



RECOLLECTION OF INDONESIAN DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENT



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Diplomacy Tabloid Readers, presented in this edition's Main Focus is the press briefing of RI's Foreign Minister on the achievement of Indonesian foreign policy during the three years of President Joko Widodo's administration.

A number of recollections that are highlighted during the last three years are related to the humanitarian diplomacy in Rakhine State, the issue on Palestine, the protection of Indonesian citizens abroad, diplomacy on the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia, economic diplomacy, and peace diplomacy.

Next, we are featuring in the Focus section the implementation of the 2017 ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp "(AYIC) with the theme "Tolerance in Diversity for ASEAN and World Harmony "at Darul Ulum High School Unipdu in Jombang, East Java. This interfaith dialogue plays an important role in facing growing world challenges such as radicalism and terrorism.

The next topic is the 17th IORA Ministerial Meeting (PTM) in Durban, South Africa, where Indonesia has officially handed the IORA leadership to South Africa. On the other hand, IORA member countries expressed high appreciation for the Indonesian leadership that has enhanced IORA's profile and laid the foundation in strengthening future cooperation. We have coupled this topic with The 2nd IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference (BEC II) held in Jakarta to discuss the implementation of the Blue Economy concept.

The success of the music festival, Cross Border Festival in Skouw, Jayapura, Papua, is also presented in this segment. The closing topic in the Focus section is the opening of the Europalia exhibition Power and Other Things (POT) at the Brussels Center for Fine Arts in Brussels, Belgium where a number of Indonesian artists from different fields of arts showcased their best works in order that the international community, especially Europe, can make out Indonesia more positively.

In the Highlights section, we are presenting eight topics that includes the 17th D-8 Ministerial Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, which concluded that the current D-8 cooperation still has not fully utilized existing potentials and opportunities, hence it must be strengthened subject to the mandate of the D-8 charter.

The keynote address of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on the commemoration of the UN Charter at Gedung Pancasila in the Foreign Ministry in Jakarta entitled "Building Indonesia's Civilian Capacity and Its Role in Sustaining Peace". Contribution to peace preservation has become an integral part of Indonesia's DNA as mandated in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution.

The Jakarta Fashion Week 2018, which was held in Jakarta and an event that reflects the current progress of Indonesia's creative industry in line with President Jokowi's direction in strengthening economic and cultural diplomacy.

The entrepreneurship training for foreign participants from Pacific countries, especially Fiji and a number of Indonesian entrepreneurs--as learning partners--to exchange information and experiences. This training raises the concept of business incubation that aims to instill a creative and innovative entrepreneurial spirit in developing a business.

The socialization of the facilities for the Indonesian Community Overseas (MILN) and the conveyance of various information and work programs of the Directorate of Public Diplomacy, which was presented by the Director of Public Diplomacy of RI's Foreign Ministry at RI's Consulate General in Ho Chi Min City.

The implementation of the 9th Capacity Building program on the Development of ASEAN Community in Jakarta and North Sumatra in an effort to continue supporting the achievement of the 2025 ASEAN Community vision where diplomats, academics and practitioners shared knowledge on how the digital world can become an important tool in helping diplomacy succeed in the real-time era of information.

Indonesia is pressing the international community to take part in addressing the current refugee issue in the 5th Thematic Discussion on the process of drafting the Global Compact on Refugee organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, where the United Nations and other countries in the world appreciate the increase in Indonesia's active role in the last 10 years.

The seminar entitled 'IORA and the Role of Indonesia as a Maritime Gateway of the Middle East to the Pacific held at Lampung University is the first topic presented in the Lens section. The seminar was held in view of the enormous potential of Indonesia's cooperation with Middle Eastern countries, both within the bilateral, regional, and international framework.

Next is the awarding of the 'Benevolence Award' to Vice President Jusuf Kalla who is considered meritorious and has contributed a lot in resolving conflict and peace. We have coupled this topic with the cooperation between the Directorate of Economic Cooperation of ASEAN of RI's Foreign Ministry, the West Sumatra Provincial Government, the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs, the ASEAN Study Center of Andalas University and Google Indonesia in order to provide technical guidance to MSMEs.

This edition is concluded with the topic Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative: 5th Face-to-face Training on Public Diplomacy held in Jakarta. This training is a manifestation of Indonesia's commitment to encourage increased ASEM connectivity in optimizing the forum on regional cooperation.

Enjoy reading and hope it may be of use.
Greetings Diplomacy. []

READER'S LETTER

Reading what was featured in Diplomacy Tabloid on Indonesia's diplomacy in dealing with the problems that occurred in Rakhine State in Myanmar really makes us proud.

It is clear that Indonesia's assistance in settling the problems in Myanmar are sincere, concrete, thorough, and muted.

It started from the shuttle diplomacy efforts made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the authorities of Bangladesh and Myanmar, then talks with all relevant parties, the offering of a 4 + 1 formula, the delivery of humanitarian aid and the eventual construction of a hospital.

Indonesia's sincerity in solving the problems in Rakhine State clearly and thoroughly, and without noise, is increasingly indicative of the quality of Indonesia's leadership in the region.

Without much talk and image making, Indonesia became the first country to go directly to the field to provide assistance and observe the situation directly. When other countries have not yet thought of the appropriate assistance to provide, Indonesia had already proposed a 4 + 1 Formula problem-solving concept in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

We are proud of the Foreign Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' alertness in addressing the problems of our brothers in Myanmar. They are our brothers and sisters within the ASEAN community that we must pay attention to.

Dewi Lestari, National University Student, Jakarta

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HIGHLIGHT



Recollection of Indonesian Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Achievement in the Three Years of Jokowi - Jusuf Kalla's Government

Foreign Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi presented a press briefing on the achievements of the Indonesian Foreign Policy during the three years of President Joko Widodo's administration to editorial leaders as well as national and foreign media in Gedung Pancasila in Jakarta on October 26, 2017.

