

# Indonesia Independence Day Special

## Relationship continues to grow across many sectors

**MARIA RENATA HUTAGALUNG**  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRS A.I. OF INDONESIA



As Indonesia marks its 80th Independence Day anniversary on Aug. 17, the nation steps into a new era under President Prabowo Subianto. His administration brings forward the Asta Cita

vision of eight national development missions — a comprehensive framework aimed at strengthening Indonesia's resilience, advancing inclusive growth, and deepening international partnerships. Among these, the Indonesia-Japan relationship stands out as a partnership ready for renewed momentum.

Over the past six decades, Indonesia and Japan have built a resilient bond rooted in trade, cultural exchange and shared democratic values. With Asta Cita setting the national direction, this friendship is positioned to advance into a new phase, deliv-

ering innovation, prosperity and regional stability.

The eight missions of Asta Cita encompass strengthening national resilience in defense, food, energy, economy and culture; advancing downstream industrialization; ensuring food self-sufficiency; expanding health care; improving education; empowering villages; enhancing infrastructure and digital connectivity; and promoting clean, accountable governance.

Prabowo has framed Asta Cita not just as a plan, but as a commitment to every Indonesian — while remaining open to cooperation with like-minded partners such as Japan. The Indonesia-Japan relationship was elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2023.

Several elements of the partnership are built on priorities and core competencies shared by both countries.

Among them are defense and security

cooperation. Indonesia's goal of self-reliant defense aligns with Japan's expertise in advanced defense technology and its dedication to regional peace. Recent defense agreements and the easing of Japan's related export rules pave the way for capacity-building, joint training and potential coproduction initiatives.

Another element focuses on energy transition and green industry. Asta Cita's emphasis on energy sovereignty resonates with Japan's push for a decarbonized Asia. Collaborations in geothermal, hydrogen, ammonia co-firing and electric vehicle ecosystems can help Indonesia meet climate goals while attracting Japanese investment. Indonesia's Danantara sovereign wealth fund will be instrumental in channeling investments toward green industries.

Industrial downstreaming and infrastructure is another aspect of Asta Cita, and Japan remains a leading investor in Indo-

nesia, contributing to manufacturing, ports and logistics. Its expertise will be vital for advancing industrial downstreaming and infrastructure priorities, including strategic projects like Patimban Port and digital infrastructure.

Human capital, cultural exchange, education and character-building are key Asta Cita priorities. These align with Japan's long tradition of human resource development. Scholarships, technical training and language programs will continue to empower youth in both nations.

Another facet of Asta Cita is in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and food security. Japan's innovations in smart farming and aquaculture can bolster Indonesia's rural economies while ensuring sustainable food systems for both nations.

A further area of focus is digital transformation and governance. Japan's experience in digital governance and cybersecu-

riety offers valuable models as Indonesia advances e-government, fintech regulation and artificial intelligence ethics.

Prabowo's foreign policy reaffirms centrality for the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations while strengthening strategic autonomy. ASEAN's "Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" and Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" ensure a shared commitment to maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development and adherence to international law.

As Indonesia embarks on this new chapter guided by Asta Cita, the foundation for a stronger and more strategic Indonesia-Japan partnership is clear. Rooted in mutual respect and forward-looking cooperation, our nations are well-positioned to co-create solutions for a changing region — and world.

This Independence Day, Indonesia reflects on its journey toward freedom and



**Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba visits Bogor Palace with President Prabowo Subianto.**  
EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

progress. Together, both nations are building not only a stronger bilateral relationship, but also a safer and more promising future for the region and the world.

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

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*on the Anniversary of the Independence*  
*of the Republic of Indonesia*

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on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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