges. When the Indian Ocean tsunami hit Indonesia, particularly the province of Aceh, in December 2004, Japan was among the first countries to respond and lend its valuable support. And when the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami struck Japan in 2011,

many Indonesians felt a strong sense of solidarity with Japan. Indonesia thus returned the favor and took the lead in mobilizing international support for Japan, including through the holding of a special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta on April 9, 2011.

To me, this reflects an old proverb that says, "A shared joy is a double joy, while a shared sorrow is half a sorrow." This represents what we can call a heart-to-heart relationship between our two countries. And this reflects how the two nations recognize a shared future ahead; that one should not progress at the expense of others and that our two countries should work for mutual benefit and prosperity.

Indeed, that is what special about the Indonesia-Japan partnership, which is a true

partnership between equal friends, that connects the people of the two countries. This kind of partnership can only be beneficial for one another.

The partnership between our two countries is a long-standing one, and in fact, this year we commemorate the 56th year of bilateral relations. Yet, it reached a special milestone in 2006 through the launching of the "Strategic Partnership for Peaceful and Prosperous Future" by H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and H.E. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia.

The strategic partnership has laid a strong foundation for a systematic and sustainable strengthening of our cooperation. Today, there is virtually no aspect of daily life that lacks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Congratulations on the 69th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia



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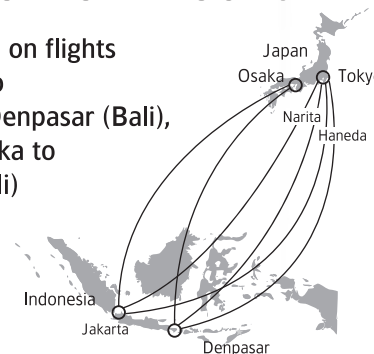
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HANEDA	GA875	00:30-06:00	→	JAKARTA	GA874	13:05-22:35	→	HANEDA
OSAKA	GA889 <sup>(*)</sup>	12:00-17:00	→	JAKARTA	GA888 <sup>(*)</sup>	23:20-08:15 <sup>(*)</sup>	→	OSAKA

NARITA	GA881	11:00-17:25	→	DENPASAR	GA880	00:30-08:50	→	NARITA
HANEDA	GA887	11:45-17:55	→	DENPASAR	GA886	00:25-08:50	→	HANEDA
OSAKA	GA883	11:00-17:10	→	DENPASAR	GA882	00:35-08:30	→	OSAKA

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# Indonesia independence day

## Supporting close ties across wide sphere

Yasuo Fukuda  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN INDONESIA  
ASSOCIATION

This year marks the 69th anniversary since the independence of the Republic of Indonesia was declared in the name of Indonesian nationals on Aug. 17, 1945. On behalf of the Japan Indonesia Association (JIA), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Indonesia on the occasion of this commemorative day.

This year witnessed a presidential election and a new leader will be inaugurated as the president of Indonesia. In this environment, the Indonesian economy continues to grow steadily, with a recent growth rate of 5.8 percent and the gross domestic product per capita reaching \$3,500 further expanding middle-income earners. Against this

backdrop of economic growth, Japanese companies are increasing their investments in Indonesia. There are also active human and interpersonal exchanges, making me feel confident about our strengthening bilateral close relations across a wide sphere.

Last December, on the occasion of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's visit to Japan to attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, the representatives of the corporate members of the JIA and I had an opportunity to engage in a frank exchange of opinions with the president. At this meeting, the president extended his expectations for further expansion of business and investment by Japanese companies in Indonesia. In response, the Japanese representatives actively expressed their expectations for improvement of the environment for doing more business and expanding investment in Indonesia. I think the meeting was a very meaningful and

fruitful exchange of opinions that should really help to contribute to the future of Indonesia and Japan.

The JIA, which is proud of its position in fostering the friendship between Japan and Indonesia, is determined not only to conduct Japan-Indonesia friendship exchanges, but also to provide indirect support to various exchanges in all areas. Especially, it is my sincere desire to further enhance the activities supporting Indonesian nurses and caretakers, who come to Japan every year, and to be of some help in developing the bilateral relations.

With the members of the JIA, I want to continue to work on encouraging the exchanges at the private-sector level and to further develop friendly relations between Japan and Indonesia.

With expectations for the prosperity and development of the Republic of Indonesia, I sincerely pray for the happiness of the people of the Republic of Indonesia.



TONY/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY



MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

Tourists are able to enjoy the Solo Batik Carnival in central Java (left) and many other traditional rituals and festivals across the country, as well as a variety of Indonesian dishes, including "Nasi Tumpeng" used in festivities to thank God (above).



