

# Indonesia independence day

## Moving forward for the future of Indonesian people

Muhammad Lutfi  
AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA

"We the people of Indonesia, hereby declare the independence of Indonesia."

It has been 68 years since President Sukarno read the Proclamation of Independence in his house in Jakarta on Aug. 17, 1945. It was echoed throughout the nation and overseas back then, and today, it is certainly with abundant



pride that we, Indonesians, shall voice the spirit of independence one more time. Merdeka!

It was not lightly sought after. The independence of Indonesia was fought for in the hardest way: 350 years under the colonialization of Dutch rule and then Japanese occupation afterward should be a constant reminder of how our freedom was achieved. And yet, here we are, the 16th largest economy in the world having a blossoming relationship with the Dutch and Japanese. How did it happen? Have we forgotten?

I was asked this question in an

interview for a U.K.-based magazine in late July. And although the subject was somewhat perhaps sensitive to some people, without the intention of oversimplifying, I answered that it is because Indonesia has moved on. From my time as the chief of the young entrepreneur organization (HIPMI), to serving as the head of ministerial-level Investment Coordinating Board during the first Cabinet of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, to ambassador to Japan now, I witness only the growing interest of my countrymen with the two countries, Japan in particular.

And so I should state it again. Indonesia has moved on. If our relationship with the two countries was an irksome condition to gain prosperity, I should say that it could not be good for the long run. It would be felt as forced, unequal, or even repulsive. Instead the attitude of the people have emerged as a nation of smiling people, the joyful and cordial. Independence has freed us from the bondage of suppression and brought us to the next journey to fulfill our national identity, the four aims that we set from the beginning: protection of the motherland, prosperity for the

people, education, and world order. We remember our past, but we favor our better future than that of mere fury and begrudging the past. We favor friendship.

Throughout my almost three years of living in Japan, I have observed the growing capacity of the Japanese people. Facing the terms of a thinning society, high yen price, and regional and global competition, new avenues are opened to foreigners and foreign countries. Japan now has a campaign to attract Muslim travelers from Southeast Asia, loosen the procedures in the foreign nurse-caregiver test, and appointed foreign youngsters to promote Japan as part of the Cool Japan strategy. Those things might not have been deemed necessary 10 or even five years ago. This willingness to change is a part of the value of democracy. Indonesia shares this with Japan. We value liberty and prosperity for our people as a means for social justice.

So far we have taken advantage of this friendship. Elevated to strategic partnership in 2008, this year Indonesia and Japan enter the 55th year of bilateral relations. In the last three years, the value of Japanese investment to Indonesia has seen an incredible hike, up to 300 percent. From \$750 million total in 2010, it doubled to \$1.5 billion in 2011, then to \$2.5 billion in 2012. In the first semester of 2013, the investment realization already reached \$2.25 billion, placing Japan currently as the No. 1 investor in Indonesia, taking over the traditional previous of Singapore and the U.S. In addition, most of the companies listed from Singapore are Japanese.

In Indonesia, new industrial areas are being developed to accommodate this huge interest. Usually based in the capital Jakarta and neighboring Banten, West Java, and also Batam which is close to the Malacca Straits and Singapore,



Commemoration: The National Monument, or simply Monas, is a 132-meter-high tower in the center of Jakarta, symbolizing the fight for Indonesia's independence. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

more investors have ventured to East Java, Sumatra, and the eastern part of Indonesia in Sulawesi, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara, or Papua. The latter areas are underdeveloped for industrial estates, having less infrastructure compared to the cities in the western part of Indonesia, but they are catching up, and the potentials are big, including fisheries and mining.

These openings need a fresh perspective on Indonesia. Back then, the island of gods, Bali, was a tourism landmark for the Japanese and far more famous than Indonesia itself. But as the relationship and ventures grow, Japanese people are starting to get familiar with Padang, Aceh,

Manado, Maluku, or Papua. In the last three years also we have seen the increase in Japanese media coverage on Indonesia that is beyond Bali. This notion by the press, rooted in democracy and media freedom, helps the people of Japan to get closer to the people of Indonesia.

Vice versa, Japan to Indonesia now is not just the land of sushi or Mount Fuji. It has become the mecca of creativity and innovation, through manga, anime, and robotics technology. A report from The Japan Foundation in July shows that there are 872,406 Japanese-language learners in Indonesia, the second in the world after China. The numbers have increased 21 percent in the

last three years. In 2010, Indonesia was No. 3 with the most learners after China and South Korea. The report also reveals the main reasons to learn the Japanese language: to interact with Japanese people and work in a Japanese company in Indonesia. Meanwhile, most of the Indonesia students in Japan are studying engineering or mechanics, including marine technology, nuclear, electrical and mechanical engineering.