A number of recollections highlighted during the last three years were raised by Foreign Minister Retno in this press briefing, including the Humanitarian Diplomacy for Rakhine State, Palestine Issue, and the Protection of Indonesian Citizens Abroad.

Indonesian Humanitarian Diplomacy for Rakhine State

Indonesia observed a humanitarian crisis and complexity problem in Rakhine State. Seeing this situation, Indonesia chose not to sit quietly but to utilize its diplomatic engine and tried doing something to help victims.

Foreign Minister Retno has conveyed Indonesia's concerns as well as international concerns so that the situation in Rakhine State does not deteriorate, and also offered humanitarian assistance. Indonesia's diplomatic engine has and continues to work fully on humanitarian missions to help solve the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State.

"Indonesia was the first country to be in Myanmar and Bangladesh after a new cycle of violence occurred on August 25, 2017. The two



countries' trust on Indonesia will be used to help our brother refugees in Rakhine State and in Bangladesh. Not all countries have that trust," said Foreign Minister Retno.

At a meeting in Yangon, Indonesia delivered the 4 + 1 (four plus one) formula for the settlement of Rakhine State and also bridged communication between Myanmar and Bangladesh. "At least three meetings were held between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the last being the meeting or the visit of the Minister of Home Affairs of Bangladesh to Myanmar," Foreign Minister Retno said.

From the aspect of humanitarian assistance, Indonesia has already delivered humanitarian aid to Rakhine State and Bangladesh. Indonesia has opened the door for the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Center (AHA Center) for Rakhine State refugees. Currently, the deployment of assistance has been given to the AHA Center

in Rakhine State and handed over through relevant agencies in Yangon. The delivery and provision of such assistance are monitored by Foreign Minister Retno through received reports and feedbacks.

Indonesia also encourages the implementation of Kofi Annan's recommendation report. "In my meeting with Daw Aung San Su Kyi on October 12, 2017, we encouraged the implementation of three recommendations. The three points were: (1). Repatriation and humanitarian assistance, (2). Reconstruction and rehabilitation, as well as (3). Development and durable peace," explained Foreign Minister Retno.

Indonesia also always seeks advice in every discussion on Rakhine State issues, including from the UN Security Council and the Office of the UN Secretary-General. The role of Indonesia's humanitarian diplomacy for Rakhine State did not only begin in 2017, but Indonesia's diplomatic engine

for Rakhine State was already under way even earlier in 2015. At that time, Indonesia also conducted marathon diplomacy. But the difference in 2015 was that Indonesia received an influx of refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh of about 1,800 people.

At that time, Indonesia contributed in addressing the root of the problem, among others by hosting the Jakarta Declaration Roundtable Meeting on the Root Causes of Irregular Movement of Persons in November 2015.

A similar contribution in handling the root of the problem was done through an interfaith dialogue between Indonesia and Myanmar. This was done to instill and share about the values of tolerance and harmony. "All of Indonesia's diplomacy measures have been carried out by the diplomacy machine constructively without clamor," said Foreign Minister Retno.[]

Indonesian Diplomacy for Palestine

On various occasions, Foreign Minister Retno always said that the struggle of the Palestinian people is at the heart of Indonesian foreign policy. There is always Palestine at every breath of Indonesian diplomacy, therefore Indonesian diplomacy or Indonesia's efforts to help Palestine never stops.

The honorary Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Ramallah is the first step in getting closer to the Palestinian people. In 2016, Indonesia hosted the 15th OIC Extraordinary Summit on Palestine and Al Quds Al Sharif.

Earlier in 2015, Indonesia hosted the International Conference on the question of Jerusalem. Indonesia is active in the Peace Conference initiated by France. Indonesia is also the party that pushed the OIC ministerial meeting after the riots that occurred in Jerusalem. This event was held in Istanbul in August 2017.

Indonesia also strengthened capacity building for the Palestinian people, and so far, Indonesia has provided training to thousands of Palestinian citizens covering several outstanding programs. "Once again, we will not dampen our diplomacy to defend Palestine," Foreign Minister Retno said.[]

Diplomacy of Protection for Indonesian

The challenge of implementing protection for Indonesian citizens and Indonesian Legal Entities Abroad is getting bigger, but Foreign Minister Retno stated that Indonesia will not recede and retreat. The government is committed in carrying out such protection wholeheartedly.

The focus of protection for Indonesian Citizens and BHI abroad is done by strengthening the protection system using data, technology, and innovation. First is to integrate the database; second is to launch several applications including mobile safe travel; third is to launch the new SMS blast applications; and fourth is to improve service and quality of protection.

Data achieved in the last three years for the protection of Indonesian Citizens show that the Foreign Ministry has successfully completed as many as 27,341 cases. It has freed 144 Indonesians from the death penalty. It has repatriated 181,942 Indonesians with problems including overstayers. It has evacuated 16,426 Indonesians from various conflict areas, wars, and natural

disasters. And it has managed to free 31 hostages from the Philippines and Somalia.

The Foreign Ministry has also succeeded in restoring the financial rights of Indonesian citizens experiencing problems abroad amounting to Rp 388 billion. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was able to do it through legal assistance provided by RI Representatives.

In improving the situation of providing basic education for the children of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BMI) working in palm oil plantations in Malaysia, Indonesia has successfully added 16 Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in Sabah and Sarawak in the last three years bringing the total CLC to 255.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has cooperated with seven Ministries / Agencies to improve the handling of smuggling and trafficking. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also strengthened the capacity building for WNI protection in 60 agencies / cities where most of the BMI came from.[]

Diplomacy of Sovereignty

Diplomacy of sovereignty is exercised to protect the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia through the completion of state boundary negotiations, both land and maritime. Two things that stand out in this endeavor are the roadmap of negotiations and intensifying negotiations as some negotiations have long been on going.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed in intensifying state boundary negotiations, because bargaining is not an easy matter and it takes a long time. The Foreign Ministry believes that intensive negotiations will progress.