EMBASSY OF INDONESIA



EMBASSY OF INDONESIA



DUDI/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

## Expanding, deepening Japan-Indonesia partnership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

in a bilateral partnership between our two countries. From infrastructure to disaster management, from education to culture, from agriculture to health, we are witnessing a nexus of close cooperation in so many fields.

The strength of our partnership also lies in the fact that it goes beyond intergovernmental cooperation. It also exists in business fields and people-to-people contact.

In the economic field, last year we saw a record high Japanese foreign investment in Indonesia, with a total value of investment of \$4.71 billion, placing Japan as the largest foreign investor in Indonesia. It was an increase of more than 192 percent compared to the value of investment in 2012, which stood at \$2.45 billion.

Trade volume between the two countries also continues to grow, with an average growth rate of 12.6 percent over the last 5 years. In 2013, Japan was ranked as the second biggest export destination and third biggest source of imports for Indonesia, amassing \$46.37 billion in trade volume.

Beyond trade and investment, we have also been witnessing a recent new and exciting trend in people-to-people contact, namely, the

dynamic increase of Indonesian visitors to Japan. Of course, this reflects the aforementioned fact that many Indonesians think warmly about Japan, and therefore are interested to learn more about Japan and to see Japan for themselves.

More than 136,000 Indonesian visitors came to Japan last year, a 35 percent increase compared to 2012, and a 121 percent increase compared to 2011. While this number in itself is already impressive, if we analyze further and focus solely on tourism, excluding those who came for business or official visits, the figure becomes even more notable. Of those 136,000 visitors, more than 74 percent or 101,000 came as tourists. This represents a 49 percent increase compared to 2012, and 199.6 percent compared to 2011.

Such a dramatic rise in the interest among Indonesians to learn about Japan is also evident in a survey by the Japan Foundation in 2013, which found that Indonesians ranked second in world in terms of the number of students learning the Japanese language, with more than 800,000 Indonesians studying the language last year. The vast majority of them are studying the Japa-

nese language in Indonesia, not in Japan, as the number of Indonesian students in Japan stood at 2,236 last year.

Therefore, I warmly welcome the announcement of the Japanese government that Japan will soon extend its visa-waiver program to Indonesian tourists, and I also welcome the steps taken by the Japanese government to make Japan a more accessible destination for Muslim tourists. I believe such decisions will further boost mutual understanding among our two nations.

In the same sector, Japan remains one of the main contributors to inbound tourism to Indonesia, accounting for 497,399 tourist arrivals in 2013. This was a 7.7 percent increase compared to 2012. Of course, we are looking forward to welcoming even more Japanese tourists to Indonesia, and we can assure you that all Japanese will enjoy a warm welcome from all Indonesians.

With the continuously increasing strength of our bilateral partnership, it is clear that our prosperity and our future are bound together. We have a shared future – in our region and in the world at large. Our challenge is therefore to seek ways and means to elevate our partnership even further, to

continuously take our cooperation to the next level, so that it continues to benefit our peoples, and beyond that, the world at large.

I believe opportunities ahead still abound in this regard. For instance, Indonesia's efforts to further enhance its infrastructure, particularly in the field of transport, connectivity and energy provides abundant opportunities for Japanese companies to invest. Indeed, improving the quality of infrastructure and overall connectivity has become a national priority, as prescribed in our Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia's Economic Development (MP3EI). Thus, in the first quarter of 2014, Indonesia has already disbursed around \$72 billion for infrastructure projects within the MP3EI framework and more projects have also been identified.

Opportunities are also available beyond the economic field. Just as more and more Indonesians are learning Japanese, we want to see more and more Japanese learning Bahasa Indonesia. As Indonesia continues to move further in its development, other areas for cooperation have also opened up. This includes, among others, joint research development

and trilateral development frameworks under which Indonesia and Japan join hands in assisting the development of a third country.

We thus have thus all the reasons to be confident about the future of our partnership. That there should be no limit for what we can achieve and that we can progress together for a peaceful and prosperous future. That we can contribute, not only for the benefit of our two countries, but also for the world at large.

Thus, on the happy occasion of the 69th anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day, I wish to, on behalf of the people and government of Indonesia, convey our warmest greetings to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and to the government and people of Japan, and to reaffirm Indonesia's commitment to continue its strong and long-standing partnership with Japan. A partnership that is aimed at ensuring that the two countries have a shared future of peace and prosperity, a partnership that benefits not only the peoples of the two countries but also the world at large. May God bless our two great nations in this common pursuit for peace and progress. Banzai!



A night view of the skyscrapers in the heart of Indonesia's capital Jakarta SETIADI DARMAWAN/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

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2013 Jakarta tree planting



Japanese (left) and Indonesian "Teenage Ambassadors" perform each other's national anthems in 2012.



