

# INDONESIAN

## NEWSLETTER



Komodo island, Komodo National Park, East Nusa Tenggara

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
BUCHAREST

No.01 /11, January 2011



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## **1. FOREIGN MINISTER: 2011 RI CONTACT FOR PEACEKEEPING CENTERS**

Jakarta - The Indonesian government is trying to serve as a contact for the peace keeping center network in the region in 2011.

It is a commitment to world peace keeping and as one of the 20 UN biggest peace keeping force sending countries.

"In peace keeping operations Indonesia has been actively contributing to the development of a strategic concept on the deployment of world peace keeping missions. In 2011, Indonesia will try to become a contact for peacekeeping centers in the area," Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said his annual statement to the press at his office here on Friday.

In 2010, Indonesia has sent some 1,785 personnel to seven US missions under its commitment to world peace maintenance. Thus Indonesia was one of the 20 countries which had sent the biggest peace keeping forces.

"Indonesian diplomacy will continue showing Indonesia's preparedness to increase its contribution to the UN peace keeping missions to become one of the 10 biggest contributors of UN peace keeping forces,".

The foreign minister said the increase in the contribution of Indonesia's forces not only in terms of number, but also in units. Indonesia has sent its warship KRI Kaisiepo in August 2010 to join the Maritime Task Force (MTF) of UNIFIL, the second after KRI Diponegoro joining the MTF in April-September 2009.

he added, Indonesia is also constantly increasing civilian role known as White Helmet to support various post-armed conflict development programs and regional rehabilitation, but always prioritizing the national ownership of the counties in question. Besides increasing its contribution to peace keeping forces, Indonesia in its efforts to build international peace and security is also playing a central role in nuclear disarmament is-

sues to build a world free of nuclear arms.

"The Indonesian decision to start ratifying the Total Nuclear Arms Test Ban Treaty had received warm and positive welcome from the international community. In 2011 Indonesia God willing could complete the ratification process which will encourage other sides to implement the CTBT immediately," .

The foreign minister's annual press statement was attended by Dr. Alwi Shibab (1999-2001 foreign minister), Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda (2001-2009), Joop Ave (minister of tourism, post and telecommunications for 1993-1998), Agus Gumiwang (deputy chairman of House's Commission I) and Sidharto Danusubroto (deputy chairman of the House's BKSAP) and at least 340 invitees from the media, diplomatic representatives, academicians, government institutions and foreign ministry officials.

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## **2. RI TO OPEN 21 DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 2011**

Jakarta - The Indonesian government in 2011 will establish diplomatic relations with 21 United Nations member countries, Minister Marty Natalegawa said.

" Needless to say that Indonesia already had a close cooperation with these countries, especially multilaterally. The establishment of diplomatic relations with the 21 countries will bring the number of UN member countries with diplomatic relations with Indonesia to 192, with the exception of Israel," the foreign minister said in his annual press statement at his office here Friday.

While not mentioning the names of the 21 countries, he pointed out that consolidation and bilateral relations with many of these countries became a priority of Indonesia's foreign policy for 2011.

On the occasion he also said that in 2010 Indonesia opened 10 Indonesian representative offices in some countries and one Indonesian per-

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manent representative for ASEAN in Jakarta.

The 11 representative offices are the Indonesian embassy in Baku (Azerbaijan), Manama (Bahrain), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Quito (Equador), Astana (Kazakhstan), Zagreb (Kroatia), Muskat (Oman), Panama City (Panama), Maputo (Mozambique), Tawau (Malaysia), and the ASEAN permanent representative office in Jakarta.

With the additional 11 representative offices, Indonesia now has 130 such offices overseas.

The foreign ministry will start implementing a foreign policy in 2011 identifying new opportunities, to overcome challenges and creating opportunities.

"Diplomacy will promote principal approaches, visionary but pragmatic, for a contribution to defending national interests, Indonesian security and welfare," .

Therefore, he added, in 2011 the foreign ministry will consolidate and deepen bilateral relations with various countries, with the main focus on efforts of increasing relations between the people and sharpen economic diplomacy.

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### **3. US SUPPORTS TRIPARTITE MALACCA STRAITS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS**

Jakarta - The United States supports the existing framework of security arrangements made over the Malacca Straits` littoral countries, the chief the US Pacific naval fleet said.

In July 2004, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore established a cooperation scheme to maintain security in the Malacca Strait. The trilateral coordinated patrol scheme was dubbed MALSINDO Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrols. Since the joint patrols were carried out, the crime rate in the 500-mile long waterway dropped by about 70 percent in 2009.

"I think it's very important that the existing framework is based on cooperation between re-

lated coastal states. As the cooperation continue to function, I think the role that US navy can play here is to support the cooperation by providing exercises or courses needed by the navy of the countries," Commander of the US Pacific Fleet Admiral Patrick Walsh said here on Monday during his visit to the National Monument in Central Jakarta.

Walsh said the MALSINDO cooperation framework had proven itself to be effective. "If you look at the amount of piracy that has decline overtime, I can say that the framework has been very successful and working well," .

As to US Navy`s cooperation with Indonesia, Walsh said the relation between the two had running very well. "We`ve had many exercises and courses in the past two years. We`ve worked on humanitarian and disaster relief activities. So it`s good to continue and refresh the understanding in the future," he said adding that he was very optimistic about the future of US-Indonesia navy`s relation.

The Malacca Strait is located between Sumatra island and the Malacca peninsula. Some 800 kilometers in length, the strait connects the Indian Ocean (west Asia) and the Pacific Ocean (east Asia) and has been one of the world`s trade center since the era of kingdoms in Indonesia.

The strait is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world with more than 50,000 ships carrying almost one fifth of the world`s trading commodi-



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ties passing through the area.

Information from the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said piracy in the Southeast Asian region had decreased by 70 percent due to the implementation of the joint patrol between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in the Malacca strait since 2004.

Previously holder of the dubious title of number one piracy hot spot, the the Malacca Strait is currently being looked at as a success story in terms of waterway security protection.

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#### **4. RI TO REPRESENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' INTERESTS IN DAVOS**

Jakarta - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would express the views and interests of developing nations at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, on January 27-28, 2011.

The head of state made the statement at a press conference at the VVIP Room of Halim Perdanakusuma airforce base, east Jakarta, on Monday before leaving for India and Switzerland, for working visits until January 30, 2011.

"The schedule in Davos will be quite tight. I have been several times invited to the WEF in Switzerland, but only this time I am able to attend. The timing is right because this year Indonesia is the chairman of ASEAN and East Asian country meeting consisting of 18 nations. Second, we deserve to be there because we have been seen of achieving sound economic performance during the global crisis 2008-2009," the president said.

"I will use this opportunity to make the voices of developing countries heard in the forum," he said.

In Davos, the president will attend several panel meetings and will become a speaker in the meeting.

Yudhoyono will also deliver a speech at Energy Summit with the world's Top Energy CEOs and officially kick off "Indonesia Co Night: Celebrating

the Spirit of Collaboration and Cooperation" organized by Indonesia in cooperation with the WEF in order to promote Indonesia.

He will also attend dialogs with members of the International Business Council (IBC) and the International Media Council (IMC) of the WEF in two separate plenary meetings respectively on the redefinition of sustainable development and on trade issues.

On the sidelines of the WEF, the president will also hold bilateral meetings with French President Nicholas Sarkozy, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former US President Bill Clinton.

The presidential entourage includes Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu, Industry Minister MS Hidayat, Minister/State Secretary Sudi Silalahi, Cabinet Secretary Dipo Alam, Sports and Youth Minister Andi Mallarangeng, Chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Gita Wiryawan and Chairman of the Press Council Bagir Manan, and Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa.

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# ASEAN

## **NGO : RI SHOULD USE ASEAN CHAIR TERM TO PROMOTE RIGHTS**

Jakarta - During its term as ASEAN chair in 2011, Indonesia should be giving high priority to human rights issues, a non-governmental organization said.

"The momentum of Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship in 2011 should be used to give special attention to human right issues in the ASEAN region," Choirul Anam, deputy director of the Human Rights Working Group, said here Thursday.

Indonesia as a democratic country was highly expected to use its term as ASEAN chair to promote respect for human rights within the national and international communities, he said.

There were several ways for Indonesia to put human rights on top of its priorities as the ASEAN chair and to maximize its role in advancing human rights in ASEAN.

"The first way is by providing support for the institutional building of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)," Anam said.

It had been more than one year since the establishment of the AICHR but until today this human rights body could not operate effectively due to lack of resources, including the non-existence of a regional secretariat and staff to support its work, he said.

A similar problem was handicapping the ASEAN commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), he added.

"We hope that during its chairmanship, Indonesia can ensure that these human rights bodies will be equipped with sufficient resources to support their missions," Anam said.

As stated in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN was a 'people oriented' organization. Therefore, it was also important for Indonesia to show its willingness to broaden people's participation in ASEAN policy making especially those which would have a direct impact on people's welfare such as the Instruments on Migrant Workers, the ASEAN Disability Forum, and the work of the ASEAN Community Councils, he said.

"By providing institutional framework for the



engagement of civil society, the Indonesian government can ensure that there will be ample room for civil society to follow and be engage in ASEAN meetings," Anam said.

Indonesia is also known for having a good image at the international level on human rights and democracy. "We hope that Indonesia can also show its leadership in ASEAN in promoting and responding to human rights in this region," Anam said.

Meanwhile, Haris Azhar, coordinator of the Commission on Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras), said there were many opportunities for Indonesia during its ASEAN chairmanship to increase ASEAN's capacity with regard to law enforcement and human rights issues,

Indonesia within its 2011 ASEAN chairmanship could strengthen its national capacity towards relationship with ASEAN countries, he said, adding that Indonesia also had an important role to play in reinforcing Timor Leste to become an ASEAN member as the countries had a 'special relationship'.

Openness and candor of Indonesia as a democratic country should also be able to accommodate the voice of civilians and human rights violation victims to participate in ASEAN, he said.

"Indonesia should become the home ground for their voices in ASEAN," he said.

Indonesia should also put great emphasize for the faith of migrant workers by ratifying convention for migrant workers protection, he said.

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## **2. RI SUPPORTS TIMOR LESTE'S ASEAN MEMBERSHIP BID**

Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara - Indonesia supports Timor Leste's wish to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) through the required process, Foreign Minister Marty Natale-

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gawa said at an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Retreat here on Saturday.

"Right now ASEAN has 10 members and we have heard that Timor Leste wishes to join and we openly support it,".

When it would be realized, Marty had so far received no official application letter for membership.

"But openly Timor Leste has already conveyed its wish. I heard Timor Leste wishes to start processing it this year because Timor Leste is also aware of the need to follow the stages for ASEAN membership,".

Marty said President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had also expressed his support to Timor Leste's membership in the ASEAN through certain processes.

Indonesian ambassador to ASEAN Ngurah Swajaya on the occasion said based on the ASEAN Charter Timor Leste could become a candidate for ASEAN members in terms of requirements.

