

# INDONESIAN

## NEWSLETTER



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**  
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## EU PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITING RI

Jakarta - A 10-man delegation of the European Parliament's commission on Southeast Asia and ASEAN is visiting Jakarta and Yogyakarta to deepen political and trade relations between EU and Indonesia.

"We will meet with ministers and representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss the development of trade between EU and Indonesia now valued at 19 billion euro or Rp228 trillion as extension of cooperation in various areas such as education, climate change, counter-terrorism and inter-faith dialogs," chief delegate Werner Lenggen said in a press statement.

The visit is part of the implementation of the EU-Indonesia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 2009.

The visit to Indonesia has a multidimensional significance. "We can translate into 3 D namely democracy, diversity and development," he said.

With regard to political relations the delegation during its visit from February 21 to 25 wishes to learn more about the country's success in transforming itself from autocratic to democratic country with the world's biggest population and a lot of diversities.

"It is very important with regard to globalization for us to find ways to share it more effectively," he said.

EU and Indonesia both have a special identity as the diversity hotspots.

EU consists of 27 member countries while Indonesia has 33 provinces each having its unique identity. EU has 23 official languages while Indonesia has 700 languages used across the country.

In terms of economy the partnership between Indonesia and EU as well as other countries would be very important with regard to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

"EU is Indonesia's partner and has committed itself to development of important sectors such as basic education, governance, health and other technical assistance in trade,".

While in Indonesia the EU delegation would also visit Yogyakarta to inspect the EU-Indonesia cooperation in development activities including reconstruction in the province following a huge quake in 2006.

On October 20, 2006, the EU mobilized aid from donors worth 78.05 million euro or Rp950 billion to help the Indonesian government in its reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts as well as recovering the people's livelihood in Yogyakarta, Central and West Java.

"I hope we could learn directly about the dynamics and diversities in the relations between EU and Indonesia to assure that the EU Parliament has really contributed so that the 3D relations could further develop in the future," he said.

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## CAMBODIA, THAILAND ACCEPT RI AS OBSERVER

Jakarta - Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to invite Indonesia as an observer in their efforts to find a peaceful settlement following a military clash between the two countries on February 4-7, Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said.

"In the ASEAN informal foreign ministerial meeting today it was agreed that Cambodia and Thailand should settle their problem peacefully and to invite Indonesia as an observer and engage it in talks later," the Indonesian foreign minister said.

As an observer Marty said Indonesia would not take over their responsibility in assuring a cease-fire but would support it and would accurately report its findings in the field.

"Indonesia is not a peace enforcement body that enforces peace but an observer that makes a report about what happens and present it to the ASEAN chair and the two parties,".

When the observers to be sent and how many of them would be has not yet been determined but he said it had better to be done immediately.

"The faster the better according to me," he said adding "it is because the border disputed by the two countries is not very vast and therefore not many observers, which would consist of unarmed military and civilian personnel, would be needed."

Marty said the minister of defense and the commander of the Indonesian Defense Forces (TNI) had been informed about it and would make their officers ready to be assigned as observers along with officials from the ministry of foreign affairs.

"However we need to know first situation on the ground and therefore an advanced team would be sent first to decide the number (observers) and

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the needs in the field," he said.

The minister said the achievement was a form of Indonesian leadership in the ASEAN and was not only because of its position as an ASEAN chair because Indonesia had directly entered into the conflicting countries.

"This will be the first for a country to be invited to become an observer by two conflicting parties which will not be stationed in a buffer zone but in Cambodia as well as Thailand. This shows the trust of the two parties and ASEAN in Indonesia," he said.

Initially Thailand and Cambodia had different views with one of them wishing Indonesia to become the chairman of the peace talks while the other did not want to involve a third party.

"However after negotiations an agreement was reached to involve Indonesia in the two parties as ASEAN chair which is supposed to be the place for conflicting parties to convey their complaints and it is hoped the next negotiations would be done in Indonesia," he said.

He said that Thailand and Cambodia actually had the same wish to make peace and would not want to clash and so the challenge for Indonesia would be how to overcome the communication problems between them.

Marty also said he would report the results of the meeting and the assignment of the monitoring team to the UN Security Council.

The recent military clash between Thailand and Cambodian happened in the border area near the Preah Vihear Temple which has been declared by the International Court in 1962 as belonging to Cambodia but the area around it is still disputed by the two countries.

Minister Marty Natalegawa on February 7-8 met with Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piramy to ask the two sides to exercise restraint and to allow ASEAN to help them reduce their tension.

On February 15, he attended the UN Security Council's meeting that responded to the request of Cambodia to discuss the problem and the result was the UN Security Council to support ASEAN to help settle the conflict.

ASEAN consists of ten countries including Brunei Darrusalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.-

## **PRESIDENT, US PARLIAMENT DISCUSS DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT**

Jakarta - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the United States Parliament discussed the democracy in Egypt on Wednesday.

In a one-hour meeting with a delegation of US Parliament led by David Drier at the presidential office, both sides discussed a possibility of Indonesia to play its important role for the future of Egyptian democracy.

Presidential spokesman for foreign affairs Teuku Faizasyah said the US Parliament at the meeting with President Yudhoyono also asked about Ahmadiyah case.

Thus to the delegation of US Parliament, Teuku said the Indonesian government was trying to find a win-win solution with Ahmadiyah and to apply an unequivocal legal process to anyone engaged in violent acts.

Meanwhile, David Drier said after the meeting with President Yudhoyono that Indonesia as a democratic and the world's most populous Muslim country had a 12-year transitional experience from authoritarian country to democratic country.

Dries said that although there were a lot of differences between Indonesia and Arab countries, he expressed optimism that Arab countries would take a lesson from Indonesian democracy.

"Latest development in Egypt was mentioned at the meeting and how the two countries cooperate in directing the transition process from Indonesia's experience. In various experiences and opportunities, Indonesia and the United States will play their enthusiastic roles," Drier said.

Drier was of the opinion that the development in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Bahrain, and Libya was something inevitable because the people of those countries wanted to have the right of self determination.

According to him, the movement of the people of those countries was good for the sake of their freedom and right of self determination.

Besides discussing the development in Egypt, the US delegation who had visited Indonesia for five times also talked about Thai-Cambodian border issue with President Yudhoyono.

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## **AUSTRALIA MAINTAINS CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH INDONESIA**

Mataram, W. Nusa Tenggara - The Australian government continues to maintain cooperation in culture and education with Indonesia in order to make the two countries understand cross-country culture, the chairman of the Australia-Indonesia Institute (All), Prof. Tim Lindsey said.

the Australian Government continues to work to make Australians familiar with Indonesian culture, as well as with the Indonesian community.

"We continuously strive to bring Australians to learn about Indonesians culture, including in West Nusa Tenggara, in order to know and understand the culture. Also, we invite Indonesians to see Australian culture," Prof. Tim said on the sidelines of an All delegation's visit to SMA Negeri 5 Mataram here Thursday.

The Institute was founded in 1989 with the goal of becoming a media to gather, exchange, disseminate information, advice and resources to support, strengthen and develop relations between Australian and Indonesian society.

According to institutional aspect, All serves to make recommendations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade on a thorough understanding of Australian society experiences about Indonesia.

The recommendations related to support the study of Indonesian language and culture in Australia as well as English and Australian culture in Indonesia, increasing commercial relations between Australia and Indonesia and also to identify a possible cooperation in the fields of science and technology.

In addition, All also provides exchange facilities in the media, sponsoring activities in the field of cultural exchanges, sports and training, support for the Australian study programs in Indonesia and Indonesian study programs in Australia.

Also, strengthening inter-institutional relations between universities, museums, libraries, vocational high schools, research institutes, professional organizations and eligible non-governmental organizations, providing facilities for translation of Australia and Indonesia text books, as well as organizing activities and exchange visits between communities and community groups.

The institute's mission in promoting relationship between Australia and Indonesia is done by increasing the depth of mutual understanding. Donating widely and for a long time to the rela-

tionship and mutual exchange between Australian and Indonesian society.

Prof. Lindsey said, Australia is a country that also has a Muslim population, which now has reached half a million more.

By involving the cooperation ties between communities of both countries, is expected to be intertwined lives of harmony and mutual understanding of each culture.

"The Australians and Indonesians could see with their own eyes, the different cultures in both countries. Of course it would be better in maintaining the cultural and educational cooperation," he said.

Prof. Lindsey admitted, this year All still program the cooperation in culture, education and other areas of society in the West Nusa Tenggara and other areas in Indonesia.

All financing programs of cooperation is obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia.

"The fund is sourced from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusAID support, but the fund is managed by private sectors who have been given training. Approximately two million dollar Australia," he noted.

Prof. Lindsey added, this year Australia also provided a package of scholarships to 89 West Nusa Tenggara students through Australian Development Scholarship for master program in Australia.

"So, the lecturers and teachers in Indonesia, including from the province who want to pursue a postgraduate degree in Australia can be facilitated in the 'Bridge' program or Australia-Indonesia partnership schools," he said.

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## **US JOURNALIST PROMOTING RI'S BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

Jakarta - Rhett Butler, a journalist who founded the popular environmental news site mongabay.com, traveled through Indonesia to promote community participation in biodiversity conservation as part of the US-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership.

According to a US embassy press release received here, the Partnership is critical to the bilateral relationship and addresses key global challenges such as climate change.



Butler stated that Indonesian companies that demonstrate stewardship and good community relations are well-positioned to benefit from the global shift toward sustainability.

"With its rich biodiversity and important ecosystem services, Indonesia is in a position to lead this transition," said Butler. Indonesia has an opportunity to leap-frog dirty development and achieve low carbon development, he said.

Butler concludes that Indonesia need not abandon the things that make it unique such as culture and biodiversity, as it develops its econ-

During the Speakers Program, Butler visited Lampung, Jambi, Jakarta, and Kalimantan, where he visited National and Provincial Parks and met with government and local leaders as well as NGOs and also spoke at universities.

Butler highlighted Indonesia's incredible biodiversity, which has an important impact on the local economy. Indonesia's forests store massive amounts of carbon, help protect against flooding and erosion, and are a key source of livelihoods.

Ecosystem services add up to 21 percent of Indonesia's GDP, including 75 percent of income for the rural poor, but like the rest of the world, Indonesia's biodiversity is in decline due to unsustainable practices.

A shift toward a Western development model, together with corruption and insecure land rights, has accelerated the decline.

Meanwhile, there are signs that global interest in sustainability and community management is growing.

Butler noted that major companies, including Walmart, Unilever, Nike, and Starbucks, are looking for credible supply chains, low or no deforestation, and good community relations from Indonesian companies as well as policies that include recognition of rights, safeguards against social abuses, and environmental protection from the Indonesian government.

Furthermore, these companies are wary of corruption due to the aggressive enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by the Obama Administration.

omy.

He also notes that neither can be replaced once they are lost. "Indonesia is special," said Butler.

"There's no reason why it can't become a world power while maintaining what makes it special."

Mongabay.com was launched in 1999 and now draws more than 2.5 million visitors per month. There is also a section in Bahasa Indonesia at [indonesia.mongabay.com](http://indonesia.mongabay.com).

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# ASEAN

## **RUSSIA CONSIDERS ASEAN PRIORITY PARTNER : ENVOY**

Jakarta - Russia considers ASEAN as a partner of high priority and a major player in the Asia Pacific region, its top diplomat said.

"We see ASEAN as one of our important partners in this part of the world and as a major player in the new process of integration in Asia Pacific," Russian Ambassador to Indonesian Alexander A Ivanov said.

Russia was consistently developing relations with ASEAN in various ways such as the dialog partnership between Russia and ASEAN which was established in 1996. In November 2004, Russia also acceded to the ASEAN treaty of amity and cooperation and the Bali treaty.

"In 2009, the Russian federation's president appointed me as ambassador to Indonesia concurrently to ASEAN, and I handed my credentials to ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan in January 2009," Ivanov said.