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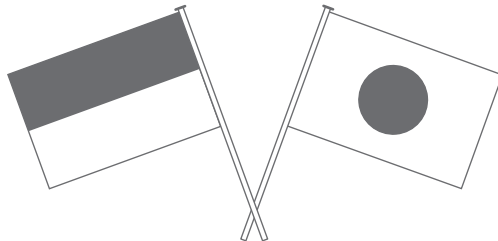


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# Indonesia independence day

## Deepening tourism, building creative economic cooperation

Mari Elka Pangestu  
MINISTER OF TOURISM AND  
CREATIVE ECONOMY

Indonesia and Japan are two big Asian nations which have shared long and close historical, economic and political ties. Both nations went through a difficult period in World War II when the then Dutch East Indies was occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army for 3½ years. Nevertheless, after Indonesia's independence, both countries have together built a strong mutual relationship. Japan has grown to be one of Indonesia's major trading partners as well as Indonesia's main export destinations. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan has also contributed substantially to Indonesia's development. Both countries are active in various global forums, including being members of the G20 and APEC.



sians view Japan's influence positively, with only 9 percent expressing a negative view, making Indonesia the most pro-Japanese nation in the world.

In the areas of cultural and social relations, Japanese culture is well-known in Indonesia. Aside from classic hallmarks of Japanese culture such as kimono, ikebana, origami or samurai, Japanese culture is familiar to Indonesian youth through pop culture phenomenon such as manga, anime, J-Pop, and video games. Popular Japanese animation programs such as Doraemon have gained popularity among Indonesians. Conversely, many Japanese have become interested in Indonesian culture. Indonesian cultural icons such as batik, gamelan and Indonesian dances have gained Japanese attention. Bali and Borobudur have become popular destinations for Japanese tourists with Japan being one of the largest sources of international tourists in Bali.

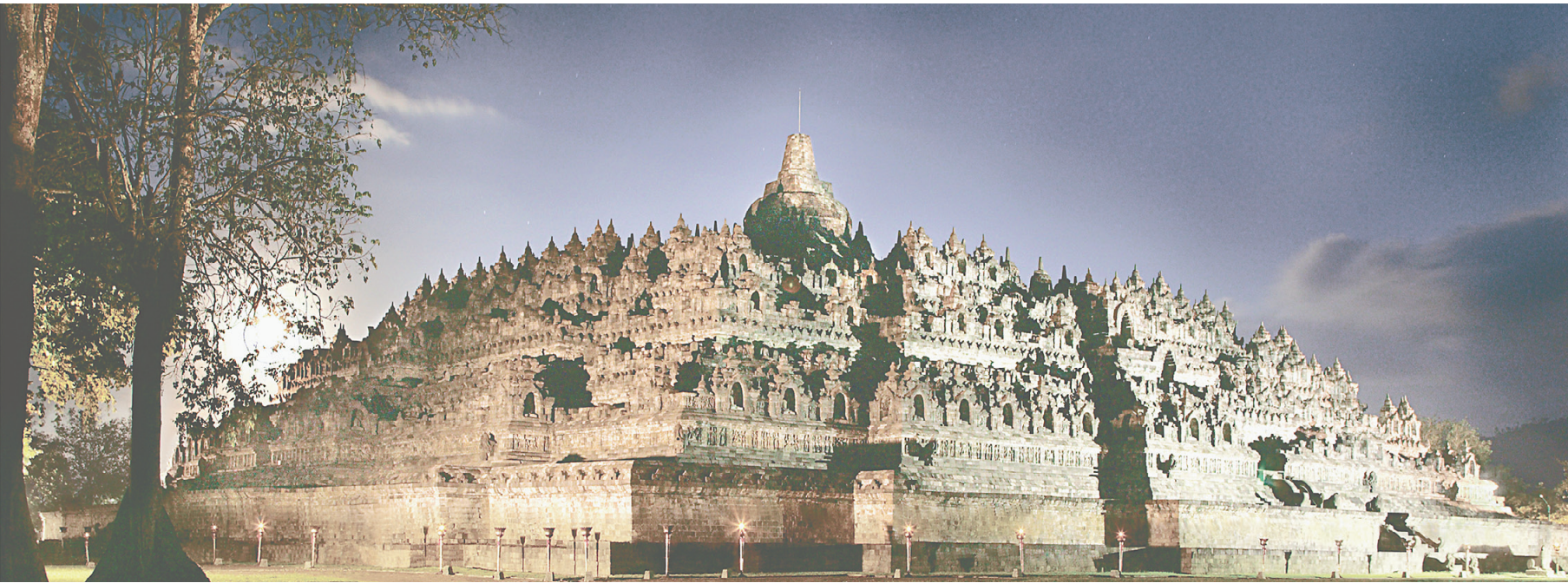
There are over 800,000 Indonesians studying the Japanese language, the largest number in Southeast Asia and the second largest in the world. Indonesians' interest in the Japanese language has been kindled by the increasing amount of Japanese business in Indonesia since the 1980s and the sizable number of Japanese tourists visiting Indonesia. Proficiency in Japanese has become quite an asset for Indonesian workers.