Timor Leste is targeting ASEAN membership in 2011 from originally 2012 but until now Timor Leste has not sent an official application letter.

Indonesia has so far helped Timor Leste develop its human resources and institutions since four years ago "by assigning one of our senior officials as an adviser in Timor Leste's foreign ministry to train and prepare their diplomats to deal with ASEAN meetings."

Based on the membership regulations assessment would be carried out and meetings would be held to study their application. And later based on a consensus ASEAN members would decide whether or not to accept the new member, he added.

Right now Timor Leste is just setting up embassies in all ASEAN member countries. They have so far had four embassies namely in Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

Timor Leste is now also preparing itself to host the ASEAN Regional Forum expected early this year.

Regarding the East Asia Summit planned in Indonesia in November this year, Ngurah mentioned about the European Union's wish to join it since 2007.

Until now ASEAN has not decided if the EU could join. East Asia Summit itself will be attended by leaders from ASEAN and six countries joining the meeting namely South Korea, Japan,

the US, Russia, Australia and China.

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### **3. RI HOPES ASEAN TO AGREE ON RICE RESERVE PLAN SOON**

Jakarta - Indonesia hopes members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would agree at ASEAN meetings this year on an Emergency Rice Reserve procurement plan.

"The discussion last year did not produce any agreement but we hope it will be reached this year," Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said at a press conference on Indonesia's leadership in ASEAN for 2011 at her office here on Tuesday.

The director general for international trade cooperation of the ministry of trade, Gusmardi Bustami, meanwhile said ASEAN agriculture ministers had already discussed the plan to procure a rice reserve for emergency use by ASEAN member countries at a meeting in Cambodia last year.

He said among the issues on which they had not yet reached agreement at the meeting in Cambodia were the procurement mechanism and rice procurement sources, amount of stocks and the funding for the implementation of the common reserve procurement system.

The system was aimed at stabilizing the rice price in the region and helping other ASEAN countries form a rice reserve.

"In 2011 as the ASEAN chair Indonesia had an obligation to continue what was done at the meeting in Cambodia in 2010. Hopefully it can be accomplished," .

Vice Trade Minister Mahendra Siregar said the issue of food and commodity price movements would indeed become one of the focuses in the ASEAN meetings this year.

"Food and commodity price movement will become the main topic of discussion in the international forums in 2011. So it is normal for ASEAN to also be able to make significant achievement in this case," he said.

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### **4. TWO-THIRDS OF WORLD ECONOMIC GROWTH FUELED BY ASEAN**

Jakarta - Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said two-thirds of the world's economic growth was fueled by the economies of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries.

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"Two-thirds of the world's economic growth is being supported by the economies of ASEAN member countries and this only shows the importance of ASEAN and East Asia in the global context," the minister said at a press conference about Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship in 2011 here Tuesday.

Mari said East Asia's gross domestic product (GDP) was equal to Europe's and the United States' which was 14.6 trillion US dollars.

She also said Indonesia needed to utilize the opportunity as the chairman of the ASEAN Summit 2011 and face historical challenges to place the association in the world economy growth.

"Since the central world trade is in Asia, Indonesia is expected to be able to make use the chance as the chairman of ASEAN Summit 2011 as well as it is the biggest country among ASEAN member countries,".

ASEAN was now in the world's limelight amid regional economic integration in Asia which meant ASEAN and its dialogue partner countries, and other areas.

Therefore, she added, Indonesia should be able to maintain ASEAN's credibility and relevance in the developed world, as well as highlight the important role of ASEAN in the development of the world community.

In internal substance, ASEAN partnership had played significant part for its member countries, while the intra-ASEAN trade represented about 25 percent of the ASEAN trade total. Mari also said that ASEAN was the main foreign tourists' resource for its member countries, reaching 30.851 tourists in 2009.

In the conference for several mass media, the Minister explained three main pillars which were used to increase the economic partnership of ASEAN; they are to strengthen internal partnership within ASEAN, to increase agreement utilization of comprehensive economic partnership achieved by ASEAN and its dialogue partner countries and to focus on equilibrium development related to medium business (UKM).

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## **5. INDONESIAN CHAIRMANSHIP'S ROLE AND ASEAN AGENDA**

Jakarta - Since it was founded by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia has played an important role for the regional forum uniting all its ten member countries.

With its motto "One vision, One identity, One community", ASEAN was formed on August 8, 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand which then expanded with five other countries, namely Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

ASEAN aimed at accelerating the region's economic growth, social progress, cultural development among its members, the protection of peace and stability of the region, and provide opportunities for member countries to discuss differences peacefully.

At its ninth Summit in October 2003 the Association of South East Asian Nations announced its intention to create an ASEAN Community based upon three pillars: Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural Communities.

According to Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in 2003 Indonesia came up with the ASEAN Community concept.

The concept was actually set to establish the community by 2020, but it was made earlier to 2015, and now, ASEAN only have four more years to go in establishing its people centered community,

With the Indonesian chairmanship in 2011, Indonesia hopes to create ASEAN cooperation to a higher level by upholding the current forum's theme, ASEAN Community in the Global Community.

"Since the beginning, Indonesia has always been a country that shows its leadership, not its chairmanship, because its all two different meanings," Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said on the sidelines of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Retreat that was held in Lombok West Nusa Tenggara on January 15-17, 2011.

Indonesia's main focus is to reach progress in achieving the ASEAN Community in 2015 with four more years to come, to ensure that ASEAN and its region to "drive" the Asia Pacific summit and to create a dynamic equilibrium according to the recent theme ASEAN Community in the Global Community.

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## The ASEAN Community

With four years remaining, the ASEAN Community is not aimed to be formed within this year, but at least Indonesian chairmanship will contribute to a significant progress.

ASEAN vision post in 2015 a community establishment is that ASEAN can perform cohesively in handling world's issues.

"I think this is a prevalent, planned and arranged step as in 2003 Indonesia held the chairmanship we proposed the formation of an ASEAN Community," Marty said.

Based on three ASEAN pillars consisting of Economy, Socio-Culture and Politic Security, each pillar has provided its own cooperation blueprints to create integrity.

"In the economic sector, ASEAN aimed to create an integrated trade area, which is also shown by two other sectors," said Marty.

But in the end, the ASEAN community wanted a mutual togetherness, love and ownership that cannot be turned into a law by any decree or regulation it must grow by itself within the community's members.

"Therefore, ASEAN is offering a People Centered ASEAN to create the togetherness feeling, and mainly we must ensure these steps can provide real benefits to the community," Marty said.

If with the Indonesian 2011 chairmanship a significant progress achieved for the ASEAN Community, then Indonesia will be able to upgrade the efforts beyond its implementation by the 2020 when the chairmanship returns to Indonesia.

"We have created a foundation for 2015, the ASEAN Community, and another foundation of the `ASEAN Community in the Global Community,` which we have placed from now," Marty said.

All the ASEAN member countries must not see the world as it is today, but also look further in 2020 and beyond, to be ready to compete with other world organizations such as the European Union and the African Union.

"If we didn't make the move in 2003, we only become an `association` of Southeast Asian countries that will be left behind," Marty said.

Because, according to Marty, the regional organization will be the world's actor, not a single country, therefore we will need an organization that not only talks for each country's interest, but as one identity, ASEAN.

Indonesia's 2011 chairmanship in ASEAN shall be maximized in order to create a cohesive community that is in accordance with the ASEAN motto "One vision, One identity, One community".

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## 6. ASEAN ADOPTS 2011-2015 TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN

Jakarta - ASEAN tourism ministers have agreed to adopt an ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015 to serve as reference for national tourism organizations in carrying out tourism programs in the Southeast Asian region.

The use of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan is a follow up to a roadmap for integration of tourism sector which ended in 2010, according to the results of the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) which is taking place in Phnom Penh from Monday to Friday.

The draft of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan was earlier discussed and finalized by the ASEAN tourism special working group in Solo, Central Java, in August last year.

The ASEAN tourism forum was preceded by the 33rd meeting of ASEAN national tourism organizations in Phnom Penh on Jan 14. The meeting among others elected chief of working group in the new organizational structure according to the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

Thailand has been appointed to lead the working group for marketing and communication with Vietnam as deputy chairman. The working group for product development is led by Malaysia with Myanmar as deputy chairman.

The Philippines was appointed to chair the working group for tourism quality with Singapore as deputy chairman. Brunei Darussalam was elected to lead the working group for integration and budget committee with Cambodia as deputy chairman.

Meanwhile, Indonesia was appointed chairman of the ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee with Laos as deputy chairman.

At the Phnom Penh meeting, Indonesian Tourism and Culture Minister Jero Wacik once again came up with the idea of encouraging tourist arrivals among ASEAN member states.

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## 7. ASEAN TO BETTER SERVE VISITORS

Jakarta - ASEAN aims to provide its visitors increased quality of services, better connected cities, and safer and a more secure environment when the ASEAN Community is established by 2015.

The vision was laid down in the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015, the outcome of the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers and the 10th Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers, according to the Jakarta-based ASEAN Secretariat on its official website here Thursday.

While ASEAN seeks to cater to its visitors, the vision also entails that its residents are provided with an increased quality of life and opportunities through responsible and sustainable tourism development.

Last year ASEAN attracted more than 65 million visitors, posting a healthy 12% growth. Intra-ASEAN travel, meanwhile, continued to be a major share of tourists, making up 45% of total international arrivals.

The Meetings which was held on 17 and 18 January in Phnom Penh, coincided with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2011.

This year's ATF, themed "ASEAN: A World of Wonders and Diversity," was attended by more than 442 international buyers and more than 380 sellers, with 512 booths set up by the ASEAN Member States. The six-day ATF, taking place until 21 January, was opened by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen.

In the meeting, ASEAN tourism ministers agreed to adopt an ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015 to serve as reference for national tourism organizations in carrying out tourism programs in the Southeast Asian region.

The use of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan is a follow up to a roadmap for integration of tourism sector which ended in 2010, according to the results of the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) which is taking place in Phnom Penh from Monday to Friday.

The next ATF will be convened in Manado, Indonesia, on 9-15 January 2012 with the theme "ASEAN Tourism for a Global Community of Nations."

## 8. STAIRWAY TO ASEAN COMMUNITY IN 2015

### ASEAN Community's Global Contribution

ASEAN has been working and contributing to the global issues by sending peace force to other community such as the Europe Union and the African Union, he said

Apparently, ASEAN has been cooperating within the global community all along, but the main problem is that each member is working sporadically in many sectors bilaterally, regionally and globally, but yet to put the one ASEAN identity.

Such cooperation gave no meaningful impact to the community because all of these efforts are done separately and individually, Marty said.

"So we are planning to manage the matter by creating a clear vision and final targets without duplicating the Europe Union (UE)," .

The UE always talked about a common forum policy, Marty think that ASEAN does not have any discourse towards common forum policy, but common platform because ASEAN is expected to be more coordinated on global issues handling.

"So we are using the `common platform` term on global issues that become major concern and interest to ASEAN, it would not be all global issue, but issues such as disaster management and how to overcome it,".