Over the past few years, Russia and ASEAN had signed a number of agreements , namely the joint declaration on partnership of peace and security and prosperity development in the Asia Pacific in June 2003, Russian-ASEAN Foreign Ministers joint declaration on combating international terrorism in July 2004,

Also the heads of state's joint declaration on progressive and comprehensive partnership and comprehensive program of action to promote declaration which was signed in December 2005, and the cultural declaration agreement during the second Russian-ASEAN summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, in October 2009.

Russia-ASEAN cooperation had been going on in different spheres such as political, economic, trade and humanitarian and cultural. "We have also succeeded in raising our partnership to a higher level by holding the



Russia-ASEAN summit,".

At the second Russia-ASEAN summit, the Russia-ASEAN leaders issued a joint statement expressing their joint approach and vision to security and stability in the Asia Pacific region, moreover by the Russian Foreign Affairs Minister takes part in the ASEAN post Ministerial conferences every year, such as the ASEAN +1, ASEAN +10 and ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting.

"The Russian foreign minister never skips annual ASEAN events,".

"This year the East Asia Summit will be held in Bali in July, and we have developed a structural mechanism for Russia's cooperation with ASEAN such as a joint planning and management committee, joint declaration committee, ministerial meetings, Senior Officials meetings on trade and economic cooperation, summits and regular economic ministers` meetings.

"Within the partnership framework with ASEAN, Russia also has the expense of its state budget established a special financial fund, to fund the different joint declaration activities,".

The total fund by Russia for the cooperation has reached up to 1.750 million US dollars, and beginning this year Russia is planning to contribute 1.5 million US dollars annually to this cooperation.

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## **MANADO TO HOST ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING**

Manado - Manado in North Sulawesi will host the ASEAN Economic Ministers and Related Meetings from August 9 to 13, 2011.

"The ASEAN economic activity will be attended by 11 ASEAN member countries and 10 ASEAN partner countries to finalize the blueprint toward a new era, ASEAN Economy Community in 2015," Director General of International Trade Cooperation of the Ministry of Trade Gusmardi Bustami said.

Gusmardi said there will be 120 policies already approved by the ASEAN economic ministers, including 90 already ratified and implemented toward an ASEAN economic new era in, and the rest will be discussed at the meeting in Manado in August.

At the meeting, Gusmardi said, the ASEAN economic ministers will also discuss further steps to be made after 2015, including cooperation with the partner countries.

The target of the ASEAN economic community in 2015 is a single market and regional production basis, highly competitive area, an area with an even economic development level, integrated with the world economy.

The ASEAN economic ministers meeting are series of meetings ordinarily held twice in a year by the trade ministers of the area to discuss commitments and what else we need to do to reach an ASEAN Economy Community in 2015.

Besides the economic ministers meeting, a business meeting will also be held between business players in ASEAN for mutually beneficial trade cooperation.

Some of the partner countries taking part at the meeting in Manado include the United States, Australia, Japan, and some other advanced countries with close economic relations with ASEAN.

North Sulawesi deputy governor Djauhari Kansil said the ASEAN Economic Ministers will have a positive effect on North Sulawesi, especially tourism, for which the regency/city

administrations had been asked to prepare the infrastructure well, maintain cleanliness and beauty, so that the international agenda would leave a good impression on the guests from many counties.

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## **JAPAN SUPPORTS ASEAN CONNECTIVITY**

Jakarta - Japan has indicated its full support for ASEAN Connectivity considering the market potentials of the region, according to the ASEAN Secretariat.

The ASEAN Secretariat in a written communication says that over 40 Japanese industry and commerce heavyweights visited the ASEAN Secretariat on Monday to exchange views with the Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

The Japanese top businessmen who are members of the Japan Business Federation, Nippon Keidanren, led by Chairman Yonekura Hiromasa in their visit to ASEAN headquarters.

During the meeting, Keidanren chairman spoke of support to ASEAN on how they could contribute to ASEAN's community building efforts and goal of being a well-connected region by 2015.

Dr. Surin said particular thanks for Japan's readiness to contribute to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. Adopted in October last year, the Master Plan is ASEAN's response to the region's needs for an improved physical, institutional and people-to-people connection within and with the rest of the world.

"The Master Plan is part of ASEAN's strategy to meet the expectations of the global market and the increasing importance of East Asia," .

From the conception of the Master Plan, ASEAN also received "instrumental" support from Japan through ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia).

The Secretary-General stated he hoped to see more public-private partnerships, where

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the private sector works with the governments "through various innovative modalities." He further said that any modality proposed by ASEAN should appeal to the market and be presented in the "language of the market," implying that the projects need to bring in profits to the investors.

Both sides further exchanged ideas on the way forward to address the funding of the projects under the master plan.

Japan, a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN since 1977, has been among ASEAN's top trading partners, with total trade between the two sides reaching US\$ 160.2 billion in 2009. Likewise, Japan has always been the top-ranked source of foreign direct investments for ASEAN, registering 5.2 billion US dollars in 2009.

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### **US HOPES INDONESIA TO CREATE INTEGRATED MARKET**

Jakarta - US businessmen grouped in the US-ASEAN Business Council hope Indonesia as current chair of ASEAN could create an integrated market in the region.

"US companies are hoping for an integrated market in Southeast Asia that would make them easy to expand their businesses in the region's free market," the president of the US-ASEAN Business Council, Alexander C Filedman, said.

He made the statement after together with 73 businessmen of the Council meeting with Vice President Boediono.

He said the businessmen also hoped Indonesia could become the center of halal certification for the ASEAN market as part of the region's free market integration plan.

Indonesia as the world's largest Muslim country is expected to become the reference with regard to halal certification, he said.

"Connectivity among ASEAN markets would be needed to provide clear access for US companies," he said.

On the occasion, he reiterated the US businessmen's commitment to increasing investment in Indonesia which is potential to become the ASEAN free market base.

He however did not tell in detail about targets of expansion and investment hike.

Vice President Boediono's speaker Yopie Hidayat said the US businessmen had also hoped Indonesia could play a bigger role in creating an integrated free market.

If possible, Indonesia is also expected to become a center of standardization for various household products and daily needs products for Southeast Asian market, he said.

"They wish for uniformity with regard to certification and standardization of products. If the market is one (ASEAN) certification should also be one," he said.

He said the US businessmen also hoped the Indonesian government would discuss first the trade regulation and policy that would be made so that they could anticipate any change that happens.

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### **RI NEEDS TO BUILD HEALTH TOURISM IN FACING ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN 2015**

Jakarta - Indonesia needs to build a health tourism industry to promote health care services in the country in facing the impact of liberalization relating to the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

"The government needs to maximize its competitiveness by synergizing the potential of production factors into a lucrative business entity like building health tourism," post-graduate teacher of the Economic Faculty of Universitas Indonesia Sjamsul Arifin said in a seminar on ASEAN Economic Community of 2015.

He said that in trade liberalization within the context of the ASEAN Economic Community of 2015, health care services are given in four ways. The four modes include cross-

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border supply of long distance health care using computer technology and telecommunications, as well as consumption abroad.

Three ASEAN countries which provided health care services known as health tourism, namely Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia.

The support of the special quality in the three countries are relatively low service cost, good service quality, and technology of international standard.

The third mode is commercial presence like Singapore which is most aggressive in investment in health care by setting up hospitals in Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and in the UK, Sjamsul said.

The last mode is the movement of the supply of individual health services like in the Philippines and Indonesia as the biggest world exporter of nurses.

"The medical personnel of the Philippines reached 87 thousand with the main destinations of Ireland, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the UK, and US. Indonesian medical personnel abroad are mostly in the Middle East and ASEAN," Sjamsul said.

While with regard to doctors, he said, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand are the biggest suppliers in ASEAN.

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### **ASEAN MEMBERS AGREE TO FOSTER DEFENCE COOPERATION**

Jakarta - Ten ASEAN member countries have agreed to expand defence cooperation to foster regional security stability in both military operations and military operations other than war.

A draft joint declaration on strengthening defence cooperation among ASEAN member states will be the main agenda of ASEAN Defence Senior Officials Meeting - Working Group (ADSOM WG) in Surabaya, East Java.

Secretary General of the Defense Ministry Vice Marshal Eris Herryanto said the three-day meeting would discuss a wide range of

issues related to ASEAN regional security.

In addition, the meeting would also discuss annual programs, defence cooperation such as development of ASEAN Peacekeeping Center Network and collaboration among defence industries, he said.

"The conclusion of the three-day meeting will be put in a draft of Joint Declaration on Strengthening Defence Cooperation of ASEAN and the Global Community to Face New Challenges," he said.

The draft of joint declaration would be brought to the ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting in April in Jakarta for endorsement, he said.

Following the meeting among ASEAN member states, they would later hold ADSOM Plus with ASEAN dialog partners, such as the United States, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and New Zealand.

The ADSOM Plus-WG would discuss a draft paper on establishing an experts' working group covering five areas of cooperation in the fields of maritime affairs, humanitarian operation and disaster handling, peacekeeping operation, terrorism handling and military health, he said.

"The results of the meeting will hopefully lay operational foundation for defence cooperation between ASEAN member states and their dialog partners to create concrete policies," he said.

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### **PROMOTE "WE FEELING" UPON REALIZATION OF ASEAN COMMUNITY 2015**

Jakarta - Promoting "we feeling" of the people of ASEAN is a must to support the realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015, Chairman of ASEAN Foundation Makarim Wibisono said.

"The presence of ownership, togetherness and communication among people will smooth the relations between members of ASEAN and therefore reduce friction or internal conflicts. In the end, the unity of ASEAN will be more solid".



However, he admitted that people`s interaction in the region was still relatively small compared to inter governmental relations. He said the imbalance of communication could lead to the disintegration of ASEAN because people to people contacts was one of the key elements which will strengthen ASEAN unity.

"There are many ways to promote the togetherness feeling such as conducting activities which involved people in ASEAN such as journalists, photographers or academicians," .

Earlier Makarim said, in line with ASEAN`s quest for a full-fledged community by 2015, the ASEAN Foundation which strives for common prosperity among ASEAN member states was offering at least six programs during his term of office.

"I intend to hold a meeting of editors from

various media in ASEAN and give ASEAN awards to those participating in the promotion of the ASEAN community,".

In the field of arts, he said, the ASEAN Foundation also offered a program to translate Indonesian soap operas into the languages of each ASEAN member country or the other way around.

"In education, we aim to set up an ASEAN University in the business field to increase the value of trade or investment among ASEAN member states which is still low compared to that with their trading partners such as China and Japan,".

The ASEAN Foundation also wanted to assist ASEAN member states prone to disasters in making disaster management programs coupled with the application of e-learning, he said.

"In the era of digital technology we need to provide information on ASEAN by making use of e-learning,".

however that the ASEAN Foundation was facing funding problems.

"As a foundation relying on voluntary funding, we find it hard to ask member states to give a contribution in fixed amounts because this runs counter to the characteristics of the foundation," he said.





### **INDONESIA WANTS TO ATTRACT 3.2 MILLION TOURISTS FROM ASEAN**

Jakarta - Indonesia wants to attract more than 3.2 million tourists from other ASEAN member countries in 2011. This year, we set a target of attracting 3.2 million tourists from ASEAN to visit Indonesia," Chrismiastutie, the culture and tourism ministry's deputy director for ASEAN region said.

ASEAN has always been the largest contributor to tourist arrivals in Indonesia.

In 2010, of the total 7 million foreign tourist arrives in Indonesia, around 2.5 million coming from ASEAN member countries.

She is optimistic that the number would increase to 3.2 million as the economic condition in 2011 is predicted to improve.

"Besides, the seat capacity has not been exposed optimally so far, so the potential to optimize it is still big," .

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has estimated that the world tourism would grow 4-5 percent, and even 7-9 percent for Asia and the Pacific in

particular.

"As long as there won't be x factors (such as riots, natural disasters and terrorism acts) in Indonesia, we are optimistic that until end 2011 the number of tourist arrivals will be 7.7 million foreign tourists," she said.