Regarding the growth and

potential of the tourism sector between two countries, Japan is undisputedly one of Indonesian tourism's main markets. The number of Japanese visitors coming to Indonesia has increased from 463,486 in 2012 to 497,399 in 2013, reaching a growth rate of 7.7 percent. On the other hand, the number of Indonesian visitors to Japan in 2012 was 101,460, or an increase of 63.88 percent compared to the 2011 number of 61,911. This outstanding development is expected to continue to rise with an estimated growth of nearly 100 percent once the short-period visa exemption policy by the Japanese government to Indonesian tourists is introduced at the end of 2014. Foreign exchange receipts generated from Japanese tourists in Indonesia has also grown from \$477.8 million in 2012 to \$558.85 million in 2013.

We would also like to reiterate our continued support for mutual cooperation with Japan in tourism sector development. In the course of Indonesia Tourism Investment Day 2012, a letter of intent for investment was signed by Japan's Long Life Corp. and Indonesia's Banten West Java PT. for a tourism development project in the Tanjung Lesung Special Economic Zone for tourism. Indonesia further welcomes tourism investment from Japan within the framework of Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (IJ-EPA) as one of the sectors covered in the IJ-EPA is cooperation in tourism.

Indonesia and Japan have



EBONG/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

**Clockwise from above, the Borobudur temple compound, located in central Java, is a UNESCO World Heritage site; orangutans are currently found only in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra; The Komodo dragon is native to Indonesia and is the largest lizard in the world; Mount Rinjani, West Nusa Tenggara, is an active volcano in Indonesia**



EFFENDY BONG/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY



MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY



SETIADI DARMAWAN/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

also built cooperation in the development of creative industries. In October 2012, the minister of tourism and creative economy of the Republic of Indonesia and the Japanese minister of economy, trade and industry signed a joint press statement. In the statement, both countries agreed to cooperate in the fields of creative industries including content industry such as film, music, interactive games and performing arts as well as fashion, design and crafts. Hopefully, through this statement, both countries can offer new opportunities for small and midsize enterprises to be more innova-

tive and economically competitive, especially those working in the fields as mentioned in the statement.

Moreover, Indonesia is also looking forward to working closely with Japan in the area of sustainable development, especially a sustainable tourism practice that covers the interests of both countries. Indonesia is committed to working with Japan to develop a more sustainable and greener economy through tourism activities.

### Wonders Beyond Bali

Beyond the wonders of the "Island of Gods" Bali, Indonesia

offers every traveler all kinds of natural wonders, from white sand beaches and tropical green forests in Tanjung Puting National Park, to a breathtaking volcanic landscape in Bromo. With different kinds of ethnicities, religions and beliefs, Indonesia presents rich a cultural diversity and living tradition that will touch anyone visiting Indonesia.

The beauty of Indonesia's nature is unquestionable and is spread all across the country. Bali is indeed a heart-opening destination with richness in nature and culture. However, we welcome you to further explore Indonesia, beyond Bali.

There is a diversity of destinations for all kinds of travelers such as those who want to cycle through mountains and lakes in Sumatra, businesspeople who want to take advantage of premium meeting services combined with exciting golf courses, divers who want to dive in an underwater heaven and small families who want to share quality time with loved ones on white sandy beaches.

Indonesia warmly welcomes our friends from Japan to visit "Wonderful Indonesia." We invite you to experience heavenly Raja Ampat, where you can experience a paradise at its best both underwater or on the surface on the top of Wayag Hill; experience adventure in Tanjung Puting, where you may see an orangutan, the king of primates, while traveling on the Sekonyer River in a traditional Klotok boat; and marvel at the magnificent Borobudur, the largest Buddhist temple in the world. Indonesia can be reached through International direct

flights going from Tokyo Narita and Haneda airport to Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali or Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta by Garuda Indonesia, Japan Airlines or All Nippon Airlines. You can also easily connect to 21 other Indonesian international airports.

The charm of the nature and culture of Indonesia and their legacies are not the only wonders foreign travelers can find in Indonesia. One thing that can only be found by tourists in Indonesia is the living tradition that is still widely shared in the daily lives of Indonesians. Hospitality, a warm attitude and openness of the people of Indonesia is part of the wonders of our hearts that you can experience. Indonesians welcome foreign travelers heartfully, making guests feel like they are already part of the community.

We welcome you to experience Wonderful Indonesia and to collaborate with the best of Indonesia's creative minds and talents.



The Melasti Ceremony is performed on a beach in Bali. AGATHA ANNE BUNANTA/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

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