

Indonesia - Brunei ties lauded

Message of the Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of Indonesia's 64th Independence Day

"THE Dutch colonial presence in Indonesia existed in various forms for over 300 years until the Japanese occupation during World War II.

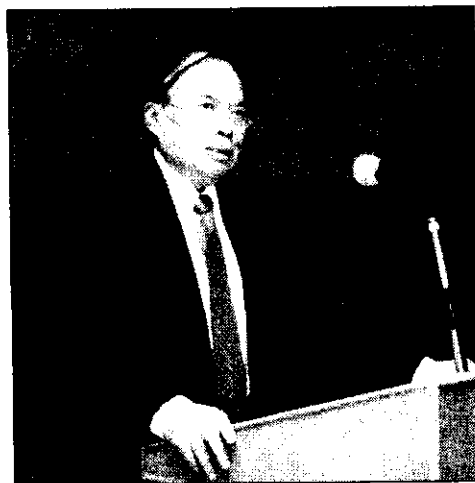
"On August 17, 1945, two days after the Japanese surrendered, Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta who were influential nationalist leaders unilaterally declared Indonesian independence. They were declared as the first President and Vice President of the newly born Republic of Indonesia.

"Today, on this auspicious occasion of Indonesia's Independence Day, I would like to take the opportunity to share with the people of Brunei Darussalam our joy and happiness.

"After 62 years of independence, we in Indonesia have experienced a variety of ups and downs. However, we still have the confidence and optimism to further enhance our progress in all sectors of development.

"In terms of security matters, Indonesia is one of the countries that are victims of terrorism. For many years Indonesia grappled with terrorist activities - some of which were motivated by religious intolerance and separatists' ambitions.

"But as the result of our patience and hard work, recently some leaders of the terrorist have been captured and arrested or even killed.



Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Mr Herijanto Soeprapto

"In the political field, we are now doing a lot to strengthen our democracy. One of the important things that we are doing now is to build up good governance.

"There is an abundance of empirical evidence that no matter what our political system is, unless we employ good governance, we are not going anywhere, we will not achieve any progress.

"Many democracy practices fail due to poor governance and mismanagement. Hence, we as a developing nation, we must ensure transparency and accountability in our system, and banish corrupt practices from our public and private sector.

"In the economic field, we are also enhancing our potential human capital. We are investing our own human resources by ensuring that the people will have access to good quality education and health services.

"Through this, they will have a conducive environment that will allow them to grow their creative potentials, and they are free from the bondage of poverty conflict.

"At the same time, we are providing a hospitable climate for foreign direct investments. Nothing can bring the foreign investors into the country unless we can assure them the safety of their capital and a level playing field.

"We realise that we have to ensure the sustainability of our environment. We must use our resources with wisdom, so that these are not depleted, leaving nothing for our future generations.

"With regards to foreign relations, we are hopeful that in the 21st century we can make the quantum leap in to era of internationalism.

"An era when all nations are much more strongly connected with another. Each of them become more integrated into a global system as they strive for cooperative security and common prosperity. For us, this internationalism is important, but the regionalism is also important.

"We believe that regionalism or Asean grouping is a powerful motivator. Even at the global level, we the Asean nations, tend to deal and bargain with one another on a regional block basis. We deal and bargain with other regional groups. Thus for us, regionalism and Asean have been playing an important role at our international affairs.

"For example we can see the conduct of the

recent regional cooperation, which is very important for our future. I speak of the HOB (Heart of Borneo). In this environmental cooperation, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, signed a declaration namely the 'Declaration Heart of Borneo Initiative' in Bali, on February 12, 2007.

"The three countries will work together in saving our natural resources such as natural diversity in the Island of Borneo.

"On the bilateral level, after over 23 years, the warm relationships between Indonesia and Brunei have steadily developed.

"The friendly relations between Indonesia and Brunei have been further promoted. Last year Indonesia sent its best contingent to participate in, the Brunei International Tattoo that was organised to celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan. Indonesia also participated in BRIDEX one of the most prestigious defence exhibitions in Brunei this year.

"Based on people to people relations, it is also heartening to note the presence of approximately 36,000 Indonesian migrant workers in Brunei. They have rendered their services through various levels of professions, expertise, and skills to contribute positively towards the economic and development growth and prosperity of Brunei.

"Finally, I also would like to take this opportunity to convey my congratulations and sincere wishes to His Majesty and the people of Brunei on His Majesty's 61st birthday. May Allah bless His Majesty with continued good health, long life and wisdom. And may the people of Brunei enjoy continued progress, prosperity and happiness."