Singapore contributed 1.128 million tourists and Malaysia 1.034 million tourists to Indonesia in 2010 and the ministry would expand tourism markets to Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines, she added.

In 2011, Indonesia hoped to attract 1.6 million Malaysian tourists, 1.430 million from Singapore and 210,000 from the Philippines.

For that purposes, the ministry has applied four marketing strategies, namely participation in tourism bourses, sale mission, Indonesian festival sponsorships, and optimizing Visit Indonesia Tourism Office (VITO).

The ministry has planned to organize 75 promotional events overseas, and 17 of them will be in ASEAN, 18 in Asia, 15 events in the United States and the Pacific, 13 in Europe and 12 events in the Middle East.

Among tourist destinations for ASEAN tourists in Indonesia are Bali, Jakarta, Batam (Sumatra) and Bandung (West Java).

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# ECONOMY

## **RI SIGNS FISHERIES ACCORDS WITH THREE COUNTRIES**

Jakarta – the marine affairs and fisheries ministry of Indonesia recently signed fishery agreements with three countries consecutively - India, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Marine Affairs and Fishery Minister Fadel Muhammad said at a press conference.

The extended memorandum of understanding between Indonesia and India on marine and fishery was signed by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in India last January 25.

On January 24, Minister Fadel had a meeting with Indian Minister of Earth Sciences Pawan Kumar Bansal to discuss the two countries' responses to the impact of climate change and the need to conduct further research on the role of the oceans in global climate change.

The two nations' cooperation covered marine productivity, marine ecosystem health research and monitoring, climate change joint research and observation, marine resources management and applications.

As the world's second most populated country, India was a potential market for Indonesia's fishery products, especially tuna.

India also planned to invest in seaweed processing in Luwuk and Banggai, Central Sulawesi Province.

From India, Minister Fadel proceeded to Sri Lanka for a working visit.

Fadel and Sri Lankan Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Minister Dr Rajitha Seranathe at their meeting had discussed bilateral cooperation in the marine and fishery sector as well as in aquaculture, particularly in the Indian Ocean.

Minister Fadel on the occasion also emphasized the importance of eradicating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fish-

ing to support sustainable and wise marine and fishery resources management in the Indian ocean especially.

Both countries agreed to prepare a draft memorandum of understanding on marine and fishery cooperation expected to be signed in middle of 2011.

Sri Lanka and Indonesia also planned to organize a forum of businessmen engaged in the fishery industry.

After visiting Sri Lanka, Minister Fadel went to Maldives to meet Maldives Fishery and Agriculture Minister Dr. Aminath Jameel in Male.

The two ministers agreed to follow up their meeting by drafting a Letter of Intent expected to be signed in March.

Fadel expressed his interest of learning Maldives' experiences and policies in managing their small islands.

In the meeting with Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed, Minister Fadel said Indonesian businessmen were interested in investing in the fishery sector in Maldives, according to a press statement of the Indonesian marine affairs and fisheries ministry.

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## **RI'S NON-OIL/NON-GAS EXPORTS SURPASS TARGET**

Jakarta – Indonesia's non-oil/non-gas exports in 2010 reached US\$129.7 billion or 33 percent more than in 2009 and surpassing the target set in the government's Medium-Term Development Plan.

In a press conference at her office Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said the government had set the export target at 7.0 to 8.5 percent which was later revised to 16 to 18 percent for the Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJM).

"What is encouraging is the hike in the non-oil/gas exports in 2010 is also supported by export hikes in all sectors including mining, industry and agriculture," she said.

The non-oil/gas exports from the mining

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sector rose 35.4 percent, from agriculture 14.9 percent and industries 33.5 percent.

The rise in the export volume and price of international commodities was the main driver of the increasing non-oil/gas exports in 2010.

Among the main export products that record high growth are rubber (67.3 percent), palm oil (25.7 percent) and cocoa (23 percent).

Manufacturing products that record significant hike in exports are automotive (37.6 percent), foot wear (34.1 percent), electronics (17 percent) and textiles and textile products (13 percent).

Mari said concentration of Indonesia's non-oil/gas export destinations shifted in 2010.

"The five main non-oil/gas export destinations namely Japan, China, the US, Malaysia and Singapore only comprise 47 percent of the market share. The concentration has shifted,".

China in 2009 was ranked third in the list of Indonesia's biggest export destinations but in 2010 it replaced the US and became the second biggest.

"As of 2009 India has also replaced Malaysia with its market share rises to 7.6 while Malaysia only 6.0 percent," she said.

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## **RI'S IMPORTS UP 20 PCT LAST YEAR**

Jakarta – Indonesia's imports last year jumped 40.05 percent to US\$135.61 billion from the year before, the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) said.

Oil and gas imports in 2010 rose 44.16 percent to US\$27.36 billion from the previous year, with crude oil imports increasing 15.16 percent to US\$1.12 billion, and oil products 61.93 percent to US\$6.89 billion, BPS Chief Rusman Heriawan said.

"Gas imports also rose US\$374.1 million or 76.49 percent,".

Meanwhile, non-oil/non-gas imports last

year reached US\$108.24 billion, an 39.04 percent increase compared to a year earlier.

The 2010 non-oil/non-gas imports were dominated by machinery and mechanical appliances (18.49 percent), electrical appliances (14.44 percent) and motor vehicles and spare parts (5.30 percent).

"The import of consumer goods only contributed 7.37 percent to the overall non-oil/non-gas imports, with the import of raw and auxiliary materials for manufacturing industries reaching 72.78 percent,".

China was listed as the largest supplier of imported goods to Indonesia last year, with 18.19 percent of the overall imports. Followed by Japan (15.62 percent), Singapore (9.29 percent), the United States (8.58 percent) and Thailand (6.85 percent).

Meanwhile, Indonesia's imports from other ASEAN member states accounted for 22.03 percent and European Union 9.02 percent of its overall imports last year, he said.

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## **PHILIPPINES, CHINA TO BUILD CACAO PLANT IN WEST SULAWESI**

Mamuju - Philippine and Chinese investors planned to build a cacao processing plant in West Sulawesi province in 2011.

West Sulawesi Governor Anwar Adnan Saleh said on Thursday the Philippine and Chinese investors planned to build a cacao processing plant in West Sulawesi this year after the unsuccessful one in the province last year.

the Philippine and Chinese investor's failure because of the practical absence of the needed facilities and infrastructure, especially power sources.

the regional administration is now ready to help with investment of the two countries, especially the much needed sources of electricity.

He said "West Sulawesi will soon build micro-hydro power plants in Bonehau Kalumpang sub-district with a capacity of eight

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megawatts (MW),".

Further more West Sulawesi has been trying to boost its cacao production to 500,000 tons under a national movement program of raising quality and production of cacao.

"The project will occupy 74,000 hectares of cacao plants from the 185,000 hectares of farmer's cacao under a program of rehabilitation, extensification and rejuvenation of cacao crops,".

The program also includes the development of 8.1 million of superior cocoa seeds called somatic embryogenesis (SE) on the land of the growers and the improvement of the crops from 500 to 900 kilograms per hectare.

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#### **MINISTRY SETS 2011 FISHERY PRODUCTION TARGET AT 12.6 MLN TONS**

Jakarta - The marine affairs and fisheries ministry has set its fishery production target at 12.26 million tons this year, or an increase of 13 percent from 10.85 million tons in 2010.

The production increase was expected to be followed by a rise in fish consumption, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad said in a discussion on "The Fishery Outlook 2011" held at Borobudur Hotel, here, Monday (Feb. 2).

Indonesia's fish consumption in late 2010 reached 30.47 kg per capita annually, an increase from 29.08 kg per capita in 2009, according to a press statement from the ministry.

The country's fish production in 2009 was 9.82 million tons. The government has set a target of fishery production at 22.39 million tons by 2014, while aquaculture 16.86 million tons.

In the aquaculture sector in 2011, the volume of aquaculture production is expected at 6,847,500 tons, the number of quality fingerlings is 4.2 billion, and seaweed seedlings 350,420 tons.

According to data from the ministry, some 116 districts/cities have adequate infrastructure and facilities for aquaculture activities. The areas include 70 brackish areas, 116 fresh water, and 81 coastal areas.

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#### **TWENTY-TWO INVESTORS TO BUILD SHOE, FOOTWEAR PLANTS IN RI**

Jakarta - As many as 22 foreign investors intend to build shoe and footwear manufacturing plants in Indonesia, with each of them expected to employ about 10,000 workers, but the only problem is the limited number of skilled workers, Secretary General of the Industry Ministry Anshari Bukhari said.

He added the number of job training centers for shoe and footwear factory workers was currently small. The ministry had such a job training center in Sidoarjo, East Java, which had the capacity to train 700 people. "To cope with the shortage of skilled workers, we have trained shoe factory workers to give training to would-be shoe factory workers,".

In addition, the ministry also had asked shoe industries to give training to local residents.

He said a shoe manufacturer in Purwakarta, West Java, had so far provided a production line to give training to new recruiters. It took one-and-a-half months to train the new recruiters to be able to work.

The investors came among others from China, Taiwan and South Korea.

"Shoe exports have shown an upward trend. Last year shoe exports hit an all time high of more than US\$2 billion. And we must take advantage of this momentum," he said.

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#### **SARINAH TO BEGIN EXPORTING CASSAVA**

Jakarta - State-owned company PT Sariinah is increasing the number of its trade commodities by purchasing cassava from farmers and exporting it for cattle fodder to China.

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PT Sarinah President Director, Jimmy M Rifai Gani said that his company was buying cassava from farmers in Cilacap district in central Java to meet the need for the commodity from China.

"So far, we have actually planned to export it to South Korea which will re-export the commodity to China. We have not yet met importers in China,".

His company would sign a contract agreement with an importer from South Korea. "The first shipment is expected to be carried out in April with a volume of 5,000 tons worth Rp10 billion," he said.

PT Sarinah will export 5,000 tons of cassava every month to China through an importer in South Korea.

Jimmy said that China had demanded for 13,500 tons of cassava for cattle fodder per month but for the time being his side could only met half of it because his firm had not yet found suppliers at home.

"That is why we are trying to find suppliers in other regions. We will look for ones in Lampung province,".

In the long run PT Sarinah will develop cassava farmers in regions so that they would be able to provide supplies for the export needs.

"This is because most of cassava plantations are cultivated in small scales," he said.

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### **INDONESIA'S EXPORTS OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO CHINA UP 30 PCT**

Jakarta - The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China has increased Indonesia's exports of textile and textile products to that country by more than 30 percent last year securing Indonesia's position as an exporter of the products to China, the Indonesian Textile Association (API)said.

API chairman Ade Sudrajat said that textile exports to China increased by 70 percent, fibers 65 percent and yarn 65 percent in 2010. "Indonesia is a reliable source for China for basic materials of the textile indus-

try," .

The demand for textile and textile products in China, a country of 1.3 billion people, could not fully meet domestically. The demand has been growing rapidly as per capita textile consumption in China has increased from 12 kg to 18 kg per capita each year.

Meanwhile, Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said that exports of textile and textile products to China last year consisted of garments 60 pct, fiber yarn three pct.

In a discussion with press in Bandung, Minister Pangestu said that the competitiveness of China's textile industry had weakened due the rising manpower cost. In addition, trade tension with the United States and the European Union also had affected China's textile competitiveness.

On the other hand, in the last three years Indonesia had achieved its textile industry development target. "However, Indonesia still needs to improve quality and promotion,".

Indonesia has set the target for the exports of textile and textile products to China at 15 billion US dollars, compared to last year's 11.2 billion US dollars.

However, Indonesia has anticipated a decline in its exports of textile and textile products to China this year due to the rising prices of the basic materials, including cotton which had increased by 150 percent on the world markets.

The international price of cotton in 2010 stood at 1.5 US dollars and now has increased to 4.2 US dollars per kilogram.