Nine negotiations have been made in 2015 for maritime boundaries with the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Palau, and Timor Leste. Indonesia has also appointed a special envoy for maritime boundary negotiations and conducted 14 land border negotiations with Malaysia.

In 2016, there were 20 maritime boundary deliberations and 16 land boundary negotiations. Three maritime boundary talks were conducted by the special envoy. Indonesia has ratified the maritime boundary agreement with Singapore on December 15, 2016. Indonesia has also agreed on a MoU on Survey and demarcation between Indonesia-Malaysia (Kalimantan-Sabah). Meanwhile, two unresolved segments of the Indonesia-East Timor land boundary are now at the final stage of negotiations. In 2017, two ratifications have been finalized. There is one ratification and at the same time insertion of the Indonesia-Singapore maritime border ratification instrument in September, and the Exclusive Economic Zone Agreement (ZEE) between Indonesia and the Philippines. Boundary negotiations will continue to be done towards the desired progress, which is very essential.[]

Economic Diplomacy

The global economic condition in the last three years has been shadowed by a 3 - 3.1% growth. With the low growth in trade, many countries implemented a policy of protectionism that increases the risk of international trade and investment. Indonesia continues to improve its investment system and ultimately earned investment grade recognition.

Economic diplomacy is very essential and it needs to be improved when the situation is not conducive. One way is by opening non-traditional markets for Indonesian products, especially to Africa, South and Central Asia, and South America.

As an illustration, there was an increase in Indonesian trade with a number of African countries in 2016: Madagascar increased by more than 112%, Chad 207%, Zimbabwe 223%, Gabon 562%, Congo 566%, Zambia 637%, and Rwanda increased 17 times.

Efforts to promote Indonesia-Africa business closeness were made by increasing the intensity of visits, not only at the level of government officials, but also at the private level.

Indonesia has conducted trade talks within the framework of PTA with several economic groups in Africa to acquire reduction in trade tariffs. The trade challenge with Africa is high tariff on some of Indonesia's products.

In 2018, the Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF) will be held for the first time in order to bring closer interaction between the private parties of Indonesia-Africa. In 2015, the CEPA

negotiations were conducted with Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, and South Africa. Meanwhile, the Regional Economic Partnership was conducted with 10 ASEAN countries and 6 partner countries. In 2016, negotiations were held 16 times with the European Union. Economic diplomacy has been done to increase trade by 2016.

In 2017, 11 negotiations have been conducted to complete the FTA and CEPA. RI Representatives abroad also continue to encourage the participation of foreign entrepreneurs in the Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI). In 2017, TEI transactions reached nearly USD 1 billion with the signing of

31 trade contracts.

"The Minister of Trade conveyed a significant increase in transactions and expressed gratitude to Indonesian Representatives and diplomats who helped economic diplomacy in the context of trade promotion and the TEI," said the Foreign Minister.

The Indonesian Diplomacy Pokja team and RI Representatives have facilitated more than 35,000 Indonesian business actors in handling required information as well as conduct matchmaking. One thing that stands out in economic diplomacy is the effort to strengthen the capabilities of Indonesia's

strategic industry. Indonesia has successfully sold strategic industrial products such as PT INKA's trains and aircrafts made by PT Dirgantara Indonesia.

Bangladesh has bought as many as 400 railway carriages, 150 have already been delivered, and a contract of 250 carriages was signed. CN 235 aircrafts are widely used in some African countries and there are investments of Indonesian products such as instant noodles in Africa and also in some European countries, among others in Serbia with a total investment value of 11 million USD.[]

Indonesia's Regional and International Role

Peace diplomacy and the role as a bridge builder is what Indonesia wants to play in bridging many differences.

Indonesia's role in peace keeping mission is a tangible manifestation of gaining world peace. More than 2,800 personnel have so far been deployed. In 2017, Indonesia is the eight largest country which has contributed to Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). Indonesia is also active in the UN Peace Building Committees to ensure the availability of post-conflict development resources. Indonesia's efforts are to bridge the conflict in the Middle East and to bridge communications between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

ASEAN

For Indonesia, the issue of ASEAN unity and centrality is an important issue. In 2017, ASEAN celebrated its 50th anniversary. Much has been achieved especially in creating an ecosystem for the stability of peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia. Indonesia is continuously striving to play

a role in maintaining ASEAN centrality as the main force in preserving stability and conflict resolution in the region.

It is ASEAN's challenge if ASEAN wants to be united and run its centrality. Indonesia continues to strive for its leadership role in ASEAN. Indonesia never stayed silent to respond quickly if there is a problem in ASEAN.

As an example, when security in Sulu and its surrounding waters was threatened, Indonesia initiated the Trilateral Cooperation. At the time the city of Marawi was attacked by terrorist groups, it also initiated Trilateral Meetings and Sub Regional Meetings to help the Philippines cope up with the situation and at the same time increase cooperation.

A contribution that was no less important was the success of ASEAN and China in agreeing to a framework of a code of conduct. This started the continuous negotiation of a code of conduct.

The Indian Ocean region did not escape the attention of Indonesian diplomacy. There

is already a lot of cooperation in the Pacific Ocean, and there is still much to optimize for maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

During its chairmanship, Indonesia has succeeded in encouraging maritime cooperation within the framework of IORA through the Jakarta Concord agreement. Indonesia has laid a basis and a new foundation in enhancing future cooperation with the establishment of the Jakarta Concord. Maritime cooperation was enhanced by the establishment of 8 bilateral cooperation agreements in the maritime field.