In the upcoming ASEAN Community target shortly in 2015, ASEAN will impose the common platform on global issue that has been the community's concern.

The platform application is considered important due to the ASEAN members that has been contributing to the global community separately and individually

"I think this is a prevalent, planned and arranged step as in 2003 while Indonesia held the chairmanship we proposed the formation of an ASEAN Community," Marty said.

Based on the three ASEAN pillars of Economy, Socio-Culture and Politic Security, each pillar has provided its own cooperation blueprint to create integrity.

"In Economy sector, ASEAN aimed to create an integrated trade area, which also shown by two other sectors," said Marty.

But in the end, ASEAN community wanted a mutual togetherness, love and ownerships that cannot be legislated by any decree or regulations

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it must be self-grown within the community's members.

### **People Centered Community**

"Therefore, ASEAN is offering a People Centered ASEAN to create the sense of togetherness, and mainly we must ensure the community that these steps can provide real benefits to the community," Marty said.

Marty pleaded that all of ASEAN member countries must not only see the world today, but also to look further in 2020 and beyond, to be ready to compete with other world organizations such as the European Union and the African Union.

"If we didn't make the move in 2003, we only become an 'association' with Southeast Asian countries that will be left behind sooner or later," Marty said.

Because, according to Marty regional organization will be the world's actor in the future, not a single country, therefore each organizations member country must not talk to its own interest but as one identity, ASEAN.

Previously in the ASEAN OECD Investment Policy Conference in November 2010, ASEAN Deputy Secretary General Sundram Pushpanathan also said that ASEAN will not adopt the EU concept which is different.

"Every country's economic situation is different, there is a very open economy like Singapore, and other counties have different economy systems," he said. *By: Ageng Wibowo*

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### **9. ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP PUTS JAKARTA ON MAP IN WORLD POLITICS**

Jakarta - Indonesia is aware of the big opportunities arising from being the ASEAN Chair this year and will do all it can to live up to the expectations that come with that honor, according to the Governor of Jakarta, Fauzi Bowo.

"The ASEAN Chairmanship has put Jakarta on the map in the world politics. This is a tremendous opportunity to bolster its diplomatic standing in Southeast Asia and beyond," Fauzi was quoted as saying in his speech read out by the Deputy Governor of Jakarta, Sutanto Soehodo, during a gathering of the diplomatic community and civil

society in the capital city of Indonesia Thursday (Jan 20).

The speech also read that as the economic gravity shifts towards East Asia, ASEAN has gained a bigger role in global political architecture and that Indonesia's weight and influence in world politics have also increased.

Jakarta was prepared and experienced to be the host of diplomatic assemblies of such international stature.

"Indonesia chairing of ASEAN has given huge leverage for Jakarta to foster its image as centre of diplomacy and business in Southeast Asia."

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, Bagas Hapsoro, said that the ASEAN Secretariat is ready to work together with the Government of Indonesia, in particular the local government of Jakarta, ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners and various levels of the civil society.

The evening gathering was jointly hosted by the ASEAN Secretariat, Hotel Mulia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.

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### **10. ASEAN CLOSER TO ONE-STOP ONLINE TRADING SYSTEM**

Jakarta - ASEAN traders and governments have come closer to benefiting from the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR), an online system for accessing trade laws and procedures for all Member States.

In the support of the ATR, which was called for in the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) signed in February 2009, the ASEAN



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Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) discussed the elements at a workshop held in Jakarta recently, according to statement of the Jakarta-based ASEAN Secretariat.

The ATR will allow traders easier access and better compliance with prescribed regulations, reducing the amount of time necessary for each transaction.

This improvement will help cut cost of trading. Likewise, governments can benefit from the ATR as voluntary compliance of traders is more effective than enforced compliance.

The Senior Officials also discussed possible models for National Trade Repositories (NTRs) that will support the ATR at national level.

Both Repositories will be a one-stop reference point for all tariff and non-tariff measures to be applied to goods entering, exiting and transiting a Member State, including all governmental requirements regarding specific commodities.

"Establishing NTRs in all ASEAN Member States is necessary for the implementation of the ATR and the ATR is a critical component of our effort to make trade regulations in ASEAN more transparent," said Gusmardi Bustami, Chair of SEOM.

Gusmardi also highlighted Indonesia's efforts to lead the initiative by making available all its trade rules and regulations through the existing Indonesian National Single Window (INSW) portal. Indonesia is the Chair of ASEAN for 2011.

Prior to the workshop, officials from the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia and other government agencies gathered for a full-day workshop on the establishment of the Indonesian NTR.

Trade facilitation expert, Mr Walter Hekala, stated, "The establishment of the user-friendly and comprehensive ATR will facilitate trade by ensuring that all ASEAN trade rules are available through a single site, while the hosting on the NTRs will give the highest assurance of reliability."

The SEOM and Indonesia workshops were supported by the U.S. Government through the ASEAN-U.S. Technical Assistance and Training Facility.

The ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) entered into force in May last year. The ATIGA consolidates all commitments related to trade in goods. It focuses on tariff liberalisation, non-tariff measures and includes matters related to simplification of rules of origin and its implementation. Various agencies and regulatory bod-

ies dealing with entry of goods will jointly operate in ensuring smoother operations at the Customs entry points.

The ASEAN Economic Ministers have set 2015 as the target to have the ATR fully operational.

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# ECONOMY

## 1. TOTAL FOREIGN FUNDS ROSE BY END OF DECEMBER

Jakarta - Total funds in the domestic financial assets rose at the end of December following improving assessment on foreign risks after US released improving economic indicators and optimism of market players in the domestic market.

Bank Indonesia bureau chief Difi A Johansyah said here on Tuesday the portion of foreign ownership in the state debentures rose at the end of December from 29.78 percent or Rp194.83 trillion while in the Bank Indonesia Certificates (SBI) from 26.93 percent or Rp53.92 trillion to 27.45 percent or Rp54.93 trillion.

He said during 2010 the net flow of foreign funds to the country reached Rp119.5 trillion. They entered into all assets with the biggest hike recorded in the state debentures (SUN) driven by optimism on domestic growth, attractive yield and positive sentiment in the global market.

He said the improving global and regional economic conditions ahead of the end of 2010 had triggered inflows into rupiah-based financial assets up to Rp3.39 trillion including SBI totaling Rp1 trillion, SUN Rp1.04 trillion and net buying of shares Rp1.35 trillion.

According to transactions in the share market total foreign funds that had come into the country reached 29.72 percent of the total share transactions.

Until December 29, 2010 bank credits also rose significantly by Rp20.01 trillion to Rp1,742.85 trillion. The hike came from an increase in rupiah credits to Rp13.95 trillion and foreign currency credits to Rp6.06 trillion.

So, year to date in 2010 credits rose by Rp312.65 trillion or 21.86 percent and year-on-year rose by Rp334.89 trillion or 23.79 percent.

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## 2. BI GOVERNOR: INDONESIAN ECONOMY REMAINS STRONG

Jakarta - Bank Indonesia believes the country's economy will remain strong with its gross domestic product in 2011 and 2012 growing by 6.3 percent driven by strong domestic demand, especially investment.

The central bank's governor, Darmin Nasution, said here on Wednesday the Indonesia Balance of Payment (NPI) in 2011 was predicted to record a relatively big surplus although it would be lower than in 2010.

"Exports would still grow high but import growth would be higher in line with increasing domestic demand to make the surplus in the current account lower. On the other hand, the financial and capital current account is predicted to still record a high surplus, driven by huge inflow of funds in the form of portfolios or direct investment,"

The global economic recovery momentum was still overshadowed by debt crisis risks in Europe. However despite the still weak economic recovery in the advanced countries the economic performance of the emerging markets continued showing an improvement.

Global commodity prices meanwhile continued to rise not only because of a supply-demand factor but also because investment had moved to commodity markets due to the weakening of the US dollar and low yields in the advanced countries.

So far central banks in the advanced countries still tend to keep their interest rates relatively low while some emerging markets have increased the rate accompanied by policies for managing capital inflows and stabilizing dollar movement.

In the backdrop of the still uncertain global economic and financial conditions the board of governors of Bank Indonesia still believed the country's economy could grow 6.0 percent in 2010.

The achievement was boosted by economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2010 which was predicted to reach 6.1 percent or higher than in the previous quarter.

The growth is driven by strong domestic demand especially household consumption and investment. The country's economic progress is also boosted by quite solid external performance.

For the whole 2010 the NPI would still record a quite big surplus due to continuing strong capital inflows especially direct investment and portfolio.

"The foreign currency reserves until the end of December 2010 were recorded at US\$96.2 billion or equal to 7.1 months of imports and payments of government foreign debts," he said.

In line with the country's strong external economic performance the rupiah exchange rate is appreciating with a quite low degree of volatility. Point-to-point the rupiah rose 4.4 percent year-to-date to Rp9,100 per US dollar with lower volatility.

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To manage capital inflows and stabilize the rupiah exchange rate Bank Indonesia has intervened in foreign currency trading and accumulated foreign exchange reserves to boost positive expectation towards the domestic economy.

Relatively the rupiah appreciation has been lower than the appreciation of other currencies in the region and therefore the country's competitive power remains quite competitive, he said.

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### **3. GOVT TO INCREASE CPO EXPORTS BY 16 PERCENT**

Jakarta - The government intends to increase crude palm oil (CPO) exports in 2011 by 16 percent from the previous year's figure, Trade Minister Marie Elka Pangestu said here on Wednesday.

"CPO and all of its exportable derivatives are targeted to grow 16 percent with a 1.2 billion US dollar investment plan in 2011,"

According to the Ministry's data, Indonesian CPO products export value in 2010 reached 10.03 billion US dollars or increased from 7.65 billion US dollars in 2009.

The government will also expand CPO products export markets to new markets to increase the commodity's potentials such as the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Besides, the government would also continue the CPO downstream industry development policy and sustainable oil palm industry.

Indonesian is still known as the largest CPO producer and exporter in the world.

The Indonesian Oil Palm Association (GAPKI) estimated that in 2010, the country produced 22 million tones of CPO from at least 7.3 million hectares oil palm plantation throughout the nation.

Recently the government is reducing the CPO export but to raise its downstream products to give the commodity's added value.

The effort is done by developing the oil palm downstream production in clusters on several areas, and a master plan to develop these clusters has been prepared by the ministry for 2010-2014 periods.

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### **4. FOURTEEN FOREIGN FOOD CERTIFICATION AGENCIES USING MUI HALAL STANDARDS**

Jakarta - At least 41 foreign food certification agencies have set their halal food standards based on inputs from the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI)'s Food, Drug and Cosmetics Research Institute (LPPOM), an MUI official said,

Among the 41 agencies were those of a number of ASEAN member countries, Canada, England, Holland, Belgium, Turkey, Japan and the US, Lukmanul Hakim, the LPPOM head, said here Thursday.

"We try to make Indonesian halal certification applicable internationally. Our concept has been submitted to a World Halal Council (WHC) meeting and received a positive response," said Lumanul who is also the WHC's secretary general at a workshop to mark LPPOM-MUI's 22nd anniversary.