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### **MARINE RESOURCE-RICH INDONESIA SETS HIGHER FISH PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION TARGETS**

Jakarta - Indonesia as one of the world's largest maritime countries has about 5.8 million square kilometers of marine territory and 92,000 kilometers of beach and coastal strips, second only after Canada.

As around 70 percent of Indonesia's territory consists of water, it is but logical if Ma-

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rine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad has the ambition of making Indonesia one of the world's biggest fish producers.

For 2011, the ministry has set its fishery production target at 12.26 million tons, or an increase of 13 percent from 10.85 million tons in 2010. Indonesia's fish production in 2009 was 9.82 million tons.

Speaking in a discussion on "The Fishery Outlook 2011" held in Jakarta early February 2011, the minister said the government has set a target of fishery production at 22.39 million tons by 2014, while aquaculture 16.86 million tons.

This year, the volume of aquaculture production is expected at 6,847,500 tons, the number of quality fingerlings is 4.2 billion, and seaweed seedlings 350,420 tons.

To support the target, the government has developed adequate infrastructure and facilities for aquaculture activities in some 116 districts/cities, according to data from the ministry. The areas include 70 brackish areas, 116 fresh water, and 81 coastal areas.

Indonesia earned 2.66 billion US dollars from its fish exports in 2010, an increase of 8.05 percent from 2.46 billion US dollars in 2009.

The ministry has set a target of fish export value at a total of 3.2 billion US dollars in 2011.

The 2008 exports of fisheries products reached US\$2.6 million, said the ministry's Overseas Marketing Director of the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries Affairs Saut P Hutagalung early last year.

According to Him, the ministry still applied previous export marketing policy which included maintaining Indonesia's traditional export markets in the United States, Japan and the European Union.

The government also planned to expand the export markets to potential regions such as the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe, he said.

Last year, Indonesia was ranked 11th on the list of the world's fishery exporter countries.

"Indonesia's market share in the world's fishery exports accounts for 1.74 percent of the world's total fishery exports," Djoko Purmono, head of the fishery export affairs of the Trade Ministry's Directorate General of External Trade, said last May 2010.

The country's fishery exports were dominated by shrimps, followed by frozen fish, fresh fish, fillet, and fish.

While, among major exporter provinces include East Java, Jakarta, North Sumatra, Lampung, Central Java, South Sulawesi, Bali, Maluku, North Sulawesi and Central Sulawesi.

According to an estimation, the biggest fish exporting country in 2007 was China with 11 percent, followed by Norway seven percent, and Thailand six percent, while Indonesia with only two percent in 2007, ranking only the 12th in the world's fish exports.

The latest data on global fisheries and aquaculture could be found in "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010" report which was published coinciding with the opening of the 29th session of the UN Committee on Fisheries which held at the FAO's headquarters in Rome, early February 2011.

According to the report, aquaculture was dominated by production from the Asia/Pacific region, accounting for 89% of global production and 79% in terms of value.

The UN's latest report also shows global consumption of fish has hit a record high, reaching an average of 17kg per person.

Fisheries and aquaculture supplied the world with about 145m tones in 2009, providing about 16% of the population's animal protein intake, the report said as quoted by BBC news recently.

As a country having huge marine resource potential, the livelihoods of the majority of the Indonesian people are related to the fishery sector.

Therefore, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad recently reminded that the production increase should also be followed by a rise in fish consumption.

The ministry said in a press statement

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early February 2011 that Indonesia's fish consumption in late 2010 reached 30.47 kg per capita annually, an increase from 29.08 kg per capita in 2009.

The People's Coalition for Fishery Justice (Kiara) Secretary General M Riza Damanik was of the view that the government needed to set a quota of nine million tons of fish both for domestic consumption and for industry alone.

The nine million tons should consist of 6 million tons for domestic consumption and 3 million tons for fishery industries at home to meet their need for raw materials, he said in September 2010.

Data of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries showed that in the 1998 - 2008 period fish consumption of domestically produced fish increased 25 percent.

The standard of fish consumption based on the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is 30 kg per capita per year, according to him.

In Indonesia which has a population of over 220 million, fish consumption per capita per year has reached 30.17 kg.

The NGO activist regretted the fact that at present people in Indonesia still consumed beef more than fish due to the high rate of meat imports from other countries, including Australia.

According to GreenFact website, in 2006 the global production from fishing and aquaculture combined reached approximately 144 million tonnes, of which 110 million were for human consumption worldwide. **By Fardah**

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### **RI HAS GOOD CHANCE TO RAISE CACAO EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND**

Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan - Indonesia has a big opportunity to boost its cacao exports to Switzerland provided it could increase the quality of the cocoa raw material.

This was stated by Minister Counsellor for economic affairs of the Indonesian embassy

in Bern Taufiq Rodhy here when meeting South Kalimantan Governor Rudy Ariffin.

He said Indonesia is the world's third biggest cacao producer, but unfortunately the growers have yet to be able to increase the quality of their product.

In this case, he said, Switzerland as the biggest cacao producer has not much imported cacao from Indonesia.

"Switzerland is the world's biggest cocoa producer, but it does not raise any cacao crops in that country, causing it to be highly dependent on other countries," he said.

This, Taufiq said, provides a big opportunity for Indonesia to increase its cacao exports to Switzerland, provided certain conditions had been met including processing, sanitation and others.

He said Switzerland is a very strict country in processing the product, including the care of the producers of the environment.

"If we wish to send goods to that country, normally they will check how the product is being processed including the care of the producers of environmental matters,".

Indonesia's cocoa exports to Switzerland reached only 200 million Swiss francs.

The volume and value of the exports were still relatively small compared to the potential Indonesia actually has.

Indonesia's exports to that country are fifth compared to other countries like Vietnam whose exports had reached 2.1 billion Swiss francs.

Thus, he said, now the Indonesian embassy in Bern has been trying hard to raise the volume and value of Indonesia's exports to the Swiss market, by among other things increasing Indonesian trade, tourism and investment.

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## LAMPUNG'S COFFEE EXPORTS 31.137 MILLION DOLLARS

Bandarlampung, Lampung province - Lampung robusta coffee exports in January 2011 reached US\$31.137 million US dollars and a volume of 17,957,324 tons.

"Compared to the exports in the earlier month it was a decline," chairman of the Lampung Association of Indonesian Coffee Exporters and Industries Muchtar Lutfie said.

In December 2010, the exports reached 26,25,264 tons worth 43.23 million dollars. The drop in Lampung coffee exports was caused by the unsatisfactory harvest in several coffee plantation centers in the region. In general, coffee harvest in Lampung in 2010 was not so good due to bad weather conditions last year.

Muchtar said on the other hand, Lampung's robusta coffee exports in January to December 2010 went to 43 countries. The exports produced foreign exchange earnings reaching 392.619 million US dollars with a volume of more than 261,969 tons.

The 43 destinations are Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Check Republic, Denmark, Equador, Egypt, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Mexico, Holland, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Unied Arab Emirates, US, Vietnam, and the UK.

He also said that in 2009 the number of destinations is the same in 2010, only the volumes changed. In 2009, he added, the volume reached more than 342,313 tons producing 475.360 million dollars in forex.

The robusta coffee plantations in Lampung reached 163,837 hectares run by 218,447 growers.

Coffee plantations in Lampung are particularly found in plateaus, like in West Lampung regency, Waykanan, North Lampung , Tanggamus and Pesawaran.

## WEST SULAWESI TO BE MADE PRIME COCOA PRODUCING REGION

Mamuju, W.Sulawesi - Vice President Boediono said that the government would make West Sulawesi province a national cocoa production region.

"I think with its potentials and its development so far, West Sulawesi will be a national mainstay for cocoa production," he said in a dialog with cocoa farmers in Mamuju.

The Vice President said, the dream to make Indonesia the world's number one cocoa producer can be achieved with cooperation based on mutual understanding between the government, the local administrations, farmers and other concerned parties.

"The dream requires hard work from all of us. Among others, through the Cocoa National Movement that was stated in 2008 and in the future, West Sulawesi will be designated as a national mainstay producer," .

The Vice President called on all parties, particularly from banks to support the province as a national mainstay producer of cocoa. "With the cooperation of banking, the certification of cocoa lands to support production can be done, also can break the chain that is too long between farmers and industries so that the higher prices can be obtained for farmers as well as other measures, such as renovation, rehabilitation and intensification can be implemented,".

The Vice President added that the seriousness of the government to continue the National Movement of Cocoa, among others, will be done through the addition of the budget.

"Cocoa is the people's economy, therefore the government will fully assist its development,".

In the dialog, he also asked the farmers to work with the relevant parties to create superior cacao seeds that are resistant to various diseases.

"Research to create the cacao seeds are also important to do," he said.



In addition, farmers should also be able to utilize a variety of value added from cocoa development.

"The National Movement is not just Cocoa to plant and increase production. But also how we create value added advantage. For example, by building a cocoa processing industry," Boediono noted.

Meanwhile, the West Sulawesi Governor, Anwar said, Sulawesi is the largest producer of cocoa nationally, especially West Sulawesi.

"Indonesia is the second largest cocoa producer after Ivory Coast. Nationally, Sulawesi's cocoa production contributed 72 percent and special for West Sulawesi contributed 24 percent,".

Anwar added, cocoa has been contributing to the welfare of the Sulawesi people.

"71 percent of the people's prosperity derived from cocoa. Of the 80 percent of farmers in Sulawesi, 64 percent are cocoa farmers," he noted.

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### **RI NEEDS MORE INTEGRATED COCOA PRODUCERS**

Jakarta - In a bid to realize its dream of becoming the world's leading cocoa producer, Indonesia needs to build more integrated cocoa industries, as most cocoa processing industries are in other countries.

In a meeting with cocoa farmers for a dialog in Mamuju district as part of his working visit to West Sulawesi province on Friday, Vice President Boediono said hard-work and cooperation of all relevant parties were needed to realize Indonesia's dream of becoming the world's leading cocoa producer.

"The cooperation and hard-work to make Indonesia the world's leading cocoa producing country should be based on mutual understanding, because the Cocoa National Movement not only raise the crops but improving production as well,".

He pointed out that the dream of making Indonesia the world's number one cocoa producer can be achieved with cooperation based on mutual understanding between the government, the local administrations, farmers and other relevant parties.

"The dream requires hard work from all of us, including the Cocoa National Movement that was established in 2008, and in the future, West Sulawesi will become a national mainstay producer,".

The Vice President called on all parties, particularly banks to support the province as a national mainstay producer of cocoa.

"With the cooperation of banks, the certification of cocoa lands to support production can be done,".

The Vice President added, the seriousness of the government to continue the National



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Cocoa Movement, among others, will be done by raising the budget.

"We should not be satisfied with simply exporting cocoa but we have to build the processing industries to achieve added value,".

In doing so, Boediono said the funds that were originally overseas could be returned to the state treasury to be used to step up productivity through rehabilitation, revitalization, intensification, and supporting infrastructure of cocoa industries.

Meanwhile, West Sulawesi Governor Anwar Adnan Saleh said the largest cocoa producers are in Sulawesi island, especially West Sulawesi province.

"Indonesia is the world's second largest cocoa producer after the Ivory Coast," Governor Anwar said, adding that nationally Sulawesi contributed 72 percent of cocoa products while West Sulawesi province 24 percent.

The governor said 71 percent of Sulawesi people's welfare came from cocoa commodity because 64 percent of its people were cocoa farmers.

In the dialog, the vice president also asked the farmers to work with the relevant parties to create superior cacao seeds resistant to plant pests.

"Research to develop cacao seeds are also important," he said.

In addition, the farmers should also be able to utilize the value added from cocoa

development.

"The National Movement is not just for cocoa plants and increase production, but also how we create the benefits of value added. For example, by building a cocoa processing industry," Boediono noted.

Meanwhile, West Sulawesi Governor Anwar said West Sulawesi is the largest producer of cocoa in Indonesia.

"Indonesia is the second largest cocoa producer after the Ivory Coast. Sulawesi's cocoa production contributed 72 percent and West Sulawesi contributed 24 percent," he said.

