

# Indonesia Independence Day

## Bilateral relations continue to grow

**ARIFIN TASRIF**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



On this day, the Republic of Indonesia is celebrating its Independence and the joining of the community of nations as a sovereign state committed to contributing to the peace and prosperity of the global community. On this day 72 years ago, our independence was gained through the hard work of our founding fathers that united the nation with diverse ethnicity and culture spread throughout 17,500 islands under the state philosophy of Pancasila (Five Principles). Since the establishment of bilateral relations in 1958, a strong bond between

Indonesia and Japan was created that continues to grow rapidly through fostering close international cooperation and complementing each other in the economic sector.

Today, the population of Indonesia stands at 263 million people, or 41 percent of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which 67 percent are in the productive working age. This and abundant natural and energy resources are among the many advantages of Indonesia to support its remarkable economic development, particularly in the industrial sector.

With an average economic growth in Indonesia over the last decade of 5.1 percent, Japanese companies have created millions of jobs and contributed a significant share to the overall gross domestic product growth of the Indonesian economy. Exports from Japanese companies in Indonesia are also contributing a healthy portion of total exports

from Indonesia. I am confident that in the future, Japanese investment will continue to grow.

The government of Indonesia, under the leadership of President Joko Widodo, is ramping up its efforts to accelerate the growth of the Indonesian economy through, among others, the promotion of 14 industrial areas, eight special economic zones and 10 new tourism destinations spread across Indonesia. To support this goal, the Indonesian government has commissioned infrastructure development projects in energy, power plants, roads, railways, ports and airports.

We are optimistic that the economic activities between Indonesia and Japan will continue to increase, not only in the investment sector, but also in trade. With the signing of the Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement in 2006, both countries have reached agreement to forge closer economic relations

through cooperation for capacity building, liberalization, promotion and facilitation of trade and investment.

As our bilateral relationship enters its 60th anniversary next year, the embassy of Indonesia will organize a string of events such as the Indonesian Festival in Tokyo, dialogues among Indonesian and Japanese young politicians, businesspeople and journalists, as well as symposiums, seminars and exhibitions in a number of cities in Japan. Our goal is to promote Indonesian development, arts and culture throughout Japan to create emotional bonds at the people-to-people level that will further strengthen the relations between Indonesia and Japan into the future.

I am convinced that with the cooperative spirit Indonesia and Japan have shown, we will see optimal results for the people of both countries and the relationship between the two nations will continue to further strengthen.



President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wave at a welcome ceremony during the Japanese prime minister's visit to Indonesia on Jan. 15. OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL STAFF

## Infrastructure proves mutually beneficial

**BASUKI HADIMULJONO**  
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING



Infrastructure and housing development cooperation between Indonesia and Japan has been ongoing since 1958 and is still growing today. Both countries have enjoyed mutually beneficial collaboration in various areas, primarily in roads and bridges, dams, irrigation, water supply, sewage and housing. Next year will mark 60 years of fruitful cooperation

between both countries.

Leading up to next year's milestone, the government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing visited Tokyo from July 13 to 15 and met various key players, primarily those in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, to discuss a platform for future cooperation. Indonesia has recently launched 245 long-term infrastructure projects that have attracted much interest from the government of Japan, including the Trans-Sumatra Toll Road, in particular from Pekanbaru to Bukittinggi, Patimban Harbor and its access road, the Jakarta Sewage Development Project, and the East-West link of

Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit.

Besides undertaking these attractive projects, the Indonesian government is also committed to reducing regional disparity and poverty in urban and rural areas. Our goal is not merely to maintain positive economic growth in major cities and regions, but also to distribute welfare to new development areas.

In this context, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing is ready to invite, discuss and accelerate cooperation with the government of Japan and related Japanese private businesses to take the initiative on these projects. It is therefore timely for both countries to strengthen their cooperation and make the best use of potential investment and economic development.