Inbound tourism to Japan has enjoyed flourishing numbers of visitors from Indonesia. In the first semester of 2013, the Japan National Tourism Organization recorded the number of



Cultural exchange: Launched in 2010, Festival Indonesia will be held at Roppongi Hills from Sept. 21 to 22. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

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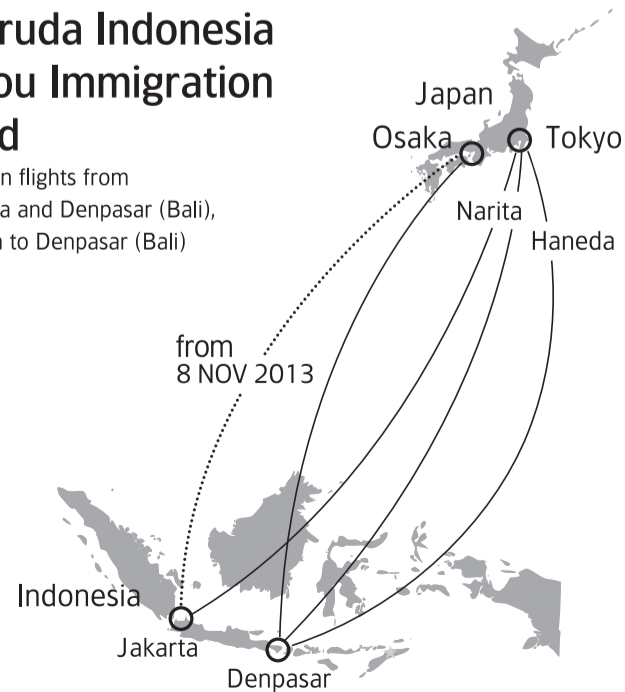
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OSAKA	GA883	11:00-16:50	→	DENPASAR	GA882	00:35-08:30	→	OSAKA

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## Indonesia will live up to its elevated status

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Indonesia visitors as 65,200, up 50 percent from the same period last year, which in total was 101,460, up 63.9 percent from 2011.

When the earthquake hit Tohoku on March 11, 2011, followed by tsunami, Indonesians shared another emotion with their fellow Japanese: a disaster-prone nation stricken by destruction and grief. Japan is not only Tokyo, Osaka or Fukuoka, but has become also Sendai, Kesennuma and Fukushima. I sincerely hope that what we saw in how the Japanese prevailed through perseverance and fortitude will also transpire in Indonesia.

Next year is the time for Indonesia's general election. This fourth election, third for the direct voting system, after the reform movement in 1998 will determine the nation's next leader to preside after President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, since our constitution bars second-term president to run for a third time in office. We are conscious, but mostly eager to take part, as the election is the embodiment of our democracy.

Under the one man, one vote system, every voter has a say in leadership-making. In the 2009 general election, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was voted for his second term by 73.8 million people, or 60.8 percent of all voters. This by percentage and numbers of voters is higher than the votes for Barack Obama in the U.S. in 2012. The numbers somewhat keep Indonesia as the largest democracy in the world, following the 2004 election, in which Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was voted for by 69.2 million people.

Why conscious? Because new leadership requires new skills, guts and sharpened approach to strategically undertake the current dynamics. Regional development and global competition require our economic



**Solidarity and bonds: In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (above, fourth from left) visits disaster-stricken Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, on June 18, 2011. Right, citizens of Kesennuma participate in Festival Indonesia in 2012 at the Tokyo Midtown complex in Minato Ward.**

EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

and political resilience. And as Uncle Ben says to Peter "Spider-Man" Parker, "With great power comes great responsibility," the economic strength must also be met with willingness to intensely partake in global forums, where non-traditional issues combine the deep-rooted conventional problems. Again, understanding our long enduring history and ability to cope, I am optimistic that Indonesia will live up to her identity and elevated position in international discourse.

I congratulate all Indonesians on this special occasion. It is time to redeem our pledge to the country for the arduous work ahead. Happy Independence Day, Indonesia.



## Exchanges lead to strong relations

Yasuo Fukuda  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-INDONESIA  
ASSOCIATION

This year marks the 68th anniversary since the independence of the Republic of Indonesia was declared in the name of the Indonesian nationals on Aug. 17, 1945. On behalf of the Japan Indonesia Association, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Indonesia on the occasion of this commemorative day.

