

Indonesian president's visit

Building stable, lasting partnership

Yusron Ihza Mahendra
AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA

Since the establishment of a new chapter in the history of Indonesia-Japan relations back in 1958, the two countries have gained not only a strong sense of friendship, but also of partnership. The geo-



graphical proximity has only enhanced the heart-to-heart relations that cemented the foundation of the two nations' strong cooperation in all walks of life.

The official working visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his wife Hj. Iriana Joko Widodo to Japan is high time to bolster the already strong relations to a new level of partnership. We aim at further strengthening a partnership that will build upon

shared values for peace, stability, prosperity and regional development that will deepen and widen our economic, security and maritime partnership, as well as investment cooperation that will foster cultural and people-to-people exchanges. It will be a new level of partnership that delivers a vibrant message and aspiration to youth across the two nations.

It is in our strongest belief that the visit and the new partnership will further tie the two countries' closeness within the hearts and minds of our peoples and will make both Indonesia and Japan stronger and more resilient in embracing both the opportunities and challenges presented in this global world.



President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo AP

Many years of close relations

Yasuo Fukuda
PRESIDENT, JAPAN INDONESIA ASSOCIATION, INC., FORMER PRIME MINISTER

On behalf of the Japan Indonesia Association, as well as all the people of Japan, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo, better known as Jokowi, on the occasion of his first visit to Japan as the country's leader.

Jokowi was elected by a direct vote in the presidential election last July and took office in October. I attended his swearing-in ceremony as a

special envoy of the Japanese government.

Jokowi is issuing a clarion call to transform Indonesia into a maritime nation and is tackling key issues such as rural development, correction of disparities, export expansion and infrastructure improvement. I hope that Indonesia, a major power in Southeast Asia, will continue to develop under the leadership of Jokowi.

Japan and Indonesia are "strategic partners" who have enjoyed long years of friendly relations. Both at the governmental and private levels, the two countries have cultivated amicable ties in various areas such as politics, security, economy, culture and people-to-people exchanges. Especially on the economic front,

Japan's investment in Indonesia reached \$4.7 billion in 2013, which made Japan the largest investor in the country. Japan's investment in Indonesia, including the additional spending on factories and equipment, is greatly increasing and a growing number of Japanese companies are newly setting up operations in Indonesia. Japanese firms based in Indonesia are expected to boost exports and the stable economic development of Indonesia will be crucial for the development of Japan as well.

I believe that Jokowi's visit to Japan will further strengthen bilateral ties and deepen mutually beneficial relations. I sincerely extend my best wishes for Jokowi's productive and fruitful stay in Japan.

Profile of President Joko Widodo

Born in 1961, Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, grew up in the Central Java city of Solo (Surakarta) as the eldest of four children and the only son. As a boy, he helped his carpenter father collect and cut wood, which the family sold as part of their living.

Nevertheless, his family assisted him through school and he continued his education in the Forestry Faculty of the country's top-tier Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta and graduated with a degree in forestry in 1985.

Jokowi joined the forestry service of a state enterprise in Aceh before returning to Solo in 1989 to work with his uncle and learn the furniture business from design to delivery. He then branched out on his own and soon established a thriving furniture business with a strong focus on exports.

His entrepreneurial flair was recognized by business associates and he served as the head of the newly established branch of the furniture manufacturers' association from 2002 to 2007.

His success in this role prompted his colleagues to press him to run for mayor of Solo, one of the most historic cities of Central Java. He successfully ran for mayor in Solo in 2005 and in 2010.

It was his performance as mayor of Solo that he first gained attention for his ability to resolve issues such as floods, dirty streets and slums. He was nominated by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) to run for governor of Jakarta. He succeeded in ousting the favored incumbent in the 2012 elections.

Jokowi's popularity across Indonesia rose sharply fol-

lowing his election to the high-profile position of governor of Jakarta. During 2013 and early 2014 he was increasingly seen as a potential PDIP candidate for the Indonesian presidential election in 2014. His nomination was announced on March 14, 2014.