Anwar added, cocoa has been contributing to the welfare of the Sulawesi people.

"Some 71 percent of the people's prosperity derived from cocoa. Of the 80 percent farmers in Sulawesi, 64 percent are cocoa farmers," he noted.

The governor also said in Mamuju recently that he remained optimistic Indonesia would become the world's largest cocoa producer and exporter.



In mid-2008, the government announced a large national program of revitalization of the cocoa industry, known as Gernas Pro Kakao.

"Since the announcement of Gernas Pro Kakao program, I remain optimistic that West Sulawesi is able to turn Indonesia into the largest cocoa producing country in the world," Governor Anwar Adnan said in Mamuju.

Having the ability to produce cocoa beans in large quantities, the governor said Indone-

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sia was ready to supersede the Ivory Coast as the world's largest producer and exporter.

In the last 20 years Indonesia had been the world's third largest cocoa producer after Ivory Coast and Ghana, contributing export earnings more than US \$1.4 billion per year.

In the late 1980s raising cocoa began seriously in the regions of Sulawesi island, and considerably lifted the fortune of cocoa-growing communities over the next two decades.

He said the program was intended to replace up to 70,000 hectares of cocoa, rehabilitate another 140,000 hectares and intensify farming on 300,000 hectares - bringing the total planted area to around 900,000 hectares of productive cocoa.

The West Sulawesi governor said Ivory Coast at present was the world's largest cocoa producer while Indonesia the third, but he was optimistic that the latter will be the first in the next few years.

He said West Sulawesi provincial government planned to step up cocoa production every year but it was hampered by the limited amount of budget from the central government.

In 2009 West Sulawesi produced 40,000 tons of cocoa but the production declined in 2010 following the reduction of budget from the central government.

According to the West Sulawesi governor, 80 percent of national cocoa production came from eastern Indonesian regions while the rest from other provinces such as Bali, East Nusa Tenggara, and Aceh.-By *Otniel Tamindael* -

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### **NORTH SULAWESI EXPORTS 4,833 TONS OF CCO TO US, CHINA**

Manado, North Sulawesi - North Sulawesi exports 4,833 tons of crude coconut oil (CCO) to the US and China worth US\$7.13 million early in the fourth week of February 2011.

"It meets the demand in two countries which has increased lately," the head of the



province's industrial and trade service, Sanny Parengkuan, said.

The two countries had become significant buyers of crude coconut oil of North Sulawesi with their import of the commodity continuing to rise.

"The increasing shipments of crude coconut oil to the US and China have benefited North Sulawesi as a prime product and a main foreign exchange earner for the region,".

Years before it was the Netherlands that was the main buyer of the commodity but lately it was the US and China and this has benefited the region very much in the midst of the regional government's efforts to boost exports.

Crude coconut oil is one of the derivative products of copra which is produced by farmers in the region.

"Most coconut farmers in North Sulawesi have been increasing production of copra due to an increasing price of the commodity in the market,".

The province's head of domestic trade service, Janny Rember, said the price of copra had surpassed Rp11,000 per kilogram which was the first in history.

"Some years ago the price of copra did increase but it never surpassed Rp8,000 per kilogram. This year however it has reached a new price level while normally before it was sold only at around Rp4,000 per kilogram,".

Janny said the hike occurred following the increasing need for the commodity in some

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countries in the world to be processed into alternative energy sources particularly bio-diesel.

Last year, the export values were recorded at US\$1.183 billion, he said.

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### **RI RUBBER EXPORTS TO MID EAST NOT DISTURBED**

Medan, N Sumatra - Indonesia's rubber exports, particularly those from North Sumatra, to the Middle East are not yet hampered by the political crisis in the region, a rubber exporter said.

"There is even a trend of price increase or at least it is stable at US\$5.6 per kg," Executive Secretary of the Indonesian Rubber Businesses Association (Gapkindo) for North Sumatra, Edy Irwansyah said.

He said that the volumes of Indonesia's rubber exports to the Middle East were not big but so far there was no constraint facing them even if political crisis was taking place in a number of Middle East countries.

The rubber price at the Singapore bourse on February 18, for example was closed at US\$5.665 per kg for the March and April shipments.

Although the price declined from the January 7 closing at 5.675, yet the US\$5.66 level was still considered relatively high.

The stable rubber price helped North Sumatra's raw rubber for processing (bokar) to remain at a relatively high level, namely reaching Rp42,700 - Rp43,500 per kg.

Local statistics head for production Erwin Said mentioned that the values of North Sumatra's rubber and rubber-based goods exports increased 102 percent to US\$2.391 billion from that last year.



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### **CPO EXPORT TAX REMAINS UNCHANGED**

Jakarta - The Trade Ministry has decided to keep export tax on crude palm oil (CPO) for March 2011 shipment unchanged at 25 percent.

CPO export benchmark price meanwhile rose US\$28 to US\$1,222 per metric ton, Director General of Foreign Trade Deddy Saleh said.

"Consequently, the reference price for March increased to US\$1,294.53 per metric ton,"

In February 2011, the CPO export benchmark price reached US\$1,194 per metric ton and the reference price US\$1,266 per metric ton.

Since April 1, 2010 the government has applied a progressive CPO export tax scheme based on CPO price developments in the international market.

Under Finance Minister's Regulation No. 67 of 2010, CPO export tax is set based on the reference price using the average CPO price in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, of the previous month.

Many circles said the progressive CPO export tax scheme had caused uncertainty in export cost and suggested that the government change it into a flat tax scheme.

Executive Director of the Indonesian Palm Oil Producers Association (GAPKI) Fadhil Hasan suggested that the government set flat CPO export tax as much as 3 percent when global CPO price reached a level of US\$700 per ton or more and exempt CPO derivative products from export tax, a move expected to stabilize CPO price and encourage development of domestic downstream palm oil industry.

Observer of agriculture economy Hermanto Siregar of the Bogor-based Institute of Agriculture (IPB) said flat export tax of 10 percent or 11 percent of CPO price would have a good impact on development of domestic downstream palm oil industry.

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## **FRANCE INTERESTED TO EXPAND INVESTMENT IN AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS IN INDONESIA**

Jakarta - France has expressed interest to expand investment and technology transfer to among others aircraft component manufacturing in Indonesia.

"The business delegation from France is interested in among others expanding investment in aircraft industry especially aircraft components," the director general of high technology-based prime industries of the ministry of industry, Budi Darmadi, said following the visit of 60 members of French business delegation to the office.

He said the AEDS aircraft component manufacturer and Thalles from France had expressed their interest in opening a two-way communication with the country's aircraft industry.

That way the continuity of component manufacturing could be maintained, he said.

"We need to develop our aircraft industry for air connectivity in the country and improving our TKDN in the component industry,".

The French delegation led by minister of economic affairs, finance and industry Christine Lagarde and state minister of transportation Thierry Mariani has also expressed its interest to expand machinery and manufacturing equipment business.

"They will conduct more technology transfer to Indonesia,". Some of the investment that would be expanded include that for food processing, piping and oil and gas.

France has been determined to increase training activities for human resources in Indonesia to produce more better skilled workers. The French business delegation has also looked at power projects in the country.

Christine Lagarde meanwhile said she came to Indonesia along with 60 prominent business community members.

"Some of them are ready to invest in Jakarta and in essence we are committed to developing and increasing cooperation and partnership between the two countries,".

among the program to be carried out are technology transfer and developing strategic partnership to increase "value" in Indonesia.

"We need to do a lot of things to open more employment in Indonesia with more than 100 French companies already investing here," she said.

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## **FADEL: RI PRODUCES AROUND 3 MILLION TONS OF SEAWEED**

Palu, Central Sulawesi - Indonesia's seaweed production is still around 3.082 million tons while world demand reaches 10 million tons a year, Marine Resources and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad said.

"We have been overwhelmed by seaweed demand from many places. Now demand has reached 10 million tons a year," he said when dedicating a seaweed depot in Parigi Moutong, Central Sulawesi.

The minister on the occasion also dedicated a seaweed plant and a fish processing plant.

Fadel said demand had increased because Indonesia had intensified seaweed production everywhere.

The Philippines several years ago still dominated seaweed production with its production averagely reaching two million tons a year. Now Indonesia has taken it over as the main seaweed producer with its average production increasing from only 2.574 million tons in 2009 to 3.082 million tons now.

According to a World Bank study the best seaweed comes from Sulawesi. He said if the potential was made use of it would certainly benefit the people especially coastal communities.

"We will lose, if we do not take the benefit,". The ministry was now preparing 60 seaweed production clusters to meet the 10 million ton production target by 2014.

Besides increasing production, the ministry would also increase the value of seaweed by processing it into several derivative products before being sent to markets.

"Demand for seaweed is huge," he said.

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The ministry was now preparing the concept so that President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono would issue an instruction on seaweed farming development in Indonesia so that the budget for it would increase.

"I am just persuading the President to issue an instruction on seaweed farming. I am convinced if there is a presidential instruction the budget will be increased,".

He need not be ashamed to convey it for the sake of the people. The ministry now only had a budget of Rp1 trillion used directly for the people.

During his visit to Parigi Moutong, Fadel also extended Rp300 million in aid for local seaweed farmers. "If it is still short tell the local government who will later report it to me," Fadel said.

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#### **EU PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS BATIK PROJECT IN KLATEN**

Yogyakarta - A 10-member European Union parliamentary delegation on Friday visited an environmentally friendly batik project at Kebon hamlet, Bayat subdistrict, Klaten district, Central Java province.

The EU-funded batik project was built at a cost of 1.8 million euros under the EU SWITCH Asia Program.

"This project supports 600 small and medium businesses and other stakeholders in six provinces in Indonesia," Dr Werner Langen who led the delegation said.

The project was carried out by the Indonesian-German Chamber of Commerce (EKONID), along with association partners from academicians, chambers of commerce, regional and national authorities

and the Batik Foundation.

"The project started in February 2010 and will end in January 2014,".

This project was among others aimed at improving the environmental indicator of the Indonesian batik industry by promoting environmentally friendly production process.

"In addition, it is also designed to create environmentally aware consumers as well as to make environmental policies that support and encourage sustainable production among Indonesian small and medium batik producers,".

Batik was the symbol of the beautiful Indonesian culture.

"We are pleased to have this cooperation to encourage environmentally friendly production businesses,".

He said on October 20, 2006 EU raised 78.95 million euros or US\$95.22 million or Rp950 billion in funds to support the Indonesian government in rehabilitating and restoring the livelihood of earthquake victims in Central Java, Yogyakarta and West Java.





## RI'S TOURIST ARRIVALS SURPASS 7 MLN TARGET LAST YEAR

Jakarta - More than 7.002 million foreign tourists visited Indonesia last year, surpassing the government-set target of 7 million, the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) reported.

Compared to the year before, the number of tourist arrivals last year represented a 10.74 percent increase, BPS Chief Rusman Heriawan said.

In December 2010 alone, more than 644.2 thousand foreign tourists visited the country, up 11.43 percent from a month earlier or 3.01 percent from the same period the year before.

Over 6.32 million tourists visited Indonesia in 2009.

Rusman said the number of tourist arrivals through the country's three largest airports increased last year. The three airports were Ngurah Rai Airport in Bali which recorded 2.54 million tourist arrivals, Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta 1.82 million and Hang Nadim Airport in Batam 1.007 million.

"The conducive climate

throughout 2010 helped increase the number of tourist arrivals particularly through Bali, Jakarta and Batam,".

In total, the foreign tourists visiting the country last year spent an estimated US\$7.6 billion, up 20.63 percent from the year before when the figure was recorded at US\$6.3 billion.

Meanwhile, the occupancy rates of star-rated hotels in 17 of the country's 33 provinces in December 2010 averaged 53.84 percent, up 3.59 points from a month earlier or 1.31 points from December 2009.

"On average the foreign tourists stayed at star-rated hotels in the 17 provinces for 1.99 days in December 2010, up 0.03 percent compared to December 2009," he said.



