

Indonesia Independence Day Special

Strong commitment to address challenges

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As Indonesia prepares for a new chapter under President-Elect Prabowo Subianto, the nation's priorities for the next term are coming into focus. Subianto's ambitious vision,

encapsulated in his "Indonesia Emas 2024" (Golden Indonesia 2024) program, promises to reshape the country's economic and social landscape. This strategic vision also holds significant implications for Indonesia's relationship with Japan, a key partner in the region.

Subianto has outlined a comprehensive plan aimed at transforming Indonesia into a high-income country by its centennial, with an 8% economic growth target.

His Indonesia Emas 2024 program focuses on several crucial areas. These include nutrition, specifically tackling high stunting levels

by ensuring schools provide balanced meals to students, and health care, with the expansion of access to free care and the development of high-quality local hospitals. The program also aims to boost productivity to support the country's food security and economic stability and modernize educational facilities to enhance learning outcomes.

In addition, Indonesia Emas 2024 looks to continue and expand welfare card programs to reduce poverty, address bureaucratic reform by improving the welfare of public employees to increase efficiency and transparency, and advance infrastructure projects with a focus on public housing for disadvantaged groups, including millennials and Generation Z.

These priorities reflect a commitment to addressing both long-standing and emerging challenges, with a particular emphasis on resilience in a post-pandemic era.

As Indonesia embarks on this transformative journey, its relationship with Japan is poised to play a critical role. The nations have made substantial progress in their partnership, culminating in the elevation of their bilateral relationship to a comprehensive

strategic partnership in 2023. The ongoing discussions about a detailed plan of action signal a deepening of this collaboration.

As strategic partners, Indonesia and Japan have a mutual interest in strengthening their relationship and cooperation. Both are working together to enhance maritime cooperation, as well as growing cyberspace challenges.

Japan, a long-standing friend and key economic partner, has been instrumental in Indonesia's development, particularly in infrastructure and industry. This partnership is set to gain further momentum under Subianto's administration. The focus on infrastructure and agriculture in his agenda aligns with Japan's interests and expertise, creating opportunities for increased collaboration. At the same time, Indonesia is also expected to contribute more to Japan's economy and society, sending more of its skilled workforce that would play key roles in Japanese industry, which in turn would strengthen its people-to-people relationships.

Another important development is the finalization of the long-awaited Indonesia-

Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, which has been signed recently, and the creation of the Asia Zero Emission Community. These initiatives are designed to support global efforts to reduce carbon emissions while still promoting economic growth and development.

As the president-elect prepares to take office, the alignment of Indonesia's domestic policies with its international partnerships is clear. The focus on infrastructure and welfare, as well as agriculture and fisheries, presents a promising landscape for deepening Indonesia-Japan relations. Both nations are expected to build on their strong foundation of trust and mutual benefit, driving forward economic and strategic initiatives that will benefit future generations.

The future of Indonesia-Japan bilateral relations looks promising, with both countries poised to leverage their partnership to address shared challenges and explore new opportunities. As Indonesia embarks on its ambitious path under Subianto's leadership, the continued strengthening of ties with Japan will be a key factor in achieving mutual growth and prosperity.



Minister of Defense and President-Elect Prabowo Subianto (left) and President Joko Widodo take part in a Cabinet meeting in Nusantara on Aug. 12.
BPMI SETPRES

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Borobudur temple, built in central Java between 780 and 840 during the Syailendra dynasty, boasts one of the world's most extensive collections of Buddhist reliefs.
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