

# Indonesia independence day

## Enhancing the future Indonesia-Japan partnership

### Private sector aims to bolster relationship

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PRESIDENT, JAPAN INDONESIA ASSOCIATION, INC.



Seventy years have passed since the Republic of Indonesia declared independence on Aug. 17, 1945. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest congratulations to President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and the people of Indonesia on behalf of the Japan Indonesia Association (JAPINDA)

While many things happened both in Japan and Indonesia over the past 70 years, the two countries have deepened close and friendly relations since the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 1958.

Last October, Jokowi took office and I had the honor of attending his inauguration as a special envoy of Japan. The new administration proposes a concept of Indonesia to emerge as a maritime power and has launched a "Work Cabinet," which places priority on economic policy and emphasizes speed.

Last November, the president had a summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In March, in addition to Vice President M. Jusuf Kalla's visit to Japan, Jokowi visited Japan, making it the first foreign country he visited, aside from ASEAN member states. During the visit he attended a luncheon hosted by Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and held a summit meeting with Abe. He also gave a lecture at a business forum, in which he exchanged views with Japanese businesspeople. All these helped further strengthen the bilateral relationship. In April, Abe visited Indonesia to attend the Bandung Asian-African Conference and met with Jokowi with an eye to cementing political ties as well.

In May, along with Japan's leading business executives, I traveled to Indonesia, where we met with Jokowi and Kalla and exchanged views with Indonesia's economy ministers and business groups, thus making my best efforts to promote bilateral economic relations.

JAPINDA is in a good position to create friendship and goodwill from the private sector. We are determined to continue supporting exchange initiatives in various fields. We also intend to offer more robust support to Indonesian nurses and other care workers wishing to work in Japan. Thus we would like to be of some help to further develop the bilateral relationship. Together with JAPINDA members, I am determined to further develop the cordial relationship between Japan and Indonesia.

In conclusion, I would like to express my expectation for the prosperity and development of the Republic of Indonesia and sincerely extend my best wishes for the happiness of its people.

Retno L.P. Marsudi  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

On Aug. 17 more than 250 million people across Indonesia gathered to celebrate the 70th anniversary of our country's independence. Colorful festivities took place in all cities, villages, and towns throughout the world's largest archipelago. From Sabang to Merauke and from Miangas to Rote.



Indonesians have good reason to be happy on this momentous occasion, as Indonesia is now entering a new era of stable democratic governance and regional leadership.

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country and has the largest moderate Muslim population in the world. Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy and living proof that Islam and democracy can go hand in hand. It is one of the most dynamic emerging economies of Asia in the 21st century and it is the 16th-largest economy in the world. Some even predict Indonesia will become the seventh-largest economy by 2030.

This Indonesian success

story is not based on the size of our economy or military capabilities. Rather, it lies in our ability to develop a positive correlation among the three factors of democracy, development and stability while maintaining a productive foreign policy toward our neighbors and active engagement with the world at large.

It is in this spirit that the administration under President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has committed to forge a stronger and closer cooperation with our friends, including, most importantly, with Japan.

In fact, this year marked a renewed promise for our bilateral relationship, as we have witnessed so many important occasions this year alone.

Jokowi made an official working visit to Japan from March 22 to 25. The visit sent a major message as this was his first visit outside our immediate neighbors in ASEAN. Vice President M. Jusuf Kalla has also visited Japan twice in March and May.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also paid a visit to Jakarta from April 21 to 23 to attend the 60th commemorative Summit of the Asia Africa Conference. Japan has also been very active in sending high-level economic missions to Indonesia such as Keidanren, the Japan



Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo (second from right) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meet on April 22 in Jakarta on the sideline of the 60th commemorative Summit of the Asia Africa Conference. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japan Indonesia Association.

Both countries remain very important trading partners with Japan as Indonesia's biggest export destination and third-largest source of imports.

The flow of investment is also going in the right direction and we expect Japanese investment in Indonesia this year to exceed last year's value, as through the second quarter of this year alone, the total value of investment realization from Japan has reached 60 percent of last year's total.

Japan is one of the most important development partners

for Indonesia. An undeniable fact to highlight here is that Indonesia's continued economic growth will continue to contribute to the Japanese economy.

In terms of the tourism industry for example, the number of Indonesian tourists to Japan has grown significantly. In the first half of this year, close to 100,000 Indonesians have traveled to Japan. This represents a 28.4 percent increase compared to last year.

This growing number of Indonesian tourists to Japan has now surpassed visitors from Germany, Russia and even India. If this trend continues, Indonesia will soon be among

the top sources of tourists visiting Japan.

To better facilitate these people-to-people links, starting from June this year, Indonesia has waived visa requirements for Japanese nationals following the Japanese government's decision to waive visas for Indonesians visiting Japan last December.

Another field to further explore is the halal industry. Investment from Japan in this sector is most welcome as this is a huge and untapped potential industry that includes many sectors such as food and beverages, medicine, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals and other halal products.

Indonesia's global brand as the world's largest Muslim population will become a great asset to develop this halal industry. It will open greater access to the 253 million people in the Indonesian market. It can also be a gateway to enter the greater ASEAN market, a robust market of 600 million people. Indonesia can also play a bigger role as an export base for other countries with significant Muslim populations.

Moreover, Indonesia and Japan are also connected not only by economic necessities, but by many similarities as well. Both countries are the leading Asian democracies,

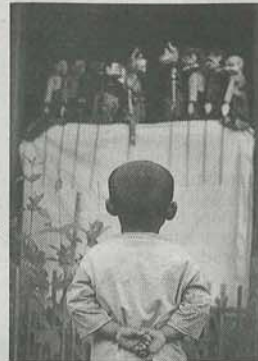
and both countries also share the same characteristics as archipelagic nations. Therefore, the maritime sector is one key area that Indonesia wishes to see cooperation with Japan enhanced in the near future. This is clearly reflected in, among others, the joint statement by the countries' two leaders, "Toward further strengthening of the strategic partnership underpinned by the sea and democracy."

Many projects from maritime infrastructure, seaports and logistics terminals, to investment in maritime industries, ship-building and fisheries, as well as cooperation on maritime security, will become the two nations' priorities.

Finally, on the occasion of Indonesia's 70th anniversary of independence, I wish to thank Japan for its friendly, warm and constructive relations with Indonesia. A relationship based on mutual benefit, mutual respect and mutual understanding.

There is much to be done in the future.

As strategic and development partners and as close friends, Indonesia together with Japan will continue to pursue mutual progress and prosperity, contributing not only to the well-being of our two nations, but also to the world.



From left: A batik painter shows her work with a smile; A traditional puppet artist works in his atelier; A boy looks at puppets; Morning activity at Cipta Gelar. KEVIN YUNG, KEVIN PAU

### Congratulations

on the 70th Anniversary of  
Independence of  
the Republic of Indonesia



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