With the presentations that have been submitted, it is expected that the media can get a picture of what has been achieved and done and the challenges that exist. "Indonesian diplomacy continues to work without any clatter to struggle for national interests and also to contribute to the stability, peace, and prosperity of the world," Foreign Minister Retno said in closing the Press Briefing.

Three Main Highlights of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

In relation, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi conveyed three major highlights. "Of the many issues that we have handled, there are three things that stand out and are increasingly monitored by the wider community. The first thing is the humanitarian crisis that occurred in Rakhine. Second is Indonesian government assistance in support of Palestinian independence. Third is the diplomacy of protection for Indonesian citizens abroad," said Foreign Minister Retno.

In underlining Indonesia's actual role in dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State, Myanmar, Foreign Minister Retno said that there is a complex problem. Looking at the situation, the Indonesian government did not want to sit still and just talk, but chose to utilize its diplomacy mechanism.

"From the latest information we have gathered, the diplomacy mechanism proceeded continuously for the last six weeks. Indonesia was the first country to go to Myanmar and Bangladesh since the condition of Rohingya Muslims was initially threatened," said Foreign Minister Retno.

In order to overcome the problem, Foreign Minister Retno represented the Indonesian government and met with Myanmar and provided a 4 + 1 Formula. Indonesia's position was considered as a bridge for the two countries to discuss with each other.

Foreign Minister Retno said that three meetings were held between the two countries

ENTERING THE THIRD YEAR OF PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO'S GOVERNMENT, MANY ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY ITS LEADERSHIP MACHINE. ONE OF THE STEPS OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED IS THE EFFORT OF RI'S FOREIGN MINISTRY IN RUNING RI'S DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY GLOBALLY.



to discuss the issue since her arrival in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Another achievement of the Indonesian government in carrying out the diplomacy of foreign policy is RI's tangible support to achieve the

The third achievement is the government's step in providing protection to Indonesian citizens who are distributed abroad. Foreign Minister Retno recognized that the challenges being faced is getting bigger, however the Government of

government has completed a total of 27,341 cases of Indonesian citizens abroad. Among them, 144 citizens were freed from the threat of capital punishment, 181,942 WNIs who have problems were repatriated including overstayers, and

"ESTABLISHING AN INDONESIAN CONSULATE IN PALESTINE IS THE BEST WAY FOR US TO GET CLOSER TO THE PALESTINIANS"

FOREIGN MINISTER RETNO

independence of Palestine. Foreign Minister Retno said that Palestine is at the heart of Indonesia's foreign policy, in every Indonesian diplomacy there is always Palestine.

"Establishing an Indonesian consulate in Palestine is the best way for us to get closer to the Palestinians," Foreign Minister Retno said.

Indonesia continues heartily to carry out its commitment.

Foreign Minister Retno further explained that if Indonesian citizens encounter problems while abroad, the government has launched a mobile save travel to improve the quality of protection of Indonesian citizens.

In the last three years, the

evacuated 16,426 citizens from various areas of conflict, war, and natural disasters.

In addition, Indonesia also managed to free 31 Indonesian hostages from the Philippines and Somalia and restored the financial rights of Indonesian citizens valued at Rp 388 billion in the form of salaries that were not paid by their employers.[]

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdurrahman Mohammad Fachir, officially opened the “2017 ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp” (AYIC) at Darul Ulum High School (Unipdu) in Jombang, East Java, on 28 October 2017 morning.

The 2017 AYIC is part of the 50th Anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and is the first ASEAN youth activity held in an Islamic boarding school.

This time's implementation of the 2017 AYIC, the Directorate General of ASEAN Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in cooperation with the Government of Jombang and the ASEAN Study Center of Unipdu, Jombang. To disseminate ASEAN information and activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with educational agencies / institutions throughout Indonesia through the establishment of the ASEAN Study Center (PSA). Currently, there are 46 ASEAN Study Centers throughout Indonesia.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister AM Fachir, this theme is closely related to the Indonesian motto of “Bhineka Tunggal Ika”, which successfully framed Indonesia's diversity towards unity. AM Fachir continued that inter-religious dialogue plays an important role in facing one of the world's growing challenges such as the threat of radicalism and terrorism.

Lately, there are frequent conflicts of differences in various parts of the world in the name of religion, tribe, and race that potentially disrupt the stability of security, including Southeast Asia.

Therefore, the attitude of tolerance should be instilled to all levels of society, especially to youths as the next generation and agents of change.

2017 ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp (AYIC)

The 2017 AYIC aims to prevent intolerance and radicalism; provide ASEAN's youth access to information related to differences in religious practice and tolerance; and introduce tolerance in diversity in Indonesia.

In his speech, AM Fachir explained that as an Islamic student he remembered well how Islamic boarding school has taught him to be a moderate and tolerant, and how to live a balanced life. Work hard for the world but also remember charity for the hereafter. “That's the key to achieving serenity, a recipe for peaceful living,” says AM Fachir.

Furthermore, AM Fachir said that the community within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is at the heart of the ASEAN Community as a whole. And in this case, the ASEAN youth plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability in the region and bringing the people of ASEAN to prosperity.

It requires mutual understanding that can only be achieved through dialogue. “With this spirit, Indonesia has taken the initiative to promote inter-religious dialogue as a hallmark of diplomacy. For this reason, I want to use this opportunity to encourage you to be ambassadors of peace and tolerance,” said AM Fachir.

The activities of the 2017 AYIC took place on 28-30 October 2017 and attended by 150 youths from 21 countries, namely Indonesia, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand, Singapore,

Japan, Pakistan, Madagascar, Lithuania, Morocco, Egypt, Hungary, the United States, Tanzania, South Korea, Libya, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The 2017 AYIC is an interfaith dialogue forum for ASEAN youths facilitated through international conference activities; cultural performance; and field trips to various places of worship in Jombang, including Mosques, Churches, the Sleeping Buddha Statue, and Hong San Kiong Pagoda. This activity is one form of teaching participants about the importance of respecting and valuing religious differences.