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## RI DEVELOPING WORLD CRUISE DESTINATIONS

Jakarta - With over 17,500 islands and water areas of 70 percent, Indonesia -- which owns the world's longest stretch of beaches reaching 81,000 km -- is building at least 66 maritime ecotourism destinations to attract tourists on board cruise ships.

The development of the world cruise destinations is part of the country's efforts to advance its maritime tourism and boost foreign tourist arrivals which have been showing an upward trend.

"Now is the time for us to become a world cruise tourism destination because we have a big potential in this sector," Director General for Marketing Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Sapta Nirwandar said.

The Indonesian government, during the celebration of New Year's Eve last December, officially announced its optimistic target of attracting 7.7 million foreign tourists into the country in 2011, up about 10 percent from 7,000,571 arrivals in 2010.

In order to help the country achieve its tourism targets, the government is developing various tourism-related sectors, including its maritime ecotourism. In this regard, Indonesia affirms its readiness to become a world cruise destination as part of the development of its maritime tourism.

The director general said his office was working hard to develop the potential while declaring that Indonesia was ready to serve cruise ships from various countries.

"We hope that in a not-too-distant time at least two cruise ships will visit the country every day. Besides making calls at Padang Bai, Benoa (Bali), Jakarta, Lembar (Lombok-West Nusa Tenggara-NTB), Makassar (South Sulawesi), Komodo (East Nusa Tenggara-NTT) and Semarang (Central Java), the world cruise ships are also expected to call at other 66 destinations such as the Tanjung Puting (Central Kalimantan) which has attracted many world cruises,".

Sapta said his office has seriously developed cruise tourism in Indonesia in the

last eight years together with other maritime tourism stakeholders.

"This endeavour has begun to show results. Now, the number of world cruises` calls has increased to 90 a year, from only 20 calls in 2002," the director general said. After all, the number of destinations visited by cruise ships has also increased from only three in the past several years to 66 destinations now.

Therefore, the marketing directorate general will continue its efforts to develop the country's cruise tourism and to improve the image and competitiveness of Indonesia as a world cruise destination.

For this purpose, the directorate general will use the Indonesian tourist resort island of Bali as a turn-around port while preparing others so that Indonesia would be able to serve large-scale cruises with big number of passengers.

It will also increase the quality of its services, synchronize and harmonize regulations, including polices in facilitating the visits of world cruise ships.

The priority would be given to the Benoa port of Bali to be developed as an international standard turn-around port which could accommodate world cruise ships and serve as a starting point for the development of maritime tourism into the eastern regions of Indonesia.

So far, Bali has been the major foreign tourist destination province and is expected to serve as a catalyst for Indonesia's tourism.

During 11 months of the January - November 2010 period, the tourist resort island was visited by 2,345,885 foreign tourists, or an increase of 8.48 percent compared with those arriving in the corresponding period in 2009 which stood at 2,162,576 visitors.

"The arrivals in 2010 exceeded the target set by the Bali regional government at between 2.2 million and 2.3 million arrivals," Bali's statistics chief officer Gede Suarsa said.

In order to help develop Indonesia's maritime ecotourism, particularly in island areas,

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the government is also active in promoting the potentials and cooperating with other countries.

For example, Indonesia has offered cooperation in this field to Maldives. Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) Fadel Muhammad said the island country which is located in the Indian Ocean was asked to cooperate with Indonesia because it had developed advanced island maritime tourism.

Maldives is visited by about one million foreign tourists a year. If the pattern of Maldives' maritime tourism could be emulated, it is expected that Indonesian islands which account for thousands of islands would attract and multiply foreign tourist arrivals in Indonesia.

"About one million foreign tourists visit Maldives every year. Ahead, we will emulate them," the minister said explaining his visit to Maldives last week.

Maldives was able to optimize the development of its isles into maritime tourism sites as sources of income for its people.

Maldives leased its islands to investors who developed them into tourist resorts with an investment value of each island reaching US\$150 million and 200 million.

The rate of hotel rooms there are between 600 and 1,000 per day. This drastically drives fishermen's income up from about 600-800 to about 10,000 dollars.

"Therefore, we will invite investors both domestic and abroad, to cultivate small islands as tourism sites," the minister said.

In the meantime, Director General for Small Islands and Coastal Areas Sudirman Saad said his side had signed a cooperation agreement with the Maldives' tourism minister for the development of maritime tourism.

Indonesia had clusters of islands which had the potentials to be developed into maritime tourism resorts, such as the Anambas islands in Riau province, Rajaampat in Papua and Wakatobi in Central Sulawesi.

"The islands which are good for development are those near Singapore because Indonesia can take advantage of infrastructure

in that country," Sudiman Saad said.

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### **TOURISM MINISTER: KOMODO REMAINS IN NEW7WONDER LIST**

Jakarta - Culture and Tourism Minister Jero Wacik has said he would continue promoting the Komodo as a candidate for inclusion in the list of the World's Seven New Wonders.

"We will go on, we will follow the process after this," Minister Jero Wacik said.

Following the decision of the New7Wonders Foundation not to drop Komodo National Park from the list, the Komodo will remain to be the 28th finalist and struggle to reach one of the top seven positions on November 11, 2011 to be recognized as a new wonder of the world.

Minister Wacik would attend the ceremony of the N7W final in whichever country willing to host the event after Indonesia canceled its plan to organize the event.

New7Wonders on its official website Monday (Feb. 7) announced important decisions concerning the participation of Komodo in the Official New7Wonders of Nature campaign.

"Voting for Komodo continues as an authorized Finalist in the Official New7Wonders of Nature campaign,".

New7Wonders, however, removed the Ministry of Culture and Tourism from its status as Official Supporting Committee for Komodo in the New7Wonders of Nature campaign.

Outlining these decisions, Bernard Weber, President and Founder of New7Wonders, says: "Every action by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism last week strengthened the case for us to withdraw from Indonesia completely. If we depended on the Ministry, then today we would be forced to announce a complete pull-out."

"Fortunately, in the past days we have received many encouraging and supporting requests from the public and leading individuals to allow Komodo to continue as a Finalist

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in the Official New7Wonders of Nature," says Weber, adding: "As New7Wonders is the world's first and largest global voting platform, these voices are important to us."

He emphasized that "The main news today is this: with the removal of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism from its official role in the campaign, voting for Komodo can continue."

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### **PRESIDENT SUPPORTS SAIL KOMODO 2013**

Kupang, NTT - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has expressed support to East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) provincial government plan to host Sail Komodo 2013.

"I have reported the provincial government plan to host Sail Komodo 2013 to President Yudhoyono and the head of state said he would fully support such an international marine event," NTT Governor Frans Lebu Raya said.

The governor said President Yudhoyono has asked the local government to plan and promote the event as well as possible in advance.

" President wants us to plan it better like Sail Banda 2010 which ran successfully because of better plan and vigorous promotions," the governor said.

He said Sail Komodo was intended to introduce Komodo to international community and to support tourism in East Nusa Tenggara.

According to the governor, the Sail Komodo event had been proposed to Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry.

Frans expressed his hope that the proposal would be approved by the ministry this year so that the event could be realized in an effort to preserve the endangered giant lizard in Komodo island.

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### **PRESIDENT CHOOSES KOMODO AS ONE OF SEVEN WONDERS OF WORLD**

Kupang, E Nusa Tenggara - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will choose the Komodo (*Varanus Komodoensis*), as one of the finalists of the seven wonders of the world through the website of the Internet [www.new7wonders.com](http://www.new7wonders.com) on the occasion of the 65th National Press Day in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, on Feb 9.

"The choice will be made by the President and the First Lady to encourage Indonesians to vote for the Komodo to raise the popularity of the giant lizard," Local Committee Chairman Andre W Koreh said.

The choice will also be made by 21 ministers present on the occasion.

He also said that the local committee is coordinating with the palace protocol to ask for a list of ministers who will be voting for the Komodo along with the President in Kupang.

The Komodo is very tightly competing with the Kalimanjoro which has secured 99.96 percent of the international votes, Mud Volcanoes 99.82 pct, Galapagos 99.76 pct, Cliffs of Moher 99.65 pct, and the Miford Sound 99.62 pct.

In the meantime, Black Forest secured 99.59 pct, Vesuvius 99.50 pct, El Yuque 99.45 pct, Maldives 99.40 pct, Great Barrier Reef 99.16 pct, Uluru 99.15 pct and the Dead Sea 99.06 pct.

Furthermore, Jelita Groto 98.54 pct, Table Mountain 97.20 pct. Bay of Funday 97.14 pct, Masurian Lake District 95.82 pct, Grand Canyon 95.51 pct, Angel Falls 95.27 pct, Amazon 93.38 pct, and Yushan 92.92 pct, and some other natural zones, including the Komodo which had won outside its origin, Indonesia, with 60.62 pct.

Twenty eight finalists will be competing for the new seven world wonders which will be announced on November 11, 2011.

"New7Wonders have a strategic role in increasing Indonesia's tourism, especially if Indonesia belonged to the seven new won-

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ders of the world. But will the Komodo be included in the seven new wonders of the world? The answer is with the voters in Indonesia and international world," he said.

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### **KOMODO'S RATING AS 7 WONDERS FINALIST UP**

Kupang, E Nusa Tenggara - The rating of Indonesia's Komodo (*Varanus comodoensis*) as a finalist in the selection of the world's seven natural wonders has improved, a local tourism official said.

"Within this week, the Komodo's standing became stronger as it rose to sixth place among 28 finalists," Ulbadus Gogi, head of promotion affairs at East Nusatenggara (NTT)'s tourism and culture office, said.

Komodo National Park on the western tip of Flores Island had always ranked eight upwards and this week it made tremendous progress.

The improved rating of Komodo could have occurred because of the threat to suspend it from the campaign for the new seven wonders of the world by the organizers, Ulbadus Gogi said.

In addition, voting for the dragon by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on National Press Day last February 9 in Kupang contributed also boosted the Komodo's ranking.

Ulbadus Gogi said, his office continued to promote the dragon through every network and was hoping that support for it would continue until the announcement of the winners on November 11, 2011.

He believed, the Komodo would qualify as



He was commenting on the "New7Wonders" Foundation's threat to suspend the Komodo as a finalist in the election.

Ulbadus said the rare animal living in the

one of the seven new wonders of the world because support for the giant lizard was continuing to flow in.

The East Nusa Tenggara administration and the people expect any support from the hospitality and Indonesian residing anywhere

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because Komodo is not just owned by East Nusa Tenggara people but belongs to all the people of Indonesia.

"We believe, with the position today, Komodo is certainly able to compete and set aside the 28 other finalists as one of the seven wonders of the world," Ulbadus Gogi said.

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### **WORLD YOUTHS TO VISIT KOMODO NATIONAL PARK**

Kupang, NTT - Youths from around the world will visit Komodo National Park (TNK) on the western tip of Flores island in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) province from Feb 25-27, 2011.

"The world youths` visit to Komodo National Park is part of a field study of three locations, the two others being the Marine Tourism Park in South Sulawesi and the Orang-utan Protection Forest in Central Kalimantan," the program`s organizing committee spokesman Gusti Brewon said.

He said the presence of the world youths in Indonesia was in conjunction with International Youth Forum on Climate Change (IYFCC) from February 23-28, initiated by Indonesian National Youth Committee (KNPI).

"In relation with climate change, KNPI tries to initiate a scientific meeting among the world youths to discuss ways to overcome that world threatening issue,".

Therefore, he added that KNPI joined World Assembly of Youth (WAY) and was trusted to organize the International Youth Forum on Climate Change.

Gusti said that in conjunction with such an international event, the organizing committee wanted to introduce the world youths with three natural objects in Indonesian namely Marine Tourism Park in South Sulawesi, Orang-utan Protection Forest in Central Kalimantan, and Komodo National Park in East Nusa Tenggara which have to be preserved

from the danger of climate change.

Along with this momentum, Gusti said the effort to promote Komodo, the giant lizards, was not merely for business commodity but for their survival.