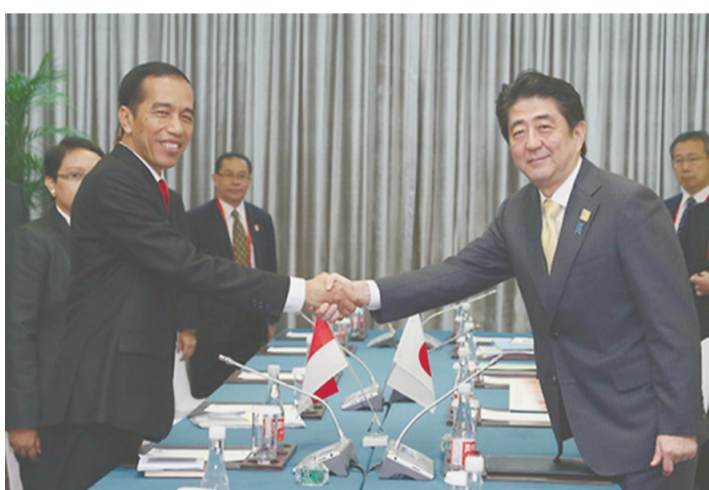
The presidential election was held on July 9 and Jokowi was named as president-elect on July 22. Joko Widodo is the first Indonesian president not to come from the military or political elite.

On Oct. 20, Jokowi took the oath of office as the seventh president of the Republic of Indonesia at a ceremony held at the parliament in Jakarta and made a call for national reconciliation and unity as he was sworn in.

He is married to Iriana Joko Widodo and has two sons and one daughter.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo waves to the crowd during a parade following his inauguration in Jakarta on Oct. 20. AP



Indonesian President Joko Widodo meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Nov. 10 in Beijing on the sidelines of the APEC Summit Meeting. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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KANSAI	GA889 [*]	12:00-17:05	→	JAKARTA	GA888 [*]	23:15-08:15 ^(*)	→	KANSAI
NARITA	GA881	11:00-17:25	→	DENPASAR	GA880	00:25-08:50	→	NARITA
KANSAI	GA883	11:00-16:55	→	DENPASAR	GA882	00:45-08:30	→	KANSAI

^{*}1 from 27APR, operates WED, FRI, SUN ^{*}2 from 26APR, operates TUE, THU, SAT

Garuda Indonesia
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Indonesian president's visit

Country a key piece of Japan's supply chains

Shigeo Ohyaigi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-INDONESIA ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN (JAPAN BUSINESS
FEDERATION); CHAIRMAN, MEMBER OF THE BOARD,
TEIJIN LTD.



I would like to express my heartfelt welcome to Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who is currently visiting Japan. Ever since he took office last October, the president has demonstrated excellent leadership, upholding clear-cut policy visions and tackling structural reform of the Indonesian economy. The Japanese business community has great respect for that.

Indonesia is a country that symbolizes the future of Asia, with its abundant resources, growing production base and consumer markets that comprise around 40 percent of the total population of the ASEAN countries. Also, Indonesia has the aspect of a maritime nation in common with Japan.

This year, it is expected that the ASEAN Economic Community will come into being

and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership will reach a trade deal. In this context, the role Indonesia plays in South-east Asia has become extremely important.

Especially, Indonesia is assuming increasing importance as a hub of supply chains for Japanese manufacturers. Japan always ranks near the top in foreign direct investment in Indonesia, being the top investor in 2013 and the second-largest investor in 2014. To further deepen trade and investment relations between the two countries, the Japanese business community hopes to offer active cooperation in infrastructure development and human resources development in Indonesia.

As part of such cooperation, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) will send a delegation of business executives headed by Chairman Sadayuki Sakakibara to Indonesia from April 7 to 9. We hope to have a discussion on our concrete proposals to smoothly promote investment and the challenges on the business environment to enable such investment. Through a frank exchange of views with our Indonesian counterparts, we would like to build closer economic relations between Japan and Indonesia.