Various places of worship

show the harmony and coherence among religious communities in Indonesia.

Harmony and peace are the main capital for regional prosperity, as aspired by the 2025 ASEAN Community vision.

The activities of the 2017 AYIC gave rise to the Jombang Declaration on Youth Tolerance and Action Plan. The declaration is a follow-up to the recommendations of ASEAN Leaders and also the views of the 2017 AYIC youth participants in contributing and cooperating in the fight against radical ideologies and movements in the name of religion that leads to security instability.

The declaration is also a form of support from the



2017 AYIC youth participants to increase tolerance among religious people and communities, despite ethnic, racial, and ethnic differences.

Jombang City

Jombang City has the motto "Jombang City of Faith", and in accordance with the motto, the city of Jombang is loaded with religious nuances. This can be seen from the many mosques and a number of Islamic student assemblies and boarding schools in several places.

With the number of Islamic boarding schools in Jombang, it has made this city famous as a City of Islamic student. Jombang is even believed to be the center of Islamic boarding schools in Java because almost all Islamic boarding school founders in Java were Islamic students in Jombang.

Some well-known Islamic boarding schools in Jombang

include: Tebuireng, Tambak Beras, Denanyar, dan Pesantren Tinggi Darul Ulum. The city of Jombang also gave birth to several prominent Muslim figures, such as KH Wahid Hasyim (National Hero), KH Abdulrahman Wahid (4th President of RI), Nurcholis Majid (scholar) and Cucuk Espe (artist).

As one of the strategic cities located at the intersection of the Northern and Southern Java traffic routes, with sugar cane as its main agricultural product commodity, Jombang was chosen to host the 2017 ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp (AYIC) which took place on 28-30 October 2017 in Universitas Pesantren Tinggi Darul Ulum (Unipdu) campus.

The 2017 AYIC is one of the activities undertaken to commemorate the 50th ASEAN Anniversary. Unipdu Islamic boarding school was chosen as the venue for the AYIC 2017

because Indonesia wants to convey to the world the image of a peaceful life in a pluralistic society in a country with the largest Muslim population in the world.

Through the interaction between AYIC participants and the students in Jombang, a sense of mutual understanding is expected to nurture in creating a peaceful, stable, and resilient world atmosphere.

The activities of the 2017 AYIC were held to coincide with the celebration of the Youth Pledge Day and was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and closed by the Minister of Social Affairs. Present in the activities were some other high-ranking state officials, such as Representatives from the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Human Rights who provided presentations related to conflict resolution and peace

in Indonesia. At the end of the event, the Vice President also expressed his views on the beauty of diversity in Indonesia.

In this activity, youths from ASEAN member countries and ASEAN partners discussed and dialogued on how to foster tolerance amid religious diversity through three sub-themes namely tolerance, balance, and moderate. And while in Jombang, the 2017 AYIC participants were given the opportunity to experience life as an Islamic student.

The Interfaith youth activity in the city of Islamic student is expected to promote mutual understanding between religions as a forerunner to the creation of a peaceful, stable, and resilient region.

This activity is also expected to further strengthen the role of Islamic boarding schools in the effort to promote peace in the ASEAN region and the international world, because the role of Islamic boarding school today cannot be denied.

Currently, Islamic boarding schools received special attention from President Joko Widodo. This is evident from the frequent visits by President Joko Widodo to Islamic boarding schools, and the enactment of the National Islamic Student Day on 22 October 2017.

The National Islamic Student Day is a momentum of recognition as well as a state award for the role of Islamic students, headmasters, and boarding schools, which have contributed greatly to the country, especially in fighting for Indonesian independence. This is what Douwes Dekker once said in his book: "If there are no Islamic headmasters and boarding schools, then Indonesia's patriotism could have fallen apart".[]



The 17th IORA Ministerial Meeting in Durban



The member countries of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) must continue to advance the IORA into a major collaborative platform in the Indian Ocean to maintain stability, peace, and security in the Indian Ocean region. This was stated by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, A.M. Fachir, in his opening remarks as Outgoing Chair at the 17th IORA Ministerial Meeting (PTM) of IORA in Durban, South Africa on 18 October 2017.

At the meeting, Indonesia officially handed the IORA leadership to South Africa after serving as the IORA Chair during the period 2015-2017. Indonesia's chairmanship started at the 15th PTM held in Padang in October 2015.

No longer serving as Chairman, Indonesia will however continue to play a role in advancing the IORA, particularly as part of the IORA

Troika, along with South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (Vice Chairman of the IORA 2015-2017 period).

Deputy Foreign Minister AM Fachir reiterated that the IORA has not fully utilized all the potentials in the region because it requires more active and solid cooperation between Member States, as well as with Dialogue Partner Countries and other international organizations.

Member States expressed high appreciation for Indonesia's leadership, which has enhanced IORA's profile and laid the foundation for strengthening future cooperation. During its Chairmanship in the IORA, Indonesia have attained major achievements, including the implementation of the first IORA Summit (Summit) and the ratification of the Jakarta Concord, which contains the vision of IORA leaders and the 2017-2021 Action Plan comprising tangible

activities and programs for the implementation of IORA priority issues.

On March 7, 2017, IORA convened a meeting of Heads of State / Government in Jakarta for the first time. "When Indonesia initiated the planned implementation of the IORA Summit in the framework of the IORA's 20th anniversary, it was viewed that its initiative was too ambitious. With the commitment and sincere efforts of member countries, the implementation of the summit was finally done successfully," explained Deputy Foreign Minister AM Fachir.

South Africa as the new Chairman of IORA will lead during the period 2017-2019. South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane expressed in his speech that South Africa's theme is "IORA - uniting the peoples of Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Middle East through enhanced cooperation for peace, stability,

and sustainable development."