Meanwhile, MUI chairman Ma'ruf Amin said almost all food certification agencies in the world had adopted the practice of seeking LPPOM-MUI's endorsement of the halal status of food or beverage products intended for export to Islamic countries.

Ma'ruf said MUI halal standards did not allow the presence of ingredients that were haram (forbidden) in food or beverage products, for example, pig body parts in gelatin, salts and other things, he said.

"German institutions did not use the halal concept before, where salt pork is used to be considered as halal to be put in any food. But since they want to be approved by Indonesia, so they follow the standard of halal from MUI," he explained.

A number of foreign halal experts had learned about halal food in Indonesia thus showing that LPPOM MUI had gone international.

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### **5. AL GORE : INDONESIA CAN BE SUPER POWER ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

Jakarta - Nobel Peace Prize recipient Al Gore has predicted that Indonesia can become a geothermal super power country.

Speaking to the participants of The Climate Project Asia Pacific Summit here on Sunday, Al Gore said that Indonesia could become a super power country in electricity production from geo-

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thermal energy and this would benefit its economy.

He said that Indonesia was the world's third largest electricity producer country from geothermal energy, followed by the Philippines. Geothermal energy is a carbon-free electricity resource.

Solutions to climate change involved many steps which could reduce cost and reduce carbon dioxide emission, Al Gore, who is also an Oscar winner for the movie "Inconvenient Truth," said.

Indonesia has a unique carbon emission profile as most of its emissions come from the forest and peat land sectors.

Efficient use of land and ground could increase economic values and reduce pollution from green house gas.

He said that mitigation efforts such as the termination of burning and opening of peat lands and forest would have a great impact .

"I thank President Yudhoyono for his idea, courage and leadership on issues that we have discussed and worked on," .

Al Gore praised President Yudhoyono because the president had initiated to speak up at a time when there was no initiative coming from G-77 member countries, to break the impasse in the international conference of climate change.

There has been improvement in the climate change conference thanks to Yudhoyono's leadership.

"I do respect him and admire his leadership and the target he promised in Kopenhagen," Al Gore said.

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## **6. NORTH SULAWESI EXPORTS 1,800 TONS OF COPRA TO PHILIPPINES**

Manado, N Sulawesi - North Sulawesi province exported 1,800 tons of copra to the Philippines early this month. The exports to the Philippines produced 1.44 million US dollars, and had been a golden opportunity for the coconut growers, head of the N Sulawesi industrial and trade agency Sanny Parengkuan said here Wednesday.

The exports to that country, at the same time confirmed the province's position as a highly potential copra producer in Southeast Asia.

"The Philippines was known as a major coconut producer in Southeast Asia, and its imports from the province made it a region to be reckoned with," .

Sanny added that the copra exports to the Phil-

ippines were actually not new for the province, but at least its confirmed the region as a producer meeting the needs of many other countries.

Copra is a main source of income for the people of North Sulawesi, as more than 10 types of integrated coconut products of the local farmers, consisted of copra.

Head of the foreign trade division of the North Sulawesi industrial and trade agency Hanny Wajong said the copra exports to the Philippines had been estimated to be bigger than the figures, because it did not include the direct dispatches from the farmers of Sangihe.

Secretary general of the Association of North Sulawesi Coconut Growers (Apeksu) has asked the local administration to intensify its coconut rejuvenation drive in view of the increasing exports of integrated coconuts.

"The high demands of the market need to be offset by increased production, my among other things rejuvenation," Emil said.

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## **7. GARUDA EXPECTS TO GET CAPITAL INJECTION OF \$350 MLN FROM IPO**

Jakarta - National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia expects to receive a capital injection of up to US\$350 million from its initial public offering (IPO) this year.

"We hope we will get an additional fund of around US\$300 million to expand our business," Garuda Indonesia Vice President for Corporate Communication Pujobroto said at the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs here on Thursday.

He said Garuda plans to buy 11 planes this year as part of efforts to develop its business.

"In 2010, we bought a total of 24 planes. This year we plan to buy 11 more planes,".

The addition of planes is also designed to develop the fleet of Citilink, Garuda's low-cost flight division.

"We see low-cost flight business growing rapidly so we need to develop the Citilink,".

According to the IPO's prospectus, Garuda plans to buy 10 Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft, six Airbus A330-200 aircraft, five narrow-bodied aircraft for its subsidiary Citilink, and five Sub-100 aircraft.

Pujobroto said Garuda has conducted roadshows for the IPO in a number of major cities in the world.

"We conducted roadshows in Singapore for two

days, Hong Kong two days and London one day".

During the roadshows, the management of the state flag carrier explained its latest financial developments, he added.

Garuda President Director Emirsyah Satar said earlier the IPO is expected to inject Rp10 trillion in funds to the airline. In the IPO Garuda will sell 28.93 percent of its shares. The IPO will also include the sale of state-owned Bank Mandiri's 7.54 percent stake in the airline.

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## 8.GARUDA TO BUY 11 NEW PLANES THIS YEAR

Surabaya, E Java - National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia plans to buy 11 new planes this year with the first delivery expected in February or March.

The planes consisted of nine Boeing 737-800s and two Airbus 330-200s, Garuda Indonesia Technical Director Hadinoto Soedigno said here on Thursday.

The nine Boeing 737-800s would be delivered in stages starting February or March, and the two Airbus 330-200s would be delivered in April and October, he said on the sidelines of a road show for the airline's initial public offering.

Garuda put orders for the 11 planes two years ago. Currently, Garuda which has a fleet of 87 planes expects to operate 130-150 planes in the next five years.

With the targeted fleet of 130-150 planes in 2015, Garuda would buy a minimum of 10 planes in each of the next five years, he said.

Garuda is expected to list its shares with the Indonesia Stock Exchange on February 11. The

company's chief financial officer Elisa Lumbantoran said on Wednesday about 80 percent of the proceeds of the IPO would be spent on expanding the airline's fleet and 20 percent to finance its capital expenditure.

Hadinoto said Garuda would operate its Boeing planes to serve its domestic flights such as Jakarta-Gorontalo via Surabaya and Makassar, Surabaya-Balikpapan, and Surabaya-Ampenan.

Meanwhile, the Airbus planes would be used to serve its regional routes which would be opened soon, including Jakarta-Manila and Jakarta-Taiwan, he said.

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## 9. MINISTER : PALMOIL, RUBBER PROMISING COMMODITIES



Sawang, Aceh - State Enterprises Minister Mustafa Abubakar said palm oil and rubber commodities are promising

and therefore he called on banks not to hesitate to extend credit for palm oil and rubber plantation development.

"Banks must not hesitate to extend as much credit as possible for development of commodity plantations," he said on the sidelines of the launching of rubber and palm oil plantations in Sawang, North Aceh, here on Saturday.

Palm oil and rubber are promising commodi-





ties. "Right now the national palm oil production has reached 19 million tons a year or 45 percent of total world's production," he said.

With the help of banks through their credit the government's efforts to revitalize land would get a boost.

The palm oil and rubber plantation development program in Sawang, North Aceh, covers 41,200 hectares of people's land in 12 districts.

Initially a total of 19,200 hectares of palm oil and rubber plantations would be opened in North Aceh, East Aceh and Aceh Tamiang.

The project is financed by PT Bank Mandiri and PT Bank BNI, guaranteed by PT Perkebunan Nusantara (PTPN) III and PTPN IV.

The revitalization program will involve 20,500 families as local farmer participants.

Each of the families will be allocated an average of two hectares of land.

The program is expected to be able to accelerate plantation development to improve the welfare of the people in Aceh.

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#### **10.RI TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC COOPERATION THROUGH WEF**

Jakarta - Indonesia is expected to promote its economic achievements at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, later this month, where top business executives, international political leaders and selected intellectuals are to discuss and shape agendas of global and regional industries.

Indonesia whose economy was relatively strong in the face of global financial crisis in the past several years will send to the forum a delegation to be directly led by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"The presence of the president in the WEF when world economic players meet there will give

Indonesia a chance to introduce various progresses it has made, including justice-based economic development," Teuku Faizasyah, the presidential special staff for international relations, said over the weekend.

The president who will be accompanied Mrs. Ani Yudhoyono and several ministers such as Chief Economic Minister Hatta Radjasa, Finance Minister Agus Martowardojo, Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa and Investment Board chief Gita Wirjawan will speak at a number of forums during the 41st WEF meeting which will take place on January 26-31, 2011.

During the forum, Indonesia hopes that it would be able to conclude cooperation with other countries.

"Indonesia will use this year's WEF to increase cooperation between Indonesia and other countries. We will also make use of the meeting to attract more investors to Indonesia," Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said.

President Yudhoyono in January 27 or second day of WEF event in Davos-Klosters was scheduled to deliver a speech about trade and development. "President Yudhoyono is one among five speakers scheduled to deliver speech during the meeting," she said.



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**COMMITTED TO  
IMPROVING THE STATE  
OF THE WORLD**

The 41st World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland will take the theme of Shared Norms for the Reality. Over the five-day Meeting, over 2,500 leaders from over 100 countries will convene in Davos-Klosters, representing business, government, civil society, academies and culture.

The theme of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting has four interconnected pillars namely responding to the new reality, the eco-

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conomic outlook and defining policies for inclusive growth, supporting the G20 agenda and building a risk response network.

Yudhoyono who will attend the WEF for the first time will deliver a special speech at the Energy Summit With the World's Top Energy CEOs. He will also open "Indonesia Co Night: Celebrating the Spirit of Collaboration and Cooperation, organized in cooperation between the Indonesian government and the WEF.

The president is also expected to become a speaker in the WEF's International Business Council (IBC) and International Media Council (IMC) forums in two plenary sessions. He will speak about redefinition of sustainable development and trade.

A major focus of this year's meeting will be how to deal with global risks, develop risk mitigation strategies and capture related opportunities.

The World Economic Forum will present its Risk Response Network at the Annual Meeting, which will serve as a preparatory, analytical and highly practical framework for the global community in the service of improving global risk management.

The Risk Response Network is a platform designed to better understand, manage and respond to complex, interdependent risk.

According to Teuku Faizasyah, President Yudhoyono during the events is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with French President Nicholas Sarkozy, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the sidelines of the forum on January 27-29.

The president would also met with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, Envoy for the Middle East Tony Blair and a number of other heads of state/heads of government.

Minister Mari E Pangestu, after attending the WEF's 41st meeting, Indonesia will host the WEF on East Asia on June 13-13, 2011.

"We will take advantage of it because we will also host ASEAN Summit in October this year to put Indonesia in the role of leadership in ASEAN and East Asia region," Mari said.

It would be the first for Indonesia to host WEF after its neighbor countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Japan have ever been trusted to be the organizing committees.

"It will be the first time for us to host the World Economic Forum, and we hope Indonesia will take a leadership role and become the central

power in Southeast Asia and East Asian region,".