"Komodo can be a symbol of the existence of ancient creatures that are able to survive through the changing of time and civilization,".

According to him, the anatomy and the biological side of komodo can enable the dragons to survive for the next hundreds even thousands of year.

But he feared that the threat of climate change could shorten the life of the giant lizard of komodo.

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### **SAIL MOROTAI 2012 PREPARATIONS BEING INTENSIFIED**

Jakarta - Indonesia`s southernmost island of Morotai in North Maluku Province is famous not only for its natural and marine beauty but also for its historical tourism.

It is also renowned for the beauty of its various coral reefs and decorative fish and tempting diving sites which the North Maluku provincial government has now started to spruce up in preparation of "Sail Morotai 2012."

Broken bridges and roads in Morotai have been mended. Divers accommodations in the form of hostels and procurement of diving equipment have also been made available just to make the international marine event of Sail Morotai a success.

This year the local government will also build three docks in Morotai district for the upcoming Sail Morotai 2012.

"We will focus on the construction of three docks in Morotai because the new district is located in a border area where Sail Morotai will take place in 2012," North Maluku provincial administration spokesman Umar Hasan said in Ternate over the weekend.

According to him, the new district of Morotai got a special attention from central government.

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The construction of three docks in Morotai would receive funds amounting Rp2.1 billion from 2011 regional budget, and also from state budget, focused on supporting the public activity through sea transportation.

The docks will be located at the shipping route of the participants of Sail Morotai from foreign countries.

Other supporting infrastructures at Morotai district would be improved for the success of the international marine event.

"Therefore the local government will build the three docks in Dodola, Posi-Posi, and Bere-Bere," Umar said, adding that the three locations were strategic and representative for the Sail Indonesian participants to visit Morotai.

In addition, the docks would be used to support the international marine event of Sail Morotai and to step up the local community's economy and welfare.

Even North Maluku Governor Governor Thaib Armaiyn also discussed the preparation of Sail Morotai 2012 with Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad in September last year.

At the time Fadel said he supported the North Maluku's initiative to host the event.

During his visit to South Korea in September last year, Governor Thaib Armaiyn also promoted the international maritime and yachting event in the country.

Acting Head of Morotai district, Sukemi Sahab, said the governor during his visit promoted Sail Morotai 2012 to South Korean community members.

The North Maluku governor visited South Korea to join the Investment National Coordinating Board's investment promotion mission, in addition to introducing Sail Morotai to South Koreans.

Sukemi Sahab said that for North Maluku, the Sail Morotai was a meaningful and strategic international event because it would put the province on to the world's tourism and investment maps.

The comings of foreign tourists and sailors to the Sail Morotai events would introduce the greatness of North Maluku province's tourism and investment potentials.

"For the Morotai Island district, Sail Morotai will positively contribute to tourism, investment, and infrastructure construction,".

In making the Sail Morotai get success, the North Maluku provincial government had proposed a budget of about 200 billion rupiah to central government in Jakarta.

The government's funds would be used for preparing basic infrastructures such as roads, bridges, airport, and public facilities to support the Sail Morotai in a short time.

This international event was initially introduced by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono when officiating the move of North Maluku capital from Ternate to Sofifi.

In 2010, the annual event of Sail Indonesia had a theme of "Sail Banda" in which the Maluku provincial government was the host.

As part of the promotion strategies and ways to welcome the sailors, the host did not only organize communal festivities and cultural events but also provided their guests with tourism and investment booklets.

Through this annual yacht event, Indonesia is expected to remain in the route map of international sailors as one of the secure marine tourism destinations.

Over the past years, the Sail Indonesia's participating international yachts start sailing to the Indonesian waters from Darwin, the capital of Australian state of Northern Territory.

Among the participating skippers were from the United States of America, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

Inspired with the success Indonesia scored by organizing Sail Bunaken 2009 in North Sulawesi and Sail Banda 2010 in Maluku, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono suggested that North Maluku stage another such event, namely Sail Morotai.

President Yudhoyono made the suggestion when speaking at a ceremony in Ternate, North Maluku, marking the relocation of the province's capital from Ternate to Sofifi on Halmahera island in August 2010.

"We have just organized Sail Banda, and in reality it attracted so many participants from many countries and moved the economy in

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Maluku. Therefore, I hope we can organize a Sail Morotai in North Maluku," the President said at the time.

The head of state on the occasion also threw his weight behind the North Maluku provincial administration's wish to turn Morotai Island into a special economic zone.

Therefore, the president asked the relevant parties to draw up a master plan for the development of the island into a new economic center.

As an outlying island serving as a gateway into Indonesia through the Pacific Ocean, being close to East Asia, and situated in a main sea lane to Australia and New Zealand, Morotai could be part of the economic movement in the Asia Pacific region.

"We should think strategically. Let's do something in North Maluku, Morotai in particular, so it will be part of the economic movement in the Asia Pacific region," said the president.

The President said he had received a master plan from Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad to develop the island into a fishery, tourist, trade and services center.

In light of this, President Yudhoyono expressed hope that North Maluku province would successfully host Sail Morotai as part of Sail Indonesia 2012. *By Otniel Tamindael -*

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## **RURAL OBJECTS STILL YOGYAKARTA'S MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTION**

Yogyakarta - Rural tourism objects are still the main attraction for both domestic and foreign tourists in Yogyakarta, Widya Budaya Foundation chairperson Widi Utaminingsih said.

"Rural tourism here has a great potential and it can be a mainstay for the increase of the number of tourist visits to Yogyakarta,".

Therefore, she added that rural tourism in Yogyakarta would continue to be developed

correctly, creatively, and uniquely in order to attract even more domestic and foreign tourists.

Yogyakarta was a province with a lot of villages that could be developed into rural tourism sites.

"Rural tourism in Yogyakarta has its own characteristics and advantages found nowhere else in Indonesia," said Widi Utaminingsih whose foundation is engaged in locally-based tourism and cultural research and development.

According to her, rural tourism in Yogyakarta was predicted to have good prospects in 2011.

"The rural tourism potential will complement the diversity of tourism attractions in Yogyakarta special province and thus it should continue to be developed,".

Both the regional and provincial governments should make every effort to develop the rural tourism potential to attract as many foreign and domestic tourists as possible this year.

"Every rural tourism in Yogyakarta has its own typical atmosphere namely the the culture and tradition, arts, as well as natural breathtaking scenery,".

The Widya Budaya Foundation has a great concern in the field of tourism and cultural development study with a local potential basis.

According to her, each rural tourism has the potential of agriculture, animal husbandry, and art and cultural attractions that could be developed to attract tourists.

She said there were at least 50 villages in Yogyakarta that could be turned into rural tourism with the cooperation from all parties.-

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## **WAKATOBI TO HOLD UNDERWATER PHOTO CONTEST**

Kendari, S.E.Sulawesi - The Wakatobi district administration will organize an underwater photo contest in June 2011 to be partici-

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pated in by world-class photographers, a local administration official said.

"We have not yet determined how many prizes will be contested in the photo contest. But to be sure, they will not be less than US\$40.000 as for the previous competition," Wakatobi district chief Hugua said.

The underwater photo contest participated in by hundreds of people is to be conducted in a series of Sail Indonesia 2011 events centered in Wakatobi and Belitung.

The main purpose of the photo contest was to record the natural beauty of the Wakatobi National Marine Park in which there are 750 species of coral reefs and diverse ecosystems, Hugua said.

"The work of world-class photographers, besides would be a documents, it will also be published in a number of media, both print and electronic media across the world," he added.

According to Hugua, the underwater photo contest would be divided into several categories, among others, the beauty of coral reefs, marine life and the unique beauty of living creatures in the sea.

"The winners will be announced on the eve of the feast convivial Sail Indonesia 2011, on August 17, as well as the presentation of the competition`s prizes," he said.

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### **RI READY TO PROMOTE TOURISM ABROAD THROUGH MAGAZINE**

Jakarta - Indonesia again is ready to promote its tourism abroad through a magazine that reports on the magnificent places worth visiting across Indonesia.

"I have invited several foreign ambassadors serving in Indonesia in order to improve the partnership in changing information and network of tourism between RI and foreign countries," said Ahmad Asyar, the director of Travelxpose Magazine, in the Dinner with Ambassador at Alila Hotel, here Friday (Feb 18) evening.

Through the magazine, the ambassadors in Indonesia could make use of the opportunity to share information and promote their art, cultural and tourism assets with the country.

Meanwhile, Paivi Alatalo, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Finnish Embassy, said that the concept of sharing information on cultural aspects was a good idea where it would be useful for Indonesia to promote its tourism abroad.

"I think it`s a great concept. I`m just wishing it good luck and a lot of success for the magazine," she said.

Paivi, who liked to see Bali, said that Indonesia had many fascinating places to visit and in order to promote Indonesian tourism in Finland, she said that RI needed to advertise more on eco-tourism.

"Eco-tourism may be the most interesting kind of tourism for my people because we are close to nature. In my opinion, you need to promote more about the country like the magnificent temple in Java and natural tourism,".

Indonesia did not need to advertise Bali in large scale because `the goddess island` had been known well in the world. "Bali does not need much promotion because everyone knows Bali well," she said.

Moreover, she added, political crisis in Indonesia did not hamper people from Finland to go to Indonesia.

"The political matter in Indonesia is not one thing that we are afraid of, but exactly the natural disaster like mount eruption is the reason,".

In the meantime, Peruvian Ambassador Juan Alvarez Vita said that he enjoyed Indonesian tourism as the country had rich cultures and interesting places.

"I really enjoy Indonesian tourism and like too much this country. It`s a wonderful country which has many lands and cultures," he said

He also added that he was glad to have tourism partnership with RI in visa exemption for Indonesian people since ten years ago.

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"I am very happy because we have a special agreement with Indonesia. So, Indonesian people can enter Peru without visa and only for the passport needed," he said.

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### **RI TO CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL TOURIST PROMOTION IN 74 EVENTS**

Jakarta - Indonesia will be promoting its tourism abroad at 74 international events in 2011.

Deputy Director for Promotion of the ASEAN region Chriasmastutie said that 74 tourist events abroad will be prepared with some of them already implemented to attract more foreign tourists to Indonesia this year.

"The 74 events are mostly in the ASEAN region as the main contributor of foreign tourists,".

She said the tourist promotion in the ASEAN region will be covered by 17 events besides 18 events in Asia, 15 in the United States and the Pacific, 13 in Europe, and 12 in the Middle East.

"The events will cover participation in the tourism bourse, sales missions, and support to Indonesian festivals abroad,".

Chriasmastutie said the number of the events this year had significantly increased compared to the 58 events in 2009. the number was actually still far from enough to at-

tract more tourists to Indonesia.

"Our budget is still very limited compared to those of some of our neighboring countries and therefore need to be allocated effectively and efficiently,".

This year she has projected 7.7 million foreign tourists until the end of 2011.

Of the projection, Chriasmastutie will try to attract more than 3.2 million foreign tourists from ASEAN to Indonesia.

"This year we will try to net 3.2 million foreign tourists from ASEAN to Indonesia".

She added that ASEAN had always been the biggest contributor of tourists to Indonesia and in 2010 of the 7 million foreign tourists to Indonesia 2.5 came from ASEAN.



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# DIVERSE

## **GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY RANKS SEVENTH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Yogyakarta - Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in Yogyakarta ranks seventh in the list of the 100 best universities in Southeast Asia, according to Webometrics` January 2011 edition, a spokesman for UGM, Suryo Baskoro said.

"The position increases compared to that of last year which ranked eighth,".

At the Asian level, UGM, which is the oldest state university in Indonesia, ranked 69th, and it is in the 593rd position at the world level.

"In Indonesia, Gadjah Mada University ranks first and in the past three years it was also in the top position. This year, the university again won the title as the best university in Indonesia of Webometrics version," Suryo noted.

According to Webometrics` records in 2010, 2009 and 2008, UGM was also in Indonesia`s top position.