The 17th IORA PTM has also ratified the Durban Communiqué, which essentially reaffirms the commitment of IORA Member States to follow up and implement the Jakarta Concord and IORA Action Plan, and encouraged Dialogue Partner Countries to further contribute to IORA cooperation.

The Jakarta Concord's vision is to encourage the strengthening of IORA cooperation to address new challenges in the region, including the affirmation of UNCLOS 1982 as an international law that must be obeyed.

The IORA Summit has also endorsed the Declaration on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism as a form of shared commitment to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism while promoting messages of tolerance, mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, diversity, and social cohesion.

"Indonesia has implemented various programs, including the Second Ministerial Blue Economy Conference in Jakarta in May 2017, the IORA Business Summit in Jakarta in March 2017, the 3rd Indian Ocean Dialogue in Padang in April 2016, and the 3rd Meeting of Medicinal Plants focal points of RCSTT in April 2016," said Deputy Foreign Minister AM Fachir.

In its two years of leadership at the IORA, Indonesia has stepped up comprehensive maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. Management of marine issues, which has become one of the priorities during Indonesia's chairmanship, is expected to be continued during South Africa's leadership.

In Intensifying Economic Diplomacy, the Foreign Ministry and Central Java Provincial Government



The efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve economic diplomacy is not only focused on economic activities abroad, but also done in the country such as by organizing the activity on Updates from the Region (UFTR).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Central Java Provincial Government has organized the Updates from the Region (UFTR): The Windows of Central Java at Hotel J.S. Luwansa in Jakarta On November 24, 2017. The UFTR is implemented to support the promotion of regional potentials abroad, especially trade, tourism, and investment.

The event was attended by approximately 150 invited guests consisting of diplomatic corps (31 embassies of friendly countries), representatives from Foreign Chambers in Jakarta, central KADIN and Jakarta, international and national businessmen, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Local Government of Central Java and the mass media.

In his opening remarks,

the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, among others, conveyed the President's high commitment in: (i) inclusive development based on economic growth in various regions including the eastern part of Indonesia (Papua), (ii) simplifying the investment process so that Indonesia's rank in the index of ease of doing business increases from 114 in 2015 to 72 in 2017, and increasing Indonesia's global competitive index from 41 to 36.

Meanwhile, the Governor of Central Java Province in his presentation said that economic growth rate in Central Java Province during the last 5 years, which exceeded the national economic growth rate, increased and export volume positively grew 5% per year on average for the primary commodities of processed wood, yarn, coconut oil products, furniture, garment and others.

The average annual increase in foreign tourist arrivals to various tourist destinations in Central Java was 9.78% and 7.89% for domestic tourists.

Investment through investment development regionalization increased at an average of 61% per year. There were 6 investment sectors namely infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, industry, property, mining, and energy.

The driving factors of investment in Central Java Province were: (i) diverse industrial estates, (ii) adequate infrastructure support, (iii) abundant labor at competitive wages; (iv) incentives such as tax allowance and tax holiday, and (v) ease of application of investment licensing and business start-up.

The Central Java Provincial Government with Bank Indonesia and the Central Java Chamber of Commerce through the "Keris Jateng" Forum (Economic, Trade, Investment and Central Java Tourism) cooperate in the dissemination of information on potential resources and investment as well as products of global competitiveness. The Keris Jateng website is also integrated with e-the commerce platform: "Sadewa Market", tourism

website: "Visit Jateng", and investment website: "Siap Jateng".

The UFTR also featured 39 exhibition booths and workshops from the Central Java Provincial Government and IKM Central Java, which were open to the public until 8 pm. The temporary calculation of the recorded value of exhibition sales transactions is more than Rp. 280 million.

Some of the explored businesses that were established during the UFTR were:

The Embassy of the United States will facilitate CV. Kina Citratama, a Jepara Furniture Company, to attend the Trade Expo in Los Angeles in September 2018;

The Embassies of Poland and South Africa will market Central Java products to their respective countries and invite companies in those countries to establish cooperation with companies in Central Java;

The Czech company is negotiating with Umiyako Central Java Company on canned traditional soy products worth Rp. 2.5 billion for initial delivery in 2018;

At the same time, a number of companies in Jakarta also offered to sell products produced by IKM Central Java in Jakarta such as Sabila Craft - Magelang, Coffee Cangkir - Rembang, Abon Koki - Purbalingga, Yuasa Food - Wonosobo, Roro Kenes Bag - Semarang, and Bawang Goreng Dua Putra - Brebes. []

Music Diplomacy–Holding the Skouw Cross Border Festival in Jayapura



To improve cross border image, the Skouw Cross Border Festival was held in Jayapura, Papua on October 31, 2017. One of the reggae groups from West Papua 'Dave Solution' appeared as guest star of the festival.

The appearance of the band, which is a successor to Black Brother Papua, is indeed remarkable. In the previous concert on October 5, 2017, they managed to entertain thousands of reggae fans in Papua. Thousands of people were present in the Skouw border area to watch Dave Solution's performance. The reggae group from West Papua proved to be very popular in Papua.

"Our principle is simple. We just follow the tastes of the market and we provide people's need," said Deputy of Marketing Development of the Ministry of Tourism, Esthy Reko Astuti, which revealed the reason for choosing the group as a guest star at this festival.

It also presented reggae musicians from the capital, including Dhyo Haw, the singer who mixed reggae with jazz, rock steady,

and pop music. Dhyo Haw performed with a saxophonist named Rivans and performed his main songs.

The reggae group from Papua New Guinea, 'Mixmate Band', as well as art performer Reog Ponorogo were also invited. It was all done to entertain the people of Skouw and Papua New Guinea.

Currently, Skouw market is not only the base of economic activities of the surrounding community.

The market in the border of Papua New Guinea, which is only about 300 meters from PLBN Skouw, has become more beautiful and has been transformed into a place of friendship for both countries.