Indonesia offers wide range of diversity to tourists

The Republic of Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world comprising 13,466 large and small tropical islands fringed with white sandy beaches, many still uninhabited and a number even still unnamed. Straddling the equator, situated between the continents of Asia and Australia and between the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, it is as wide as the United States from San Francisco to New York, equaling the distance between London and Moscow. Indonesia has a total population of more than 215 million people from more than 200 ethnic groups. The national language is Bahasa Indonesia.

Among the most well-known islands are Sumatra, Java, Bali, Kalimantan (formerly Borneo), Sulawesi (formerly Celebes), the Maluku Islands (or better known as Moluccas, the original Spice Islands) and Papua. Then, there is Bali "the world's best island resort" with its enchanting culture, beaches, dynamic dances and music. But Indonesia still has many unexplored islands with grand mountain views, green rainforests to trek through, rolling waves to surf and deep blue pristine seas to dive in where one can swim with dugongs, dolphins and large manta rays.

Because of her location, and geology, Indonesia is blessed with the most diverse landscape, from fertile rice land on Java and Bali to the luxuriant rainforests of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi, to the savannah grasslands of the Nusantara islands to the snow-capped peaks of West Papua. Her wildlife ranges from the prehistoric giant Komodo liz-

ard to the Orangutan and the Java rhino, to the Sulawesi anoa dwarf buffaloes, to birds with exquisite plumage like the cockatoo and the bird of paradise. This is also the habitat of the Rafflesia the world's largest flower, wild orchids, an amazing variety of spices, and aromatic hardwood and a large variety of fruit trees. Underwater, scientists have found in North Sulawesi the prehistoric coelacanth fish, a "living fossil" fish, predating the dinosaurs living some 400 million years ago, while whales migrate yearly through these waters from the South Pole. Here are hundreds of species of colorful coral and tropical fish to admire.

Culturally, Indonesia fascinates with her rich diversity of ancient temples, music, ranging from the traditional to modern pop, dances, rituals and ways of life, changing from island to island, from region to region. Yet everywhere the visitor feels welcomed with that warm, gracious innate friendliness of the Indonesian people that is not easily forgotten.

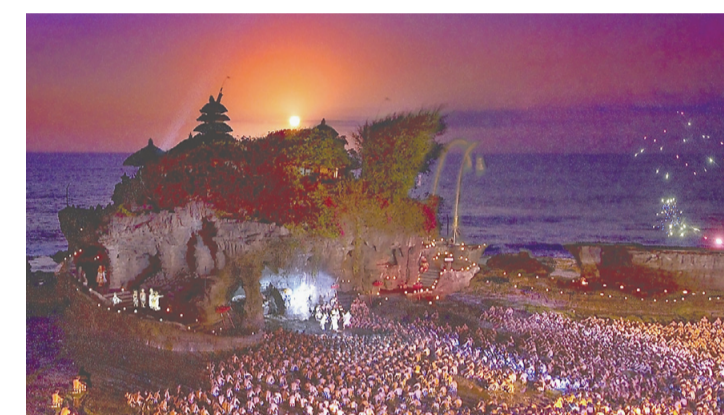
Facilities-wise Indonesia's hotels are second to none. In fact, many of our luxurious and unique hotels have constantly been listed as some of the best in the world, located on white sandy beaches, overlooking green river valleys, or situated in the heart of the busy capital of Jakarta. While Indonesia's cities like Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, or Makassar are a hive of activities for business and leisure and a paradise for shoppers, offering upscale boutiques selling top brand names, to local goods at road-side stalls. Here



Prambanan Temple in Central Java EFFENDY BONG/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY



Solo Batik Carnival TONY/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY



Kecak performance at Tanah Lot in Bali JOHNNY HENDARTA/MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

A partnership built on trust

The diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Japan is based on the Peace Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and Japan, which was signed in January 1958. Since then, the relationship between the two nations has been excellent with no major problems. The close bilateral relations between the two countries are also reflected by a number of agreements, as well as a multitude exchange of notes between the two governments providing a stronger foundation for a better cooperation in various areas.