After all, Indonesia will chair the ASEAN summit this year. "Since the central world trade is in Asia, Indonesia is expected to be able to make use the chance as the chairman of ASEAN Summit 2011 as well as it is the biggest country among ASEAN member countries,".

The minister said two-thirds of the world's economic growth was fueled by the economies of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries.

"Two-thirds of the world's economic growth is being supported by the economies of ASEAN member countries and this only shows the importance of ASEAN and East Asia in the global context,".

Mari said East Asia's gross domestic product (GDP) was equal to Europe's and the United States' 14.6 trillion US dollars.

Thus, global issues related to commodity prices volatility, food resilience, and energy resilience would be among the topics of discussion at the WEF forum in June.

"The topics of discussion will be the same as that during WEF in Davos, and it will be a challenge for the government, business world, and private party to step up the industry, investment, and technology -- especially agriculture and climate change technology to face with extreme climate change," Mari said. *By Andi Abdussalam*

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## **11. BALI'S CANNED FISH EXPORTS WORTH US\$20.08 MILLION**

Denpasar, Bali - The Indonesian tourist resort island of Bali exported 8,488.8 tons of canned fish worth US\$20.08 million in the January - November 2010, Head of Bali's Maritime and Fisheries Service I Gusti Putu Nuriatha said.

Nuriatha said that the canned fish exports in the seven month period in 2010 increased 5.38 percent compared with that in the same period a year earlier which were US\$19.06 million.

"However, if it was seen from the volume aspect, the exports declined 2.49 percent because Bali's exports of the same commodity in 2009 stood at 8,705.9 tons," he said.

He said that the canned fish which was exported to Japan, the United States and Europe, was produced by the Pengembangan canned fish factory in Jembrana district.

"The canned fish is one of the 12 kinds of fish-

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ery products that are able to penetrate the world market," Gusti Putu Nuriaha said.

In the meantime, Bali province's ornamental fish exports in the January-November 2010 period rose 9.99 percent to US\$1.02 million from the same period the year before.

"The ornamental fish exports fell 0.22 percent by volume compared to the same period in the previous year when 785,202 heads of ornamental fish were shipped," Gusti Putu Nuriatha said.

The drop in the volume of ornamental fish exports was among others the result of unfavorable climate that caused difficulties to fishermen to catch ornamental fish, he said.

After all, the province still had a chance to increase ornamental fish exports in 2011 and the upcoming years, he said.

The ornamental fish was exported to Japan, the United States, Australia and Europe.

Ornamental fish is one of Bali's 11 aquatic products which have so far penetrated the international market. The province earned US\$107.15 million from aquatic product exports in the January-November 2010 period, a 13.28 percent increase compared to the same period the year before when the figure was US\$94.59 million.

Gusti Nuriatha said the Bali waters was rich in a wide variety of ornamental fish. Fishermen catch the fish of high economic value near the province's beaches using very simple instrument.

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## **12. RI'S 2010 EXPORTS VALUE REACHES RECORD HIGH**

Jakarta - Indonesia's exports in 2010 reached a total value of US\$150 billion, the highest figure ever achieved in the country's foreign trade.

Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) Chairman Rusman Heriawan on Friday said Indonesia's exports in the period January-November 2010 reached a total value of US\$140 billion while the figure for December 2010 was expected to be above US\$10 billion.

Natural resource-based commodities such as Crude Palm Oil (CPO) were still the biggest contributors to Indonesia's export revenue followed by such goods as rubber, textiles, textile products and electronics.

Indonesian was still known as the largest CPO producer and exporter in the world with exports reaching a total value of 10.03 billion US dollars in 2010 or up from 7.65 billion US dollars in 2009.

The Indonesian Oil Palm Association (GAPKI) estimated that in 2010, the country produced 22 million tons of CPO from at least 7.3 million hectares oil palm plantation across the country.

Recently the government had reduced CPO exports but raised its downstream products to give the commodity added value.

The effort is done by developing the oil palm downstream production in clusters on several areas, and a master plan to develop these clusters has been prepared by the ministry for 2010-2014 periods.

However, Rusman said Indonesia's total export in 2010 had not yet considered as big if compared to China's. "China's export rate per month reaches US\$135 billion while Indonesia only earned US\$150 billion last year. We expect the Indonesian Export Finance Institution (LPEI) to keep boost our export activity in the future," Rusman said.

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## **13. PRESIDENT : WORLD BUSINESSMEN STILL UNFAMILIAR WITH INDONESIA'S PRODUCTS**

Zurich - Businessmen are still unfamiliar with Indonesian products, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said here Saturday (29/1) evening, before leaving Zurich International Airport for Jakarta.

"I met members of the international business community this morning, and most of them said they didn't know much about Indonesian products, but knew more about Indian and Chinese goods. The perception, image and things about Indonesia are not understood enough by the international community," the President said in a press conference after attending the World Economic Forum in Davos from Thursday (27/1) to Friday (28/1).

Therefore, he added, his presence at the international economic forum was to explain the business world about Indonesia's real condition.

He had explained the world class businessmen improvements that had been made, and problems which were being resolved by the country transparently. The problems were about business climate, law enforcement and combating corruption, he added.

"Let the world know that we need reparations. Some of them are real and some still to be solved," .

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According to him, the direct explanation about Indonesia's condition was aimed to make draw their interest in Indonesia, especially in the investment sector.

"The more they know about Indonesia, the more eager they want to have a partnership with us. Moreover, they came from the developed countries from which more benefits can be achieved. Many of them who had already made an investment told me to add more saving business, and those who were not yet serious to come to Indonesia for making deals. I responded well if they benefits us," the President said.

The businessmen, he added, knew that Indonesia's economic growth was the third best in Asia after China and India, and it has been increasing.

His presence at the WEF was also as ASEAN chairman with a responsibility to explain the world that Indonesia and Southeast Asia has contributed to Asia's economic growth.

"As the ASEAN chairman, I have a moral responsibility to tell the world that Indonesia and ASEAN are developing good business partners,".

At the WEF, President Yudhoyono also invited world businessmen to attend the East Asia WEF in Indonesia in July this year.

The East Asia WEF would bring more benefits for Indonesia in expanding international business as well as raising investments.

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## 1. RI EYEING 7.7 MILLION FOREIGN TOURISTS IN 2011

Jakarta - The Indonesian government officially announced on Friday 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.

The foreign tourist arrival target was raised by about 10 percent because the world now had a good perception of Indonesia that could attract more visitors.

"Indonesia has a positive aura in 2011 so that we set an optimistic target of 7.7 million foreign tourist arrivals in the country," Culture and Tourism Minister Jero Wacik said in his year-end press conference on Friday.

Besides the optimistic target, the minister also set a pessimistic target of 7.3 million arrivals as a "performance contract" target of the culture and tourism ministry with the Indonesian President.

The minister raised the target for 2011 because his ministry's target to attract seven million foreign tourist arrivals in 2010 was achieved.

The number of foreign tourists arriving in Indonesia in 2010 was recorded at 7,000,571, or an increase by 8.5 percent compared with that in 2009 which stood at 6,452,259 arrivals.

"The figure of 7,000,571 exceeds the pessimistic target of 6.75 percent which was the performance contract with the President and the optimistic target of seven million," the minister said.

According to the minister, with the number of 7,00,571 foreign tourists arriving in 2010, Indonesia was able to collect a foreign exchange of

US\$7.6 billion.

Wacik said that the foreign tourists arriving in Indonesia in 2010 spent about US\$1,085.70 per visit per person. Their average length of stay was recorded at about 8.04 days.

He said that the average spending of US\$1,085.70 per visit per person in 2010 increased by 9 percent if compared with that in 2009 which stood at the average of US\$995.93 per visit per person.

The length of their stay which is about 8.04 days in 2010 also increased by 5 percent as compared with that in 2009 which was about 7.69 days.

"The Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) has recorded seven million foreign tourist arrivals or more than the target figure for 2010. More detailed information on this matter will be

given in early 2011," the minister said earlier when attending a Visit Indonesia Year (VIY) 2010 appraisal night on Monday.

Jero said the seven million foreign tourist arrivals constituted a new record because in 2009 the target figure was about 6.45 million. "In my contract with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, I promised to attract 6.75 million tourists. But it turned out to be more than 7 million," Jero said.

He also stated tourism in Indonesia during 2010 was hampered by several natural disasters like the Mt. Merapi eruptions in October to November.

"I was worried when 14 airlines canceled their flights to Jakarta and Yogyakarta last November. But it did not last long because I met the managements of the airlines," Jero said.



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The normalization of airline flights had a salutary effect on the target's achievement which was 9.3 percent up from 6.45 million in 2009, said the minister.

The various natural disasters that have happened killing hundreds of people -- such as the flash floods in West Papua's Wasior, Mount Merapi eruptions in Central Java and the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in West Sumatra's Mentawai Islands-- had raised concern that Indonesia would not be able to reach its target of attracting seven million foreign tourists in 2010.

Yet, as the year is approaching its end, tourism officials are still upbeat that despite the ordeals the country experienced this year, the target of seven million foreign tourist arrivals can be achieved if arrivals in November and December remain stable.

"Indonesia has had to face heavy odds in its tourism sector this year due to the occurrence of a number of natural disasters. But we are still optimistic that the target of 7 million will be achieved," Marketing Director General of the Culture and Tourism Ministry Pasta Nirwandar said recently.

According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of tourist arrivals in Indonesia in the first nine months of 2010 rose 12.26 percent to 5.19 million from the same period last year.

In September 2010 alone, 560,367 foreign tourists visited Indonesia, up 13.48 percent from the same month last year, BPS chief Rusman Heriawan said recently.

But the figure represented a 4.46 percent decline compared to August 2010, he said.

"The decline in the number of tourist arrivals in September was particularly caused by seasonal factors because September is a low season," he said. Yet, if the first semester of this year is compared with that of last year, there have been positive developments.

The positive developments in the country's tourism are reflected in the foreign tourist arrivals in the first half of this year which have increased about 14 percent from that in the corresponding period a year earlier.

With the achievements in the first semester, the country's tourism officials are upbeat that Indonesia would be able to meet or even exceed its foreign tourist arrivals target of 7 million this year.

Therefore, Tourism officials are planning to

raise Indonesia's foreign tourist arrivals target to 7.6 million next year. They made the plan after seeing that in the first half of 2010, a total of 3.38 million had visited Indonesia, while in fact it was a low season during this period.

*By Andi Abdussalam*

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## 2.KOMODO RANKS 6TH AS 7 WONDERS NOMINEE

Kupang, E.Nusa Tenggara - Indonesia's Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) has moved to sixth place on the list of nominees in the selection of the 7 wonders of nature in the last week of December 2010, a local official said.

The move happened based on the high interest of voters within 28 days, head of the promotion section at East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Culture and Tourism Office, Ubaldus Gogi, said.

"The New 7 Wonder Foundation reported that this week's criterion was based on the high level of voter's interest measured within 28 days. The Komodo dragon ranked sixth in the last week of December,".

According to Ulbadus, his office continued to encourage people throughout the country to actively take part in giving votes in order to keep the Komodo between the first and seventh position.