So far, the PNG community chose to shop in the market that opens on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The price offered in this market is relatively cheaper and varied. The holding of the cross border festival on a regular basis had increasingly made citizens in both countries interested in conducting economic activities in the market.

Tourism Minister Arief Yahya admitted that tourism promotion through music is

very powerful, which bring tens of thousands of people. "We learned that from the experience of holding cross border events in Riau islands, West Kalimantan and NTT. In the cross border in Atambua, the Tourism Ministry has brought there Kikan, Slank, and Jamrud. In West Kalimantan, Wali and Cita Citata were brought in. All of them were able to bring tens of thousands of people," said Minister Arief Yahya.

The power of music is very influential. Music is a universal language capable of creating crowds. Holding

a reggae music event in Skouw is believed to make the cross border area grow. Meanwhile, Baseg and Holtekamp beaches near Skouw, with white and grey sands, are also believed to be uplifted and increasingly popular.

Today, many people are directing their eyes on destinations in the Pacific Ocean rim. "Cross border tourism has many benefits, especially on countries with land borders. The benchmarking can be seen from the Netherlands, which successfully brought in 18 million tourists, 13 million of whom came from neighboring countries such as Germany, Belgium, and France. Indonesia with many land borders, starting from Papua, NTT, and Kalimantan, is very likely to adopt the success of the Netherlands," said Minister.

"Economic effects will also be tremendous. If there are many Papua New Guineans who come and spend their money in Indonesia, the local people's economy will progress. The local economy will endure," said Menpar. []

Europalia Arts Festival, Presents Indonesia's Feature in Europe



Indonesian authors for discussions, among others Ayu Utami, Zubaidah Djohar, Intan Paramaditha, and Tan Lioe Le. Not to be missed were films by Indonesian filmmakers such as Garin Nugroho, Mira Lesmana, Nia Dinata, Riri Riza, and Mouly Surya, which were also viewed in this exhibition featuring film curator, Nan Curnas.

Indonesian Ambassador to UNESCO, Fauzi Soelaiman, who attended the opening ceremony, expressed his appreciation for the success of Indonesia as the festival's host and displaying its best

performance in front of the King and Queen of Belgium.

The colorful and smart feature of Indonesia amazed visitors when they watched the Saman Dance, one of Aceh's art dances that was listed in UNESCO as the Indonesian Cultural Heritage of the Year in 2011.

"I hope Indonesia will become the main destination of Europeans for vacation after being introduced in the Europalia Festival," said Ambassador Fauzi.

The opening of the 2017 Europalia Festival was enlivened with Indonesian cultural art performances so that the exhibition visitors were spoiled with a wealth of Indonesian art dances, including Losari Mask dance, Suara Papua, and ended with the Saman Gayo Lues dance which received a rousing welcome from the audience.

Indonesia's presence as host at the 2017 Europalia Festival has made Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi proud. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Retno said that the organization of this Europalia Festival can be exploited for the wider exposure of Indonesia. []

The Sigale-gale wood sculpture, which is almost the size of a man dressed in traditional Batak complete with Ulos cloth, is one of the artifacts that fill the Indonesian art exhibition with the theme "Ancestors and Ritual" in Brussels, Belgium.

The Sigale-gale statue, which is believed to have a relationship with the ancestors of the Batak community, is commonly found in front of the traditional houses of Samosir Island residents in North Sumatra.

Along with hundreds of other ancient artifacts from different regions of Indonesia, the Sigale-gale was featured at the art and culture festival of this year's "Europalia Arts Festival", which Indonesia had the honor of being "host".

While attending the opening of the festival, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde looked serious in observing each of the collections and carefully listened to the historian's explanation on each of the artifacts on display.

Also on display was the wooden

sculpture of Ana Deo from Flores, the statue of the Tau-Tau man from Tana Toraja to the stone statue of Sarkofagus from Minahasa, which is used to bathe corpses.

As many as 40 thousand tons of National Museum collections were brought to this exhibition to display Indonesia's feature in Europe. The Europalia Festival this time took place from October 10, 2017 to 21 January 2018 and was held in 45 cities in seven European countries, including Antwerp, Leuven, Gent, Brussels, Amsterdam, Den Haag, Krakow, Berlin and London.

During the exhibition, 290 events were also held supported by 316 Indonesian music artists, including Kande from Aceh, Rahayu Supanggah and Garage Art Benawa, Salawat Dulang and Saluang Dendang, Hip Hop Puppet and Ikke Nurjanah, Tesia Manaf and musical performances in the "60's & 70's of Indonesian Rock & Roll Night" in London.

In addition, the exhibition also presented a number of prominent

At the Brussels Center for Fine Arts (Bozar) in Rue Ravenstein, Brussels, Belgium on October 17, 2017, the opening of the Europalia exhibition entitled Power and Other Things (POT) was held. This exhibition will run until January 21, 2018.

The General Commissioner of Europalia Indonesia, Mrs. Shanti Poesposoetjpto, representing Indonesia at the opening of the exhibition, expressed hope that the exhibition can be appreciated positively and the involvement of various artists from Indonesia was to bring Indonesia's best work and be comprehended more positively.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by about 300 invitations consisting of artists, Belgian artists, and local journalists and covered by TV One, Metro TV, and Tempo correspondents based in Europe.

The POT exhibition became the second exhibition featured in Bozar after the first exhibition titled "Ancestors and Rituals" opened on October 10, 2017 and was first visited exclusively by the King and Queen of Belgium and

Indonesia Becomes the First ASEAN Country to Hosts the Europalia Festival

Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla and Mrs. Mufidah Kalla.

The opening of the exhibition in Bozar was part of the tradition of the Europalia Festival since it was first held in 1969, where Italy became the festival's guest country. Indonesia was the first ASEAN guest country and the fifth country in Asia to become a guest country at this festival after Japan (1989), China (2009), India (2013) and Turkey (2015).