The Indonesian economy

grows steadily, with a growth rate reaching 6.2 percent in 2012. Also, gross domestic product per capita exceeded \$3,500, with an expanding middle-income group. Against the backdrop of such economic growth, Japanese companies are increasing investment in Indonesia, which is strengthening bilateral relations.

Under such a circumstance, we the JIA formed a Japan-Indonesia Friendship Delegation comprised of representatives of Japanese companies, and I served as the head of the delegation that visited Indonesia from Dec. 2 to 4, 2012. During our visit, we had the opportunity to meet many government lead-

ers, including President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Vice President Boediono. I am confident that the fruitful visit helped contribute to further consolidate the relations between Japan and Indonesia.

The JIA plays a pivotal role in promoting our bilateral relationship through economic and cultural exchanges and activities for supporting Indonesian nurses and caretakers.

Marking the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year,

many events in a wide range of areas, including economy and culture, are planned. I expect that both Japan and Indonesia will further deepen their mutual understanding on a private level and will further strengthen their heart-to-heart bonds on this occasion.

With expectations for the further progress and development of the Republic of Indonesia, I sincerely hope that the people of Indonesia will enjoy further prosperity.

## Blooming economic ties help cooperation

Teruo Asada  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDONESIA  
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN

On behalf of Keidanren, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia.

Japan and Indonesia have historically shared amicable relations, and economic ties between both countries have been strengthened substantially in recent years. In terms of the amount of trade, the export from Indonesia to Japan was ¥2.6 trillion in 2012, and from Japan to Indonesia was ¥1.6 trillion. The total trade volume was ¥4.2 trillion, more than 1.6 times the ¥2.6 trillion in 2002. The direct investment from Japan to Indonesia in 2012 was the top in ASEAN countries with the

amount of investment reaching ¥300 billion.

These results owe to the Japan-Indonesia Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into effect in July 2008. The agreement includes not only trade in goods, but also investment, trade in services, movement of natural persons, energy, and so on. As five years has passed since it came into effect, it is necessary for both countries to review the agreement to make it more useful. We hope that both countries can enhance their economic relations through meaningful re-consultation.

In addition, cooperation between Japan and Indonesia in infrastructure development has recently been highlighted. In cooperation with the Japanese government, Keidanren has held the Japan-Indonesia Joint Economic Forum four times since 2010 with the government of Indonesia and KADIN (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and discussed the



**Economic relations: An Indonesian investment seminar is held in Osaka on Oct. 30, run by the Embassy of Indonesia and the Indonesian Consulate General in Osaka.** EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

progress of the MPA (Metropolitan Priority Areas for Investment and Industry) project and the realization of the six economic corridors in the MP3E1 (Master Plan for Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia Economic Development Plan). The MPA, in particular, is the symbol of mutual cooperation.

Beyond our almost matured relations, we can work together in making close economic relations with other Asian countries by cooperating in the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) negotiations. Indonesia is in a vital position in ASEAN countries, which has a large population comprised of the young generation, and its middle-income group is grow-

ing rapidly in accordance with its economic growth. As major economic powers in Asia, Japan and Indonesia are expected to take initiatives and play important roles in regional economic integration.

Japan and Indonesia also have possibilities of further cooperation on global-scale issues such as the environment, energy security, financial markets and others, which may contribute to revitalizing the world economy.

Once again, congratulations to the people of the Republic of Indonesia. We in the Japanese business community sincerely hope that Japan-Indonesia relations will continue expanding and strengthening for years to come.

## Congratulations on the 68th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia

### Our Activities in Indonesia:

#### • Tree Planting

Since 2011, we have planted some 39,000 mangrove trees in northern Jakarta with volunteers. In 2013, the last year of our 3-year tree planting program in Jakarta, we are going to plant trees on Aug. 25, making for a total of 63,000 mangroves planted.

#### • AEON Asia Eco Leaders by AEON 1% Club

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## Indonesia independence day

## Now is high time to invest in remarkable Indonesia



Muhamad Chatib Basri  
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF INDONESIA,  
CHAIRMAN OF INDONESIA  
INVESTMENT COORDINATING BOARD

Sixty-eight years ago, on Aug. 17, 1945, in Jakarta, Sukarno and Hatta declared the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. A new state was established: an archipelagic state comprising more than 17,000 islands stretching more than 5,000 km along the equator, and strategically located between two continents (Asia and Australia) and two oceans (Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean).

