

**REMARKS OF H.E. MR. HERIJANTO SOEPRAPTO,
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION
ON THE OCCASION OF
INDONESIA'S 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

**Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan
Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan bin Begawan Pehin
Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof,
Minister of Home Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, and
Datin Paduka Hajah Salmah binte Haji Hanafiah**

Yang Mulia Pengiran-pengiran, Pehin-pehin, Dato-dato,

**Excellencies Ambassadors, High Commissioners and
Madames,**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Indonesians,

Assalamu'alaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

**Yesterday, 17 August 2009, the Government
and people of Indonesia were celebrating the 64th**

Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence. In the meanwhile, they were also celebrating the successful conclusions of the general elections in Indonesia. As we are all known, Indonesia had just organized its Parliamentary and Presidential elections on 9 April 2009 and 8 July 2009 respectively. This is the second time my country carried out direct Presidential election after the first one was held in 2004. The Indonesian Government and people are expecting that the fruits of these elections will bring about prosperity and welfare to the nation.

Meanwhile, just since last year Indonesia experienced the impact of the global financial crisis triggered by the collapse of stock market prices at Wall Street in the United States. Although the scale was not as grave as the 1997 global economic crisis, to some extent, the impact might have also been felt in other South East Asian countries. Eventually, Indonesia's economic performance appeared to get better. Having reached the economic growth rate more than 4 % and the exchange rate of the country's Rupiah was getting even stronger. The vigorous endeavors by the Government have yielded in strengthening of Rupiah's currency exchange.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the international context, this year Indonesia is hosting the World Ocean Conference. The Conference which took place in Manado in the Indonesian province of North Sulawesi on 11 – 15 May 2009. It was the realization of Indonesia’s very own idea to conduct an international conference on ocean. As a country with its territory dominated by seas, Indonesia puts a great deal of attentions to the well-being and preservation of seas, oceans and resources inside and beneath as well as underneath seabed or ocean floor. The utilizations of these resources would be carried out wisely and carefully.

The World Ocean Conference oversaw the adoption of the Manado Ocean Declaration as an instrumental document testifying the commitment of participating countries to the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems, and to address climate-related impacts on oceans and coasts. This Declaration will be forwarded to the 15th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled

to be held in Copenhagen, December 2009. Indonesia is hoping that the Copenhagen Conference will come up with concrete measures to follow up the recommendations made by the World Ocean Conference.

In the regional context, Indonesia has been quite active in the APEC process towards achieving the Bogor Goals 2010 . How to attain the Bogor Goals is the most important task of the APEC Economies. Indonesia is confident that these Goals will be achieved as planned. Indonesia is also convinced that APEC Economies will outpace the rest of the world in opening up their markets to international trade and investment, and result in higher-than-average economic growth in the region. Many of APEC Economies have shown that they are moving toward forward-looking economic arrangements.

In smaller scale of the region within the ASEAN, Indonesia is proud to ratify the ASEAN Charter and welcomes the coming into effect of the Charter on 15 December 2008. Indonesia sees the Charter functioning as some sort of ASEAN's "constitution". ASEAN Charter is monumental which

implies that ASEAN as a regional organization has transformed itself into an international legal personality.

The ASEAN Member Countries agreed to realize an ASEAN Community with its three pillars: the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, by the year 2020. However, the Leaders would like this ASEAN Community to be realized sooner than the targeted year, by the year 2015. Indonesia shares the desire that the ASEAN Community is a community with a peaceful, stable, secure, prosperous, caring and sharing.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 25 years of bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia. Although the actual relations on the ground between the two countries can be traced back centuries ago, when frequent interactions of traders and Islamic clerics between kingdoms in Indonesia and Sultanate of Brunei took place. Today, the high intensity of

mutual visits of high-rank Government officials from Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam reflects the close relations of the two countries. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam consented to visit Indonesia in a number of times on official and informal visits. The latest state visit was on 22-24 April 2008 when His Majesty in that occasion was awarded “Honorary Wing of the Indonesian Air Force” and conferred as an “Honorary Member of the Special Ground Troops of the Indonesian Air Force”. The visit also oversaw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation between the two countries.

On the economic relations, the trade volume between the two countries was US\$ 1.886 million (one billion eight hundred and eighty-six million) in 2007, comprising Brunei Darussalam’s total export value of US\$ 1.825 million (one billion eight hundred and twenty-five million) and Indonesia’s total export value of US\$ 60 million. The Indonesian Embassy conducted a survey at the end of 2008, to find out and record the variety of traded Indonesian products in Brunei Darussalam. The result of the

survey was quite impressive. There are almost 1000 items of Indonesian products marketed in Brunei Darussalam. Previously, a similar survey conducted in 2003 indicated that only around 600 items of Indonesian products were in Brunei Darussalam's market.

I am convinced that in the future, the trade relations between the two countries will keep increasing. For this to happen, the Indonesian Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan is working hard to organize annual trade exposition such as the Indonesian Product Expo and Business Meeting which are taken place usually in the month of April or May.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Either Indonesia or Brunei Darussalam has their distinct attractiveness as investment destinations. The potentials are enormous and need to be further explored. At present, notable Brunei Darussalam's investments in Indonesia include the ownership of the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel located in Bali, Indonesia. Indonesia's investment in Brunei

Darussalam is in the packed mineral water producing company named Indonesia – Brunei Darussalam Investment Company (IBIC) Sdn. Bhd. Air Sehat. Another Indonesian company is operating in in Kuala Belait is *Besmino Sdn. Bhd.* which provides services to oil mining machinery tools or components.

In addition to government to government relations, people-to-people contact is enriching relations between the two countries. This is through the Brunei Darussalam – Indonesia Friendship Association or BRUDIFA which was established on 7 January 2009. The BRUDIFA was officially inaugurated on 24 March 2009 at Rizqun International Hotel in Bandar Seri Begawan. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Brunei Darussalam officially launched BRUDIFA. The essence of BRUDIFA's existence in Brunei Darussalam is to create a special meaning in the bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia, especially it deepens the people-to-people friendship, and strengthens the networking across all sectors of Indonesia and Bruneian societies.

The number of the Indonesian citizens living in Brunei Darussalam is around 39,000 citizens recorded

at the Indonesian Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan. They play the important roles and contribute not only to the national development of Brunei Darussalam, but also to the advancement of relations between Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam.

The defence cooperation between the two countries is based on the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation which was signed in Jakarta on 10 April 2003. Ever since, the magnitude of the defence cooperation has been reflected in the exchanges of visits between military high-rank officers of the two countries, the conduct of joint military exercises, participations of military personnel in each other's military trainings and courses, as well as exchanges of information and personnel between the two Armed Forces. I am pleased to inform you that Indonesia also participated in the important event of Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BRIDEX) 2009 which just ended last Saturday.

Noting the very cordial relations that Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia have enjoyed so far, I am convinced that the bilateral cooperation between the

two countries will expand further and flourish in all dimensions in the future.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, please allow me once again to express my gratitude and appreciation to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, and Datin Paduka Hajah Salmah binte Haji Hanafiah, for being with us as the Guests of Honor. And thank all of the guests for being able to attend this evening reception.

***Wabilahi Taufiq wal hidayah wassalamu'alaikum
Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.***

Bandar Seri Begawan, 18 August 2009