"If we see progress from time to time, the position of the Komodo is always fluctuating, but with hard work and support from all parties in the country and abroad, we believe the dragon will qualify to be one of the seven wonders of the world,".

He added the East Nusa Tenggara administration has continued to promote Komodo and asked for supports from all parties since the giant lizard was announced on July 21, 2009, through the website of the New7 Wonders Foundation as the last ancient creature on the earth was decided as



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one of the 28 finalists after setting aside about 440 nominees from 220 countries.

Therefore, the local officials and people are optimistic that Komodo will qualify and go to the one of the seven wonders of the world because the dragon is believed to be the last ancient creature on the earth found only in East Nusa Tenggara, Ulbadus said.

He also asked all the elements of society in the country not to see the dragon only belonging to the locals of East Nusa Tenggara but all the people throughout Indonesia as well.

"Governor of East Nusa Tenggara (Frans Lebu Raya-ed) always says that the dragon is the wealth of the nation and belongs to all of us and thus let's give supports," Ulbadus said.

It means if the dragon could become one of the seven wonders of the world, the international community will see not only East Nusa Tenggara but also Indonesia, he added.

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### **3. TOURISM MINISTER AGAIN PROMOTES "ASEAN FOR ASEAN"**

Jakarta - Culture and Tourism Minister Jero Wacik again promoted his idea to boost inter-ASEAN tourist arrivals during the ASEAN Tourism Forum being held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, starting Monday (Jan 17).

He revealed his "ASEAN for ASEAN" idea for the first time in an ASEAN meeting in Vietnam in 2009, according to a press statement of the culture and tourism ministry here Tuesday.

During the ASEAN Tourism Forum in Cambodia, he would once again try to convince his fellow ASEAN ministers to encourage their peoples to visit ASEAN member countries, rather than to



Europe, for instance.

"I personally has asked the Vietnam government to encourage its peole to visit Indonesia. On the other hand, we have also convince our people to visit Vietnam," Minister Jero Wacik was quoted as saying by Kompas.com.

Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN Pushpanathan Sundran said an integrated inter-ASEAN transportation infrastructures was needed to facilitate mobility of inter-ASEAN tourists.

"It should be discussed further," he said.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian government recently announced its target of attracting 7.7 million foreign tourists into the country in 2011, up about 10 percent from 7,000,571 arrivals in 2010.

"Indonesia has a positive aura in 2011 so that we set an optimistic target of 7.7 million foreign tourist arrivals in the country," Culture and Tourism Minister Jero Wacik said in his year-end press conference in Jakarta recently.

The number of foreign tourists arriving in Indonesia in 2010 was recorded at 7,000,571, or an increase by 8.5 percent compared with that in 2009 which stood at 6,452,259 arrivals.

"The figure of 7,000,571 exceeds the pessimistic target of 6.75 percent which was the performance contract with the President and the optimistic target of seven million," the minister said.

According to the minister, with the number of 7,00,571 foreign tourists arriving in 2010, Indonesia was able to collect a foreign exchange of US\$7.6 billion.

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### **4. MINISTER : "WONDERFUL INDONESIA" APPROPRIATE FOR INDONESIA**

Jakarta - Culture and Tourism Minster Jero Wacik said the new brand of Indonesian tourism "Wonderful Indonesia" launched in t 2010 was a most appropriate trademark.

"Wonderful Indonesia represents five characteristics of the country, namely nature, culture, people, food and money," the minister said.

The five features were expected to be able to support the popularity of Indonesian tourism in the world as of being better-quality and attracting more foreign tourism visit here.

"Those five characteristics are raised based on the award of The Best Destination Island in the World by Travel and Leisure Magazine, in New York,".

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The biggest tourism magazine conducted voting against the best tourism place in the world, and most of the world travelers answered Bali as The Best Island in the World.

"Criteria they used to choose Bali as The Best Island in the World is based on five aspects, namely the nature, culture, people, food and money," Jero Wacik said.

Therefore, he added, those points owned by Indonesia were considered to be the pedestal for Wonderful Indonesia branding.

From nature side, Indonesia had seas, beaches, mountains, forests, savannas and various flora and fauna. While Wonderful of culture was spread inside the Indonesian culture from Sabang to Merauke, he added.

"So does about wonderful of people, where Indonesian people are well known with their friendliness and smiles,".

He said Indonesia was also popular with its culinary delights which it became the essential for wonderful of food.

Wonderful of money aspect made tourism in Indonesia had high competitiveness with attractive tariff and service of hotel and also the price of food and souvenirs which were competitive.

### **What Are The Five Wonderful Majors Of Indonesia?**

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sia had seas, beaches, mountains, forests, savannas and various flora and fauna. While a wonderful culture was spread in Indonesian culture from Sabang to Merauke, he added.

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### **5. "SAIL WAKATOBI-BELITONG 2011" TO EXPOSE RI'S OTHER PARADISES**

*By Fardah*

Jakarta - Many foreign tourists are quite familiar with Bali Island, while Indonesia actually has some more paradise islands, and two of them will be exposed during "Sail Wakatobi-Belitong 2011".

"Sail Wakatobi-Belitong (SWB) 2011" is expected to promote investment and tourism in Wakatobi and Belitong in particular, according to Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muham-



mad.

"The international maritime event will contribute positively to national economic development, and the economy in the two regions particularly," Minister Fadel Muhammad said in Jakarta, Thursday (Jan 20, 2011).

Wakatobi is located in Southeast Sulawesi Province, on Sulawesi Island, while Belitong or Belitung is an island located in Bangka Belitung Province, on southern Sumatra Island.

Having underwater panoramic beauty and breath-taking diving sites, Wakatobi is a biodiversity hotspot especially known for various species of coral reefs.

At least 1.3 million hectares of Wakatobi are part of Wakatobi National Marine Park with Karang Mari Mabo, One Mombaa, Hioga Isle, and Patuno beach diving sites.

Mari Mabo in the local dialect means getting drunk. The diving site is called Mari Mabo because the area has stunning under water panoramic beauty that makes divers stay longer under the water and forget to resurface.

Wakatobi is also situated geographically at the world's coral reef triangle center and has around 942 fish species and 750 coral reef species.

"While diving in Wakatobi, you'll not only see beautiful vistas or pristine coral reefs, but also abundant colorful reef fish and rare and unusual cryptic "critters". New undocumented species are being discovered in Wakatobi," Wakatobi district head Hugua said sometime ago.

As stunning as Wakatobi, Belitong Island is blessed with beaches having blue sea waters, coral reefs, fine white sand, and giant granite rock formations.

Belitong exotic beaches include Tanjung Kiras beach, Tanjung Pendam beach, Tanjung tinggi,

Tanjung Kelayang, Tanjung Binga fisherman village, Panyaeran beach, Tanjung Kubu, Gembira bay and Tanjung Ru, which are ideal sites for diving, scuba, snorkeling, fishing and sailing.

The island also has other tourist attractions such as Golf Babute driving course, Lengkuas island, Gurok Beraye waterfall, Batu Baginde hill, Tirta Marundang natural pool and Dayang Seri Pinai Pool.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is expected to attend the peak event of the six-week "Sail Wakatobi-Belitong (SWB) 2011", which will be organized from the second week of July to the fourth week of August this year.

The SWB 2011's yacht rally will start from Darwin Australia, on July 23. The rally's participants will pass 21 districts/cities in Indonesia and will finish in Singapore, according to Syahrin Abdurrahman, the marine affairs and fishery ministry's director general of marine and fishery resources surveillance.

The SWB 2011's theme will be "Clean the Ocean for Future Live", to respond to the climate change which has triggered the temperature of the ocean surface to rise.

The SWB 2011 will be highlighted with six main activities, namely a yacht rally, a Bhakti Surya Bhaskara Jaya civic mission, national and international seminars on marine and fishery resources management, a youth marine event, and marine and fishery product exhibition.

The Bhakti Surya Baskara Jaya civic mission would be held in Riau Island Province, Bangka Belitung Province, West Kalimantan Province, Gorontalo Province, Southeast Sulawesi Province, and South Sulawesi Province, Abdurrahman said.

The SWB 2011 is expected to become the biggest international marine event ever held in Indonesia, after the holding of "Sail Bunaken 2009" in North Sulawesi and "Sail Banda 2010" in Maluku Province.

Sail Bunaken 2009 was held from August 12 to 20, 2009 in North Sulawesi and participated in by 28 warships, a number of fighter planes, and 165 yachts from at least 30 countries which joined an International Fleet Review.

The event's participants came from the United States, Australia, Britain, the Philippines, Brunei, India, Cambodia, Malaysia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, China, Thailand, Singapore, Timor Leste, Brazil, Russia, Prance, South Korea, Japan, Turkey, Chili, Bangladesh, Can-

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ada, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Italy, Peru, Syria, and Papua New Guinea.

A year later, Sail Banda was organized in Maluku from July 24 to August 17, 2010. At Darwin's Cullen Bay, Australia, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Agung Laksono flagged off 49 of 106 foreign yachts to mark the start of the Sail Banda international yacht rallies.

If Sail Bunaken 2009 was highlighted with two world record breaking events of diving involving 2,465 divers, to mark an underwater celebration of the 64th Indonesian Independence Day, the Sail Wakatobi-Belitong will try to break a world record of underwater chess game.

"After successfully breaking two world records of diving during Sail Bunaken 2009, the SWB 2011 will be highlighted with an underwater chess game trying to break another world record," the director general said.

## 6. Good Services Should be Given To Visitors

A guest is like a king. It is the appropriate proverb that should be applied in the tourism business in Indonesia. A king must be treated as best as possible. The rich natural resources will be useless if the services given to tourists lacked proper attention, therefore good services are needed to make tourism in Indonesia wonderful, a director of a non-governmental organization concerned with tourism, Diyak Mulahelela, said.

"Good services are most important. If tourists from other countries are served well in this country, I bet they will some day return taking with them more people, friends and relatives," Diyak said.

Diyak Mulahelela said that service was the most important thing to attract tourists to come to Indonesia and the second most important thing was a sense of satisfaction.

"If we can make our guests to feel comfortable, I'm pretty sure that more visitors will come to our country. The reason for this is that they will return to Indonesia because they felt comfortable in their first visit. And in the next tour, they will come with more friends and it can be a media to promote Indonesian tourism," he said.

In relation to reach the target of the Ministry, Diyak added that it was not an easy homework for Indonesian tourism actors. "We still have to work hard at least to increase by 7.3 percent to meet this year's target, and it's not easy," he said. By the new performance of Wonderful Indonesia, it

could be interesting, easy to remember and enjoy, he added.

"The culture and tourism minister's target of drawing seven million plus foreign tourists to visit Indonesia in 2011 is really no big deal," he said.

He said the number of foreign tourists aimed by the minister this year was very small compared to the number of foreign tourists coming to Malaysia and Singapore. And the target set by the Ministry was still small compared to the number of tourists visiting other ASEAN member countries, he said. The target of visitors to Indonesia was stolen by Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, he added. In 2010, Malaysia received 23 million people while Singapore and Thailand had about 10 million visitors.

