

Indonesia Independence Day Special

Shaping an inclusive and sustainable future

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AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA



As Indonesia celebrates its 81st anniversary of independence on Aug. 17, we reflect not only on our nation's journey, but also the enduring friendships that have accompanied it. Few have grown

and endured as meaningfully as the friendship between Indonesia and Japan.

In just two years, our countries will commemorate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. What began in 1958 as post-war reconciliation has evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership founded on mutual trust, shared values and a common commitment to contribute to a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Today, Indonesia and Japan are not only close, but also partners in shaping the future together.

Despite our different histories and political systems, both countries share a commitment to democracy, the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. These shared principles have enabled close coordination on regional and global issues while providing a strong foundation for our expanding cooperation across economic and security areas, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

Over the decades, our partnership has continuously evolved. From Japan's support for Indonesia's industrialization to the conclusion of the Indonesia-Japan economic partnership agreement, our rela-

tionship has evolved into one of equal and trusted partners. Today, Japan remains one of Indonesia's most important trading partners and among the largest and most trusted investors in our economy. More than 2,000 Japanese companies have made Indonesia their home, creating jobs, transferring technology, strengthening regional supply chains and contributing to Indonesia's long-term development.

This gained further momentum through President Prabowo Subianto's official visit to Tokyo earlier this year. Prabowo and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including security and defense, maritime affairs, trade, investment, energy security and human resource development. Japan's continued support for Indonesia's accession to the OECD further reflects our shared commitment to openness, reform and sustainable growth.

Equally important is our shared commitment to sustainability. Through the Asia Zero Emission Community, Indonesia and Japan are advancing practical collaboration

in geothermal energy, power transmission, critical minerals and nuclear energy. This demonstrates how both countries are working together to build cleaner industries, strengthen energy security and accelerate the transition toward a low-carbon economy. These initiatives reflect our conviction that economic growth and environmental responsibility must advance hand in hand.

Above all, the greatest strength of Indonesia-Japan relations lies in its people.

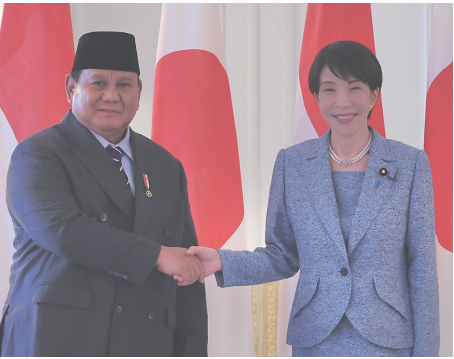
Japan is entering an era of demographic transition while Indonesia is benefiting from a young, dynamic and increasingly skilled workforce. These complementary strengths create opportunities, not simply for labor mobility, but also for talent circulation.

Indonesian students, researchers, engineers, caregivers and skilled professionals contribute meaningfully to Japanese society every day, while acquiring knowledge, technology and professional values that they will carry throughout their careers. At the same time, Japanese businesses, universities and communities continue to invest in Indonesia's greatest asset — its people.

Every Indonesian caregiver supporting an elderly resident, every engineer improving a production line, every chef introducing Indonesian flavors and every researcher collaborating with a Japanese university contributes to something larger than economic growth — they strengthen the human connection between our societies.

These young Indonesians are not merely filling labor shortages. They are becoming neighbors, colleagues, volunteers, entrepreneurs and cultural ambassadors. Likewise, the thousands of Japanese who live, work and invest in Indonesia continue to transfer knowledge, technology and values that support the country's "Golden Indonesia 2045" vision.

As we celebrate Indonesia's Independence Day, I extend my sincere appreciation to the government and people of Japan for their enduring friendship and partnership. Let us continue to build a relationship together that is economically resilient, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable for the benefit of our nations and the Indo-Pacific we proudly share.



Above: President Prabowo Subianto poses with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the Akasaka Palace state guest house during his official visit on March 31. Right: A boat glides through the waters around the Komodo Islands.

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