Some of the aforementioned agreements and treaties between Indonesia and Japan include the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, signed in Tokyo on July 1, 1961 and the Air Transportation Agreement, also signed in Tokyo on Jan. 23, 1962. Additionally, there is the Agreement on the Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed in Jakarta on Jan. 12, 1981, and the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion, signed in Tokyo on March 3, 1982. Since 1966, there have been around 200 notes on co-operation exchanged by the two governments covering various sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry, improvement of food production and financial assistance.

Leaders and high-ranking officials from both countries have exchanged frequent visits. Former Indonesian presidents Soekarno, Soeharto, Abdurrahman Wahid, Megawati Soekarnoputri and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono have all visited Japan, while Japanese Emperor Akihito visited Indonesia in 1991. After the economic crisis and the 2004 tsunami disaster, then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Indonesia four times. Former President Yudhoyono visited Japan seven times, including the visit in June 2011, when he visited tsunami-hit Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Meanwhile exchange visits at the ministerial level, specifically the foreign ministers and ministers for economic, finance and industry from both countries, also occurred frequently. Additionally, many visits by officials, politicians, scholars from various disciplines and artists have been made.

The two countries also belong to a number of organizations and forums at the regional and international levels such as the U.N., ESCAP, APEC, WTO and ASEM. Japan is one of the main dialogue partners of the ASEAN and a member of the ARE. Not only that, Japan still sees Indonesia as a stabilizing factor in South-east Asia.

Trade and investment

Japan is Indonesia's main trading partner and it is the second-largest main export destination, after ASEAN member states, for Indonesia and the third-largest source of imports, after ASEAN and China, to Indonesia in 2013, according to a material by the ASEAN-Japan Centre citing the Global Trade Atlas. Indonesia's exports to Japan hit ¥2.81 trillion, while imports from Japan reached ¥1.66 trillion in 2013.



Modern buildings rise around the Hotel Indonesia Roundabout in the heart of the capital Jakarta. EMBASSY OF INDONESIA/JAKARTA CAPITAL CITY GOVERNMENT

Mineral fuels accounted for 52 percent of Indonesia's exports to Japan in 2013, followed by raw materials at 14 percent, manufactured goods at 11 percent and electrical machinery at 5 percent.

Machinery, other than electric, is the most exported product category from Japan to Indonesia, accounting for 28.6 percent, followed by manufactured goods at 23.7 percent, transportation equipment at 18.4 percent and electrical machinery at 12.4 percent.

On direct investment, Japan was tied with Singapore as the largest investor in Indonesia, with each country accounting for 16 percent in 2013, according to material by the ASEAN-Japan Centre citing the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board. The third largest was the U.S. with 9 percent, followed by South Korea at 6 percent and the U.K. at 4 percent.

Japanese companies such as construction companies and material makers are expected to have many business opportunities in infrastructure, such as transport, connectivity and energy, as Indonesia is in the midst of strengthening these areas.

As of May 2014, Indonesia had 16,296 registered Japanese residents, 944 subsidiaries of Japanese companies, 113 representative offices of Japanese companies and 561 corporate members in the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, according to the ASEAN-Japan Centre, based on data from various organizations.

Japan is seen as the most reliable country for Indonesians, according to a March 2014 Ministry of Foreign Affairs Opinion Poll on Japan in Seven ASEAN Countries.

The poll shows 47 percent of Indonesians think Japan is the most reliable country, while 14 percent said the U.S., 7 percent each said Germany and Britain, and 5 percent said China. While Japan is the most reliable country for all seven countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, Indonesia's 47 percent is the highest, followed by Vietnam's 46 percent, Thailand's 35 percent and the Philippines's 31 percent.

Information in the top half of this article was compiled from the website of Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo.

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