"Malaysia had drawn about 23 million tourists in 2010, while Indonesia only aims at seven million plus visitors in 2011. So it will be quite easy for the minister although he still has to make some efforts," he said.

He added, aside from giving good services to tourists, creating a sense of security and comfort were also important to attract more visitors to Indonesia. Indonesia was so rich with nature tour-



ism, but with the limited service given, less people from foreign countries came here, he added.

"When we hear the word `wonderful`, it is about satisfaction. Visitors who come to our country will come again if they are satisfied," he said.

Strategic plans for tourism are needed to gain more visitors to visit, as an annual meeting done by all tourism ministers in ASEAN which was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from Monday (Jan 17) to Friday (Jan 21). The Tourism Ministers of ASEAN had agreed to adopt ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) of 2011 - 2015, which is going to use as National Tourism Organization (NTO) guidelines in implementing such tourism programs for ASEAN member country areas.

The implementation of the ATSP 2011 - 2015 was a follow up to Roadmap for Integration of Tourism Sector (RITS), which ended at the end of 2010. The ATSP draft was before discussed by ASEAN Tourism Working Group in Solo, Central Java, in August 2010.

ASEAN member countries combined plan to attract a total of at least 60 million tourists in 2011, he said. But by far the largest portion of that number would visit Malaysia and Singapore.

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## 6. OVER 27,880 CRUISE SHIP PASSENGERS VISIT INDONESIA

Surabaya, E Java - PT Pelabuhan Indonesia (Pelindo) III has invited 27,882 cruise ship passengers to visit different parts of Indonesia in 2010.

"Many cruise ship passengers have been eyeing our operating areas for making tours in Indonesia," spokesman for PT Pelindo III Iwan Sabatini said here Friday on the number of cruise ship passengers who visited his working areas in 2010.

The 27,882 cruise ship passengers in 2010 were foreign tourists using 53 ships.

"And several passengers from countries in Europe are more than 50 years old," he added.

In 2010, he said that the composition of the passengers including in Bena came with 28 ships carrying 13,683 foreign tourists, Tanjung Emas 14 ships with 7,351 tourists, and Lembar port with ships with 5,939 tourists.

"In addition, in Probolinggo port there are two ships with 159 tourists, and in Tanjung Perak one ship with 750 tourists," .

In Tanjung Perak he said the passenger is 6,375 square meters. which is supported by the depth of the sea reaching 20 meters.

"In the meantime, the biggest ship which had cast anchor in Tanjung Perak is 205 meters long," he

said.  
"The biggest ship which has visited Tanjung Bena in Bali has a length of 223 meters called Pasific Sun,".



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# DIVERSE

## 1. AUSTRALIA APPRECIATES RI'S SYMPATHY OVER QUEENSLAND FLOODS

Jakarta - Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Greg Moriarty has expressed sincere appreciation for the solidarity and sympathy the Indonesian government and people had shown over the floods in Queensland.

According to a media release from the Australian Embassy, Moriarty expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude for the support Indonesia had given for the victims of the devastating floods that have struck the Australian state of Queensland.

"The Australian Government welcomes Indonesia's contribution of US\$1 million towards the Queensland Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal during this very difficult time," Ambassador Moriarty said.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa announced this week the Indonesian Government would provide US\$1 million to the Australian Government to respond to the flood disaster affected state of Queensland, Australia.

"Indonesia's contribution to the Appeal and offers of assistance are a reflection of the close support we provide for each other as friends and neighbors during times of natural disaster. Australia values and appreciates that relationship," Moriarty said.

The floods have caused tragic loss of life, and thousands of Australians, their houses and businesses have been severely affected by the devastating floods, which continue to pose serious threats in parts of Queensland and elsewhere.

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## 2. BALI BUILDING SEAPORT FOR LARGE CRUISE SHIPS

Denpasar - Bali province is building a new sea port for large cruise ships slated to be ready for operation by the end of this year, a local official said.

"The provincial government has disbursed additional construction funds totaling 4.0 billion rupiahs from this year's budget for the construction of additional facilities at the new port," I Made Santha, a Bali provincial government spokesman said in Saturday.

The new seaport was located at Tanah Ampo in Karangasem district on the eastern tip of Bali. The port has designed to be able of accommodating large cruise ships. Its pier would be at least 200 meters long to serve ships carrying between 3,000-5,000 tourists each.

The main pier of the new port has already been completed and is currently undergoing finishing touches, he added.

The new port was actually a national project, said Made Santha, as the largest portion of the funding had come from the central government's budget of 92.2 billion rupiahs, with an additional budget provided by the Transport Ministry and Public Works Ministry.

The bulk of the funding has already been spent on feasibility study works, the physical construction of the main pier of 154 long and 12 meters wide and the construction of an access road to the port.

In an effort to expedite the completion of the new tourism facility, Bali provincial government has allocated a total fund of 18.7 billion rupiahs to cover up the cost of additional expenditure on land appropriation and construction of electricity and clean water networks.

Made Santha said Bali expects to receive a tourist spillover from Singapore which is visited by at least 300 cruise ships annually.

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### **3. NEWS AGENCIES MUST UNITE TO PROMOTE ISLAM'S TRUE FACE**

Jakarta - News agencies in Islamic countries are expected to unite to help promote the true face of Islam and its adherents in the world, the director general of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA), Erdem Kok said.

Kok made the statement in response to concern that the image of Muslim countries was so negative in the eyes of the world, especially after the September 11 tragedy in the US.

"We must work together to project the true face of the Islamic world. During the past years, western societies and media have developed a very wrong perception of the Muslim world. It is the mission of news agencies in Islamic countries to help project the true face of Islam in the world", Kok said during a meeting with ANTARA News Agency CEO Ahmad Mukhlis Yusuf here on Thursday.

However, before projecting the true face of Islam in the world, Kok said, Muslims should start thinking of how they could project the true face of themselves to fellow Muslims in other countries.

"Before thinking of how to project our image to the world, I think, we have to think of how we project our image to each other first. I appreciate ANTARA's cooperation with news agencies from Islamic countries such as Chihan of Turkey or WAM of the United Arab Emirates. Such direct connections are better than getting information from third parties,".

For future cooperation between news agencies in the region, Kok suggested that members of IINA establish a joint project, instead of planning long-term cooperation. He suggested that news agencies send their journalists to meetings to discuss certain issues such as climate change, the rise of the sea level.

"With such small discussions, journalists from the news agencies can get to know each other and then start to exchange views and ideas. Such personal approaches are better than planning big events," .

Kok stated only the news agencies of Islamic countries could produce good and accurate news

about each other and when all news agencies in the region did this, the mission to project Islam's image to the rest of the world would succeed.

ANTARA News Agency's CEO Ahmad Mukhlis Yusuf stated his approval to Kok's idea saying that news agencies in Islamic countries must work together to communicate things which had happened in the region to the world.

"An agenda setting is needed for the news agencies in Islamic countries to promote the true nature of Islam and Muslims,".

Mukhlis said news agencies in Islamic countries could , for example, adopt editorial policies to cover certain issues such as tolerance in Islamic countries towards minorities, the peaceful solution of the Aceh conflict or the latest situation in the Karaba area.

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### **4.RI, US TO CONTINUE JOINT RESEARCH IN EAST INDONESIA WATERS**

Jakarta - Indonesia and the United States are to continue their joint maritime research activity in east Indonesian waters with a project to explore the waters around Halmahera island beginning in May 2011, a marine affairs ministry official said.

"The cooperation between Indonesia and the US will be continued in Halmahera waters next June," Gellwynn Jusuf, secretary general of the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry said here on Friday.

The cooperation would be a continuation of a joint oceanic expedition conducted by Indonesia and the United States in Sangihe-Talaud waters in North Sulawesi in the middle of 2010.

According to Gellwynn, the cooperation would be also the implementation of a joint exploration program which would run for three years. The joint marine research project in Halmahera waters would last 40 days.

On the results of the previous joint research in Sangihe-Talaud waters, the study had resulted in the discovery of a total of 600 new species. The publication of these findings would be carried out through a series of seminars or symposium to be held in the near future.



In addition to the research program, Gelwynn added, the joint maritime exploration between the two countries was also dedicated to fisheries.

The research had helped in detecting various potential fishery locations in some Indonesian waters.

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#### **5. AL GORE HOPES RI TO POPULARIZE CLIMATE CHANGE HANDLING**

Jakarta - 2007 Nobel peace laureate Al Gore hoped that more and more people in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in Indonesia, would popularize climate change and its handling to the public.

"Education on climate change is something very important for the people in the Asia Pacific region. Many people will face high risks in the coming several decades so that they would be forced to leave their places,".

He added that The Climate Project presenters were expected to help provide knowledge and information for the people so that they would play active roles in their respective communities in seeking for solutions to climate change problems.

The former US vice president made the remarks in front of about 350 volunteers of The Cli-

mate Project (TCP), who were well-known as TCP presenters. They came from 21 countries and are being trained here in The Climate Project Asia-Pacific Summit" program held from January 8 to 10, 2011.

The Oscar winner through his film "An Inconvenient Truth" made a presentation on climate change and climate-change related natural disasters.

The 350 presenters will be trained how to reduce pollution and to act in the transition period towards clean energy solutions.

The summit marks the first time Gore has discussed climate change with audiences in Indonesia and the Asia Pacific region. Previously, Gore has spoken in Melbourne, Beijing and New Delhi.

The 350 training participants were chosen from 1,200 candidates in the region.

According to Chief Executive Officer of Alliance for Climate Protection, Maggie L Fox, the presenters will return to their respective community and lead efforts of handling climate change.

He said that throughout the world there were about 3,600 presenters from 56 countries, where 900 of them came from the Asia Pacific region and were directly trained by Al Gore.

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#### **6. ECO-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT RI'S FOCUS IN 2011, PRESIDENT**

Jakarta - At the National Meeting 2011 with all ministers and governors on Monday, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono stated that implementing an eco-friendly development is going to be one of his government's focus in 2011.

"Apart from implementing a development which can support better economic growth, more employment rate and decrease our poverty rate, I also urged all government officials to make sure that our development is based on an eco-friendly system,".

The president said national development must be conducted without damaging the environment. He urged all governors to act firmly against min-

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ing or plantation companies which operation was said to have damaged the environment.

The National Meeting featuring ministers and all governors of Indonesia has been conducted four times since President Yudhoyono took presidency for the second time in 2009.

This year's theme of the meeting is Accelerating a fair national economic growth which is supported with good governance and good synergy between the central and regional government.

Based on the theme, the government has set several targets which must be achieved in 2011 namely better bureaucratic reforms, improvement of education and health care services and eradicating poverty.

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## 7. RUSSIAN YACHT TO ANCHOR IN SABANG

Banda Aceh, Aceh Darussalam - A Russian yacht named MV Amedia bringing about 500 foreign tourists is to anchor in Sabang, Aceh Province, on January 24, a spokesman said here Tuesday.