## Energy cooperation projects moving forward

**IGNASIUS JONAN**  
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES



As Indonesia is celebrating its 72nd Anniversary of Independence, special remarks are called for in the 59-year bilateral cooperation between our two countries, complementing the already outstanding results in political, economic and sociocultural spheres. Japan is the second-biggest investor in Indonesia, particularly in

infrastructure projects, and the country's investments correspond well with the government of Indonesia's current national development priorities.

Indonesia and Japan have a long history in the energy sector. Our bilateral energy cooperation has been increasing and was reiterated in January's Energy Forum, which endorsed further cooperation in energy infrastructure projects in Indonesia.

At a bilateral meeting between President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who visited Indonesia in January, the two leaders were in agreement to further enhance economic collaboration, including that in energy cooperation. I hope my visit to Japan in

May helps attest to the importance my government attaches to the acceleration of the projects in energy cooperation. In my portfolio, for instance, the Masela Block project, with Japan's Inpex Corp. as a partner, is one of the potential projects expected to start as soon as possible. There is a fairly long list of forthcoming energy projects that are of common interests to both Japan and Indonesia to pursue.

To conclude, I would like to underscore that being a long-term and important partner to Japan, Indonesia is of the view that any momentum, including Indonesia's 72nd independence anniversary, shall be used to further boost the relations between the two countries.

**Congratulations**  
on the 72nd Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia August 17, 2017

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HANEDA	GA875	11:45-16:55	→ JAKARTA	GA874	23:40-08:50 (*)	→ HANEDA
KANSAI	GA889 *	12:00-17:05	→ JAKARTA	GA888 *	23:20-08:15 (*)	→ KANSAI
NARITA	GA881	11:00-17:30	→ DENPASAR	GA880	00:55-08:50	→ NARITA
KANSAI	GA883	10:50-16:50	→ DENPASAR	GA882	00:40-08:30	→ KANSAI

\*1 operates WED, SAT, SUN \*2 operates TUE, FRI, SAT

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# Indonesia Independence Day

## Serving as a bridge for friendship

**YASUO FUKUDA**  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN INDONESIA  
ASSOCIATION, INC.



The Republic of Indonesia marks its 72nd Anniversary this year after the country declared its independence on Aug. 17, 1945. On behalf of the Japan Indonesia Association (JAPINDA), I'd

like to express my sincere congratulations to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and the people of Indonesia on the occasion of their Independence Day.

Indonesia has maintained a stable economic growth rate of 5 percent in recent years, despite difficult economic circumstances internationally. Under the leadership of Jokowi, the country has steadily and promptly worked on improving regional

disparity and implemented various policies, including infrastructure development.

In addition, the president last year designated June 1 as the Pancasila Day national holiday, calling for the public to overcome racial, religious, ethnic and hierarchical barriers as an inclusive multireligious and multiethnic nation and embrace hope for the future.

This year was the first to observe Pancasila Day and I keenly feel that the spirit of mutual help and understanding, as well as tolerance, have become increasingly important in the face of a storm of terrorism across the world.

Regarding the Japan-Indonesia relationship, both countries coincidentally welcomed new ambassadors at approximately the same time, with Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia Masafumi Ishii and Indonesian Ambassador to Japan Arifin Tasrif embarking on building further strong bilateral ties.

It is surely essential for a bilateral rela-

tionship to have exchanges between leaders in political, government and economic circles, but what's more important is the interaction between members of the public. I sincerely hope a wide range of events will be conducted to further boost the bonds between the peoples of our two countries, as next year will be the 60th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.

I'm planning to visit Indonesia this fall with representatives of major Japanese firms and I'm determined to make efforts for the further development of bilateral ties to the best of my ability.

JAPINDA is in a position in the private sector to serve as a bridge for friendship and goodwill, so we'd like to lend a helping hand to exchanges in a variety of areas.

To conclude my message, I'd like to express my hope for the further prosperity and development of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as to sincerely offer my best wishes for the happiness of its people.



Borobudur Temple MINISTRY OF TOURISM



See Komodo dragons via Labuan Bajo WWW.INDONESIA.TRAVEL

### Congratulations

on the 72nd Anniversary of  
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THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

August 17, 2017



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