"Webometrics is an institution affiliated with the Spanish National Research Council, which issues a list of university rankings twice a year, namely January and July," Suryo explained.

He said Webometrics` ranking calculation is based on the advantage in electronic publication (e-publication) which is contained in the web domain of each college.

The assessment is measured by four indicators, namely "size" (the number of pages contained in the electronic publications of the college`s website and "visibility" (other pages that list the number of the URL domain of colleges which are assessed).

Other indicators are the "rich files" namely the relevance of electronic resources and academic activities as well as the college publication, and "scholar" including the number of publications and quality citations in the domain of the higher learning institution.



"These data are collected, processed and used to rank around 12,000 colleges and universities around the world," Suryo said.

He noted the achievements that have been achieved by UGM prove the electronic publications in the domain [ugm.ac.id](http://ugm.ac.id) rated as the most comprehensive and the richest ones in Indonesia.

"It is something on which we have to be grateful. However, the rating is not the purpose of UGM. Efforts are made by UGM to improve the quality of all aspects of the campus life in accordance with its vision which is a dedication for the interests and prosperity of the nation," Suryo said.

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## **TERNATE TO PROMOTE ITS OWN STYLE OF BATIK**

Jakarta - Characterized by motifs of deep symbolic meaning, batik can truly be regarded as being representative of Indonesian culture as the art of making the cloth and not the monopoly of a certain region in the country.

While batik originated in Java, several other regions in Indonesia, including Ternate in North Maluku, also have their own style of batik.

Therefore, the typical Batik Ternate fabrics in North Maluku will start to be promoted at a Batik Expo 2011 in a bid to introduce the characteristics of the region.

In the past, Indonesians, mostly adults, wear batik only at formal events but nowadays it has become increasingly popular

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even among the younger generation with batik factories starting to manufacture more wear-friendly and fashionable batik outfits.

Even many office workers now wear batik on a daily basis, while local designers compete to produce more attractive designs.

"That is why it is part of our efforts to introduce various potentials that we have through the Batik Expo 2011," fair organizer Ruhani Malik said in Ternate on Monday.

He said the promotion of typical Batik Ternate fabrics through the Batik Expo 2011 would take place this week at Jatiland Mall in the city of Ternate.

Batik is a wax-resistant dyeing technique used on textiles. Due to modern advance in the textile industry, the term is also used for fabrics incorporating traditional batik patterns that are not necessarily produced using traditional batik techniques.

With a variety of art exhibitions, Ruhani said the batik fair in Ternate was expected to inspire various parties of the development of various characteristics possessed by the region.

Besides, the Batik Expo 2011 is also expected to be a special attraction for all elements of the public in the region to love local typical products being developed nowadays.

"Frankly speaking, this expo is rarely organized by business makers here, and therefore the local people this time are expected to get familiar with the local typical batik that we are going to promote," Ruhani said.

He said the prices of the high quality batik were affordable because it would range from Rp50,000 to Rp200,000 per piece.

The Expo 2011 in Ternate will introduce typical Batik Ternate in addition to Batik Surakarta and Batik Yogyakarta.

Javanese traditional batik, especially from Surakarta and Yogyakarta, has notable meanings rooted to the Javanese conceptualization of the universe.

Traditional colours include indigo, dark brown, and white, which represent the three major Hindu Gods (Brahma, Visnu, and

Uiva), related to the fact that natural dyes are most commonly available in indigo and brown.

Meanwhile, Ternate city administration spokesman Yusuf Sunya said the local government positively welcome the expo, to be organized by various public elements to promote local cultural wealth.

"We are going to develop the local Ternate typical batik by asking the local civil servants to wear it for work on Thursdays," Yusuf Sunya said.

As it becomes more and more popular, batik is now being developed in various regions across the country.

In Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), the so-called unique "Sasambo" batik products are seen as having the potential of making a significant impact on the growth of the local economy.

This is why the NTB provincial government will continue to multiply Sasambo batik production centers as they yield one of the region's premier handicraft products.

So far there are eight Sasambo batik production centers on Lombok and Sumbawa islands but the local government will make every effort to increase the number.

"We will certainly continue to multiply these typical Sasambo batik production centers and improve their quality in a bid to sell them at both national and international markets," NTB Vice Governor Badrul Munir said in the provincial city of Mataram recently.

The leader of NTB Provincial Poverty Management Team admitted that he would continue to encourage the development of handicraft industry in the province in order that the real sector could contribute significantly to poverty reduction effort.

Badrul said that since the development of unique Sasambo batik in 2009, 1.2 million meters of textile material with Rp20,000 per meter have been used for batik industry with a turnover of around Rp240 billion.

According to him, the textile materials were then labeled by the batik makers with various motives which characterized three

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tribes in the province namely Sasak, Samawa, and Mbojo (Sasambo).

For all parties in West Nusa Tenggara province to develop and support the Sasambo batik production, Badrul said the provincial government since January 2010 has already required the local civil servants to wear batik once a week on Thursdays.

The idea was proposed to add more value after Batik was recognized as an Indonesian heritage by the United Nations.

Badrul said every effort should be made to revive NTB local batik after woven cloth industries could not compete anymore.

Head of Mataram Industrial Cooperatives and Trade Office Marzuki Sahas once said that the Mataram Industrial Cooperatives and Trade Office would start to cooperate with vocational schools to establish a design clinic to home creativity.

Therefore, several schools in NTB province have tried to promote the batik spirit through the creative designs of the students, complete with typical Sasak motives.

Doing batik work is an obligatory lesson for them, while the responsibility to find the marketing opportunity is entrusted to the teachers.

In those schools the students are instructed to find the motive and design, to determine the batik material, and to cut the cloth, and to skillfully make special patterns for hand writing batik.

In October 2009 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially recognized batik as an Indonesian cultural treasure.

Following UNESCO's decision to add the traditional dyeing technique to its Intangible Cultural Heritage list, Indonesian community were since then asked by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to wear batik. *By Ot-niel Tamindael.*

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## **VP : RI REMAINS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING REDD+**

Jakarta - Indonesia remains committed to implementing the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) with Norway.

Indonesia remains fully committed although the presidential decree on a moratorium on peat land and natural forest conversion had not yet been signed so far, Vice President Boediono said as quoted by his spokesman, Yopie Hidayat.

"Indonesia is committed to implementing the REDD+ but would remain prioritizing the welfare of the people," Yopie said quoting the vice president.

The Vice President made the confirmation when receiving the International Climate and Forestry Initiative Oslo, Hans Brattskar.

Boediono said Indonesia was resolved to implement the REDD+ successfully and concretely as a new solution to overcome climate change problems without hurting the people.

"In view of that there must be a balance between safeguarding the environment and the future of grandchildren as well as how optimum economic benefits could be taken from the implementation of the REDD+," Yopie said.

Hans Brattskar responded well the statement and said he could understand why Indonesia had not yet been able to sign the decree.

Yopie said Brattskar could understand Indonesia which is considering the interests of the stakeholders.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg had made commitment to cooperate in efforts to overcome climate change through among others by the signing of the Letter of Intent on REDD+ done by Indonesia's foreign minister Marty Natalegawa and Norwegian environment and international development minister Erik Solheim in Oslo on May 27, 2010.

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The Norwegian delegation earlier inspected the peat land in Central Kalimantan which has been chosen to be the REDD+ pilot project.

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### **UNICEF TO SUPPORT EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN PAPUA**

Biak, Papua - The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) will provide US\$4 million to support development of educational programs in Papua and West Papua provinces in the period 2010-2012, a spokesperson said. UNICEF staffer for Papua, Sri Karna, said that UNICEF's assistance was allocated to finance a number of activities in education.

"Through the funds of Unicef-Ausaid, it is expected to finance various programs such as school-based management, mentoring on making a strategic plan for education, educational workshops and other activities related to improving the quality of education in Papua and West Papua," Sri Karna said.

UNICEF was very concerned about the education programs in three provinces in Indonesia, namely Papua, Aceh and East Nusa Tenggara (NTT).

Especially for the education programs in Papua and West Papua, UNICEF-Ausaid support was very real by providing funding assistance to accelerate the various education programs in the most eastern regions of Indonesia.

In addition to providing financial aid, the UNICEF representative in Papua also provides management assistance and guidance for management activities.

One example of UNICEF's attention to education programs was socialization and workshop on education strategic planning of Biak Numfor district for five years conducted through the education office.

"Through the socialization and mentoring programs on making Biak's education strategic plan, it is expected to run smoothly and be able to make strategic planning of education development program forward," Sri

Karna hoped.

The other districts in Papua and West Papua province, which also got the attention of UNICEF in education, among others, Biak Numfor, Jayawijaya, Jayapura, Mimika, Manokwari and Sorong.

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### **SOUTH SULAWESI TO PROPOSE TWO CULTURAL ICONS AS WORLD HERITAGE**

Makassar, S.Sulawesi - Two of South Sulawesi's cultural icons are to be nominated for recognition as a world heritage, a local culturalist, Mukhlis Paeni, said.

The two icons were the legendary figure of Arung Palakka and the traditional Phinisi boat. The two icons deserved international recognition as a world cultural heritage because they had a very high historical value and also because they were already well-known to the world.

"In the past, South Sulawesi had proposed the nomination of the I Lagaligo script as a world cultural heritage,"

He said, actually many other cultural objects of South Sulawesi were worthy of world heritage status considering that South Sulawesi had a very high culture.

After the cultural objects had become a world cultural heritages, then the culture of South Sulawesi internationally awarded and means to belong to the world.

"This is very important, considering that at this time we have entered an era of creative economy, in which include cultural industries,"

To be able to serve as a world cultural heritage, the culture firstly put to the UNESCO committee to Indonesia which begins with scientific dialogue. The result of the scientific dialogue will be submitted to the national level and even to international level, Mukhlis explained.

"The proposal to make such local culture to be the national cultural heritage is not covered only by the governments, but also can

be done by the community,".

He said, culture is a valuable asset for a region and nation as well as can be managed as a local revenue source.

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## 253 INDONESIAN EVACUEES EVENTUALLY LEAVE LIBYA

Cairo - A total of 253 Indonesians eventually left Libya for Tunisia early Sunday after waiting more than 40 hours for an aircraft the Indonesian embassy had chartered.

"Thank God, the first batch the evacuees can finally be flown out of Tripoli International Airport on Sunday at 00.30 AM local time," Indonesian Ambassador to Libya Sanusi said.

Speaking to ANTARA who phoned him from Cairo on early Sunday, Ambassador Sanusi said the flight to Tunis International Airport took about an hour and ten minutes.

The travel documents and boarding passes of the Indonesian evacuees had been obtained since Friday morning but the chartered aircraft's landing permit was not soon issued by the Libyan authorities, he said.

"I, myself, have been at the Tripoli Airport since Saturday morning and keep getting in touch with the Tunis Air officials. They said they also got difficulties," he said.

Indonesian Ambassador to Tunisia Muhammad Ibnu Said had earlier confirmed that the first batch of Indonesian evacuees would have been flown out of Libya on Saturday evening local time or early Sunday (West Indonesia Time).

"The Tunisia Air's aircraft (the Indonesian embassy has chartered) has confirmed its take off from Tunis

airport to Tripoli airport at 06.30 PM local time,".

Ambassador Muhammad Ibnu Said said he and his staff had been ready to welcome the evacuees since Friday but the flight was delayed due to unavailability of the Libyan authorities' landing permit.

Asked about whether Tunisia's current situation had been conducive enough so that the Indonesian embassy there was ready for receiving the Indonesian evacuees, he said the security had been conducive despite remaining demonstrations.

"Rallies were still held (by groups of people demanding political change) in Tunisia everyday but they are run peacefully," he said.

A series of anti-government rallies had broken out in various parts of the country with a demand that President Moammar Khadafy step down.

Instead of meeting the demand, Khadafy confirmed that he would remain in power and ordered his military to crush the anti-government demonstrators. More than 1,000 people have died amid the political upheaval.