"I got information that a cruise ship from Russia will visit Sabang carrying about 500 foreign tourists on Monday (Jan 24)," said Ruslan Abdul Ghani, head of the Sabang Entrepreneurs Agency, here Tuesday.

The ship would be at Sabang port for 6 hours while the tourists would visit several tourism objects in the city .

"We would like to guide the tourists around Sabang city and visit some interesting objects in Weh Island," Ruslan said.

Sabang had been included in the international cruise ships agenda based on the result of the Swiss conference a couple of days ago.

On the other hand, the area of trade and free port was potential to be a haven for cruise ships from any countries crossing the Malacca (Economic Exclusive Zone).

"Sabang is strategic enough to be the docks for foreign ships crossing Malacca,".

The prospective was because there was a tourism city around Teluk Sabang which could attract many foreigners to come and visit Sabang.

Sabang is located 14 miles from Kota Banda Aceh, northern Sumatra, and appointed as a national tourism object.

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## 8. INDONESIA TO HOST WEF 2011

Jakarta - Indonesia is to host the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia on June 12 -13, 2011, Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said here on Thursday.

"We will take advantage of it because we will also host ASEAN Summit in October this year to put Indonesia in the role of leadership in ASEAN and East Asia region," Mari said.

It would be the first for Indonesia to host WEF after its neighbor countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Japan have ever been trusted to be the organizing committees.

"It will be the first time for us to host the World Economic Forum, and we hope Indonesia will take a leadership role and become the central power in Southeast Asia and East Asian region," .

The minister said global issues related to commodity prices volatility, food resilience, and energy resilience would be among the topics of discussion at the forum.

"The topics of discussion will be the same as that during WEF in Davos, and it will be a challenge for the government, business world, and private party to step up the industry, investment, and technology -- especially agriculture and climate change technology to face with extreme climate change," .

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Mari said President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono would lead Indonesia's delegation in the 41st World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland next January 26-31,2011. She would accompany President Yudhoyono to the forum with several senior officials such as Coordinating Minister for the Economy Hatta Radjasa, Finance Minister Agus Martowardojo,

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Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa, Investment Coordinating Board` (BKPM) chair Gita Wirjawan and leaders from national enterprises namely Bank Mandiri, BNI, Garuda Indonesia, Bhumi Resources, Indorama and Gunung Sewu.

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## **9. AUSTRALIA THANKS INDONESIA FOR HELPING QUEENSLAND**

Jakarta - Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard thanked Indonesia for donating one million US dollars to support reconstruction program in the aftermath of deadly flash floods in Queensland, a president aide said.

"President received Prime Minister Julia Gillard`s call at 12.30 PM. She thanked Indonesia for our commitment to helping the reconstruction and rehabilitation programs in Queensland," the head of state`s aide for international relations Teuku Faizasyah said here Thursday.

President Yudhoyono was quoted as saying that Indonesia`s commitment to Australia was a form of solidarity to the country which had often assisted Indonesia when natural disasters occurred.

In the phone talks, the Australian leader also congratulated Indonesia on its position as this year`s president of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and host of the ASEAN and East Asia Summits.

Gillard expected Indonesia to be able to make breakthroughs during its ASEAN chairmanship period. For this purpose, Canberra was ready for assisting Indonesia.

In connection with the state of Queensland`s flood disaster, tens of thousands of people were affected, including over 150 Indonesians who took refuge to secure areas in St.Lucia suburb in Brisbane.

The flood waters that had previously inundated many places in this city of two million people, including St.Lucia suburb as one of the clusters of the Indonesian community in Queensland had receded since last weekend.

This condition has enabled the city and state governments as well as local residents, including Indonesian citizens, to conduct a massive clean-up and damage repair operation.

As reported by "ABC News", Queensland Premier Anna Bligh had even met with her cabinet members and related government officials on Monday (January 17) for talks about the state`s recovery and reconstruction programs.

Bligh voiced her government`s commitment to rebuilding Queensland and making its people more resistant and better protected.

The recent flood disaster, which has made Brisbane become like "a dead city", has recorded various heroic stories about the power of struggle and the power of solidarity and brotherhood of human beings.

The power of brotherhood of humanity, which disregards the socio-economic, cultural, and other primordial differences, has also been shown by Indonesian community members there.

In the flooding, which has brought Queenslanders` memories back to the 1974 flood disaster, more than 120 Indonesians were also displaced and fled their flat units and houses to higher areas in St.Lucia.

They were then sheltered in 16 houses and accommodation units that Indonesians rented in the suburb where the University of Queensland (UQ)`s main campus is located.

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## **10. RI TO HOST IYFCC 2011**

Jakarta - Indonesia is to host an International Youth Forum on Climate Change 2011 (IYFCC 2011) in the third week of February in Jakarta.

"The IYFCC 2011 in Jakarta will be participated in by around 120 young people from many countries grouped in the World Assembly of Youth (WAY)," Indonesian National Youth Committee (KNPI) chairman Ahmad Doli Indra Kurnia said at a meeting on preparations for the forum at the Bidakara Hotel here on Monday evening.

Ahmad Doli, who is concurrently vice president of the World Assembly of Youth, said Indonesia

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had been elected to host the IYFCC 2011.

He said the organization of the International Youth Forum on Climate Change 2011 in Jakarta would be an honor for the Indonesian National Youth Committee.

"We hope this international event on climate change can motivate both Indonesian as well as international community to be more concerned about climate change issues," Ahmad Doli said.

He explained that efforts to build awareness of youth as the pioneer in addressing climate change would be discussed in that international forum.

Ahmad Doli said that after the forum, the participants were expected to encourage the leaders of their respective countries to have more care and focus on the implementation of policy to reduce carbon emissions.

"We are going to call on all countries, especially the biggest contributor to carbon emissions, to make a commitment to reducing carbon emission," Ahmad Doli said.

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## **11. RI CONDEMNS BOMB ATTACK AT RUSSIAN AIRPORT**

Jakarta - Indonesia condemns the bomb attack at Domodedovo airport in Russia last Monday (Jan 24).

A press release from the Foreign Affairs Ministry received here on Tuesday stated Indonesia's strongly condemns all kinds of terrorist acts and supports efforts to overcome the threat of terrorist acts and to ensure that those responsible be brought to justice.

Indonesia expresses its deep condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, the government and the people of the Russian Federation, for the loss of life of thirty five people and those injured by the bomb attack. The Indonesia wishes for the swift recovery of those injured.

A suicide bomber killed at least 35 and wounded dozens Monday when he blew himself up in the packed arrivals hall of Moscow's largest airport in an attack slammed by the Kremlin as an act of terror.

There were scenes of carnage at Domodedovo airport in southern Moscow as corpses were stretchered out of the smoke-filled arrivals area after the blast, the latest deadly attack to hit the capital after the metro bombings in March.

Describing the attack as an act of terror, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev chaired an emergency meeting of top officials and ordered a special security regime across the country's main airports and railway stations.

Russia's Western partners strongly condemned the blast, with US President Barack Obama describing the attack as "outrageous" and German Chancellor Angela Merkel saying she was dismayed by the "cowardly" act.

Airport spokeswoman Elena Galanova said that the blast had gone off in a freely accessible public area of the airport where passengers meet relatives after passing customs.

At least 35 people were killed, she said. At least 130 were wounded, the health ministry said in a statement. It said that of the wounded, 20 were in a serious condition.

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## **12. MINISTER LAUNCHES E-PASSPORT**

Jakarta - Law and Human Rights Minister Patrialis Akbar here Wednesday officiated at ceremony marking the introduction of e-passports.

The use of e-passports, which could not be faked, would increase security of the immigration documents, Minister Patrialis said.

The new E-passport will have an electronic chip embedded inside the book for a more accurate identification process.

The electronic-based information technology adopts and follows the security standard of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

As the use of e-passports are still in trial process, the request of the new e-passports could be made at the Central Jakarta immigration center, the West Jakarta First Class immigration, and the Soekarno-Hatta First Class Immigration.

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The ministry soon launched the use of E-passports, as Indonesia lags behind its neighboring countries on the form of passport that will be used worldwide by 2015.

So far, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are among the Southeast Asian countries that have started issuing E-passports. A number of nations in other parts of the world have also already adopted the system.

The application for an e-passport is more expensive than the conventional one because of the high-tech chip.

The 48-page e-passport will cost Rp655,000, while the 24-page will be Rp405,000. The conventional passport or the one using biometric system is cost Rp255,000 for 48 pages, and Rp105,000 for 24 pages.

The immigration department will prepare 10,000 E-passports in its initial phase, available in immigration offices in Jakarta, Semarang and Surabaya.

The minister said recently that issuing e-passports on a trial basis was in line with Government Regulation (PP) No. 38/2009. It is permissible under the provisions of the international agreement to apply the e-passport system worldwide by 2015.

The application process for the new passports will take approximately four days, the minister said earlier.

Iskandar said a number of new marine species were discovered in East Indonesian waters recently. Some 79 new species were found in East Indonesian waters in an expedition conducted by Index Satal last July-August.

Marzan said the marine biota were found at a depth of 6,000 meters under the sea level with sophisticated instruments by Indonesian and US scientists during the expedition with the US ship, the Okeanos, he added.

"We would not have been able to do this expedition alone, the exploratory activity took place 6.000 meters below sea level. That's why we needed to cooperate with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in conducting this exploration,".

He added the Okeanos had sophisticated and complete facilities that enabled the researchers to see underwater life in the ocean.

"The equipment to support the research was too expensive for Indonesia and it is not easy to enable people to work 6,000 meters below sea level under a pressure of 600 atmospheres,".

The BPPT chief also said other advantages of the Okeanos included the application of the real-time method whereby video images taken at a depth of thousands of meters below the sea were directly transmitted to scientists on board the Okeanos.

"Besides taking pictures and video footage of sea biota on the bottom of the sea, the ship's equipment can send the pictures and video images to expedition members on land. So we can see what the scientists see under the sea directly. It was extraordinary." .

In relation to the contribution of RI's Baruna Jaya ship in the expedition, Marzan said the ship took part in taking sample of sea biota at a depth of 1.000 meters below the sea surface. The expedition lasted 30 days and was participated in by 32 scientists and engineers, two of them were

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### **13. RI-US EXPEDITION FINDS 79 NEW SPECIES IN INDONESIAN WATERS**

Jakarta - During a video conference on the US - Indonesia science and technology partnership, highlighting a 2010 joint oceanic exploration project Chairman of the Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), Marzan A.

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NOAA researchers.

Meanwhile, Ridwan Djamaluddin, a BPPT deputy chairman, said the process to name the new-found species would take time in order to avoid naming errors.

"Taxonomy needs time which is not short, so they are still researching in Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and Marine and Fisheries Research Board (BRKP). I hope they can be published before May," .

Besides the sea biota expedition, it was also conducted a research on the presence of volcano under the sea and found that there was no photosynthesis

process in 200 meters above the sea bottom because the sunshine couldn't reach it, he added.

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