The new state came with huge potential. It has abundant natural resources, a large population and strategic location. At the same time, as a new state, obviously it faced significant challenges as well. As a new developing nation, it was lacking in capital, technology and know-how, as well as skilled human resources. It did not, however, prevent our founding fathers to dream high: to improve the welfare of its people, to educate the people and to play an active role in the maintenance of world peace, as stipulated in Indonesia's 1945 constitution.

It has become increasingly apparent for Indonesia that to overcome such challenges, in-

vestment is key. Indeed, investment plays a significant role for the development of a new emerging country like Indonesia. It brings capital and technology. It produces goods and services. It creates jobs, increases income and thus, welfare.

And in this regard, Indonesia has come a long way in its journey to promote foreign investment. From a humble beginning in 1945, Indonesia in the year 2013 is a country that is confident of its economic potentials. It has become the world's 16th largest economy, with a prospect to become the fourth largest by 2040. It has become one of the world's investment hot spots, providing opportunities for both Indonesians and foreign investors alike.

It was not an easy journey. The "Old Order" period in 1945-1965 was characterized by slow economic growth, with a development policy that was lacking in true deliverables due to political circumstances of the era. The subsequent "New Order" era (1966-1998) was characterized by political stability and high economic growth, which, for quite some time, became a success story in promoting growth and inviting foreign investment. Nevertheless, it was lacking in prudent economic management, nor was it equipped with transparent and accountable political processes. And the 1997 Asian financial crisis exposed such shortcomings. The crisis thus hit Indonesia very hard. It was such an enormous challenges that, at the time, many predicted the end of Indonesia.

Nevertheless, Indonesia prevails. The crisis has taught Indonesia some hard yet extremely valuable lessons. And instead of giving up, Indonesians decided to learn their lessons and to move forward. They committed themselves to build a new Indonesia.

A comprehensive reform was

thus launched. In the economic front, it meant laying the foundations for an open and progressive economy, with sound and prudent economic management. In the political front, it meant developing an inclusive, clean and accountable system of governance. And in the sociocultural front, it meant truly celebrating Indonesia's character as a diverse nation, which provides Indonesia with a wealth of talent and unparalleled uniqueness.

What has emerged is a new Indonesia. A remarkable Indonesia — stronger than ever before. A confident nation with a positive outlook of its regional

and global setting. An emerging nation whose role and influence in the world economy has continued to expand.

Now, therefore, is high time to invest in Indonesia. To invest in the new, remarkable Indonesia. And the data speaks for itself.

It is the world's third biggest democracy, with a strong commitment to good and accountable governance.

Its economic size has been expanding significantly. Recent reports from Citicorp estimate that, if the current growth and investment rates are maintained, Indonesia will grow from currently the world's 16th largest

economy, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of over \$1 trillion, to be the 10th biggest by 2025, and the fourth by 2040.

Its young and energetic population base provides abundant opportunities. Half of Indonesia's 240 million people are young and aged under 30. This ensures Indonesia's economic productivity for decades to come.

Its middle class is also expanding. Research by Nomura estimates that the number of Indonesia's middle class (with an income range of \$3,000 to \$20,000) will soon reach 150 million in 2014, thus providing potentials for sustained economic

growth through a growing consumer base.

What is also important to mention here is that the vast majority of Indonesians have a very positive outlook of Japan. For many, Japan is considered as a reliable development partner, not only in good times, but even when Indonesia was facing formidable challenges.

When the Indian Ocean tsunami hit Indonesia and particularly Aceh Province in December 2004, Japan was among the first countries to respond and lend its valuable support to Indonesia. And when the Tohoku tsunami struck Japan in 2011, many In-

donesians felt a strong sense of solidarity with Japan. Indonesia thus returned the favor, and took the lead in mobilizing international support for Japan.

Such a strong sense of friendship is also reflected in a 2012 research by the Lowy Institute. The research reveals that Japan scores highest in terms of foreign policy outlook of many Indonesians. Sixty-six percent of Indonesians have most favorable feelings toward Japan and Japanese people, and 80 percent of Indonesians feel that Japan has been very responsible in conducting its international role.

Investing in Indonesia thus

provides Japanese companies with many unparalleled benefits. Indonesia serves as an important production base for the regional and international markets — a strategic production base for export. Within its own market, it serves as a continuously expanding consumer base. And it provides a hospitable base upon which to operate.

Japanese companies seem to quickly grab the opportunities. Data in the last three years shows a continuously upward trend in the total value of Japanese investment realization in Indonesia. It doubled from \$713 million in 2010 to \$1.5 billion in 2011, and rose further to \$2.4 billion in 2012.

This positive trend continues in 2013. At a recent news conference on July 23, I shared with the media that Japan became the top foreign investor for the first semester of 2013, with investment realization amounted to 400 projects worth \$2.3 billion. This equals 94 percent of the total value of Japanese investment for the whole of 2012, and we can therefore expect Japan to double its investment value by the end of this year. This is going to be the highest record of Japanese investment in Indonesia.

The growing value of Japanese investment is taking place at a time when the overall investment climate in Indonesia is also growing favorably.

At the aforementioned news conference, I also announced that in the first semester of 2013, total investment realization in Indonesia from all sources already reached 192.8 trillion rupiahs (approximately \$19.7 billion). It means that overall investment — both foreign direct investment (FDI) and domestic investment — grew 30 percent compares to the same period last year, while the FDI itself grew by 18.9 percent. Such figures are considerably very strong given the slow recovery of the world economy, especially in Europe and the United States — as well as slower growth in China.

After Japan, the other countries in the top five foreign investors to Indonesia are Singapore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Warm welcome: Modern buildings rise around the Hotel Indonesia roundabouts in the heart of Jakarta. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA / JAKARTA CAPITAL CITY GOVERNMENT

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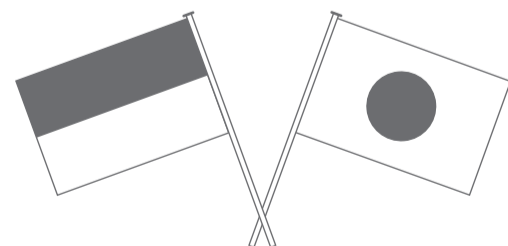
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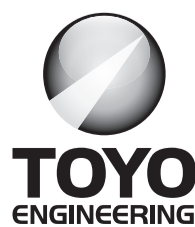
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# Indonesia independence day



**Natural beauty: Sunset as seen from Tanah Lot, a rock formation off Bali, one of the country's major tourist attractions.** EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

## Japan should not miss out on new opportunities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

(\$1.98 billion), the U.S. (\$1.35 billion), South Korea (\$1.22 billion) and the United Kingdom (\$650 million). In total, FDI realization in Indonesia for the first semester of 2013 reached \$14.2 billion.

Automotive sectors still dominate Japanese investment in Indonesia, accounting for almost 70 percent of the total investment value. However, other sectors that show a lot of interest are machineries and electronics, paper, food and chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Opportunities also abound in the fields of infrastructure and energy.

In terms of job creation, the 400 investment projects are estimated to create almost 58,000 new employees in the country: an important step forward for the government of Indonesia in providing employment to Indonesia's large population base.

This is not something that can be easily taken for granted, but a result of rising confidence in Japanese businesses on continuous efforts by the government of Indonesia in improving investment climate in the country. Thanks to political stability, sound economic policy and demographic bonuses, Indonesia is becoming more and more attractive to businesses from all over the world, including Japan.

Looking ahead, opportunities still abound, and for sure Indonesia looks forward to continuously partner with Japan for mutual progress.

Some major development projects are currently under way in Indonesia. Among others, the Metropolitan Priority Area (MPA), a mega-project that Indonesia launched in close cooperation with Japan, aims to transform the "Jabodetabek" (Jakarta-Bogor-Depok-Tangerang-Bekasi area) into a world-class metropolis with high-quality, efficient infrastruc-

tures and connectivity by 2030.

Indonesia has also launched a master plan to ensure its economic growth can be attained in a sustainable way and is equally distributed throughout the country. This is called the MP3EI (Master Plan for the Acceleration of Indonesia's Economic Development), which identifies six corridors for economic growth and development in Indonesia, each with its own strengths and potentials, yet in a way that will complement each other.

The implementation of MP3EI provides enormous opportunities for foreign investors. Over \$180 billion worth of projects are slated for priority development under this master plan, of which \$50 billion are already under way. A significant number of these projects are in the field

of infrastructure and energy, and Japan, with its expertise on these fields, should not miss out on such opportunities.

Thus, on the happy occasion of the 68th anniversary of Indonesia's independence, Indonesians look ahead with confidence that the continued growth of the Indonesian economy will contribute significantly to sustainable growth of regional and world economies. And as this 68th anniversary also coincides with the 55th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Japan, Indonesians extend their hands to their Japanese friends to progress together, to continue the long-standing cooperation and friendship between the two countries, for the common prosperity of both nations.

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THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
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