A total of 21 artists from Indonesia and Europe showcased their works in the exhibition featuring artworks from 1835 to the present. The period of Dutch and Japanese colonialism, women and immigration positions were some of the things raised by artists to provide an understanding of Indonesia from the contemporary side.

The exhibition curators, Riksa Afiaty and Charles Esche, explained that the exhibition began with the work of three 19th-century artists Raden Saleh, Jan Toorop, and Emiria Sunarsa. Raden Saleh was the first Indonesian painter to leave his country and received European education in the Netherlands. He then returned to Indonesia to recognize his double identity.

Jan Toorop is an Indonesian-born painter who migrated to the Netherlands but continued to be in touch with his country. While Emiria Sunarsa spent all his life in Indonesia after having lived in Brussels.

The paintings and sketches of artists exhibited in this exhibition were collections from the Presidential Palace, National Gallery of Indonesia, OHD Museum, Nasirun Gallery, and S. Susjojono Center.

The exhibition also featured new works from Indonesian cross-generation artists, including FX Harsono, Agung Kurniawan, Mella Jaarsma, Saleh Husein, Maryanto, Antariksa, Dea Aulia Widyaevan, Leonardiansyah Allenda, Lifepatch, Timoteus Anggawan Kusno and Octora Chan.

Technically, the Indonesian artists are also qualified when compared with European artists, therefore art aficionados who came to this exhibition will be presented with the rapid development progress of Indonesian arts, and therefore this exhibition can be a cultural diplomacy matter through the works being presented.

One of the most important events in this POT exhibition series is the international symposium titled "Lupa Lupa Ingat: Imperial Zombies, Modern Vampires and Contemporary Ghosts" held at the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Brussels on 19 October 2017.

This symposium discusses the history of the conflict in Indonesia and how it relates to post-colonial history. The Symposium also delves deeper into the understanding of modern and contemporary arts in Indonesia and its internationalization. (Source: Indonesian Embassy in The Hague) []



RI's Minister of Foreign Affairs: D-8 Cooperation Must Be Directed to Bring Welfare to the People

"We must continue to make the D-8 organization remain a relevant economic platform, ensuring that it can contribute significantly to the welfare of the people," Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said in a speech at the 17th Ministerial Meeting (APM) of the Developing Eight or D-8 in Istanbul, Turkey on October 19, 2017.

Foreign Minister Retno said that the achievement of the D-8 cooperation has not fully utilized potentials and opportunities. Coupled with current uncertain global economic conditions, the economic development challenges of D-8 member countries are growing. Therefore, D-8 cooperation must continue to be strengthened in accordance with the mandate of the D-8 charter.

"We have to turn the D-8 into a stronger organization, doing real cooperation based on the D-8 charter," Foreign Minister Retno said.

Furthermore, in the future, Foreign Minister Retno stressed that D-8 cooperation should be directed to areas that can directly bring prosperity to all the people in member countries. The D-8 cooperation should also be emphasized on reducing the gap between the poor and the rich. This is important, given that economic poverty and inequality are often the root of the problems of cross-border crimes, including drug trafficking and terrorism.

"The fields of cooperation of the D-8 should be able to



reduce the gap between the rich and poor, such as in agriculture, MSMEs, infrastructure and connectivity, and maritime" explained Foreign Minister Retno.

Foreign Minister Retno also emphasized the importance of participation and wider involvement of the private sector including MSMEs in D-8's various economic cooperation. A strong synergy between the private sector and the Government can reduce development costs and increase the multiplier effects of economic benefits and development for the people.

"A strong government partnership with the private sector will enhance economic empowerment and strengthen private sector capacity including MSMEs," said Foreign Minister Retno.

In line with the theme

of the D-8 meeting under Turkey's chairmanship, which is "Expanding Opportunities Through Cooperation," Foreign Minister Retno also urged all D-8 member countries to expand opportunities through closer South-South cooperation.

Foreign Minister Retno stressed that strong South-South cooperation will be able to contribute in encouraging the independence of developing countries in economic development amid increasing global challenges.

The D-8 was created through the Istanbul Declaration on 15 June 1997, with members namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. The D-8 aims to rally the strength of Muslim countries in strengthening their economies to meet growing

global challenges.

The year 2017 marks 20 years of D-8 cooperation, which is the strengthening stage of the various instruments of cooperation and capacity of D-8 as an organization. During Turkey's tenure, six priority areas of cooperation have been established, which were trade, industry, agriculture, energy, transportation and tourism.

After the Ministerial Meeting, the D-8 Summit was held and attended by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as the host, Vice President Jusuf Kalla, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, President of Nigeria, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Vice President of Iran. The 9th D-8 Summit was expected to produce two final documents, namely the Istanbul Declaration of 2017 and the D-8 Istanbul Plan of Action. []

RI Foreign Minister: Contributing in Maintaining Peace Has Become Part of



Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi delivering a keynote address in an international seminar entitled “Building Indonesia’s Civilian Capacity and Its Role in Sustaining Peace” at Gedung Pancasila, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jakarta (27/10)

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno LP Marsudi, on October 27, 2017 delivered a keynote speech at an international seminar entitled “Building Indonesia’s Civilian Capacity and Its Role in Sustaining Peace” at Gedung Pancasila of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta. The seminar was held to commemorate the day the UN Charter was legalized, which marked the founding of the United Nations (UN) on 24 October 1945.

In her speech, Foreign Minister Retno said that Indonesia’s contribution in maintaining peace has become an integral part of its DNA. The mandate of the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution is manifested by sending peacekeeping troops.

“Indonesia is one of the largest contributors to the UN Peacekeeping Force,” Foreign Minister Retno said. At present,

Indonesia has sent more than 2,800 personnel serving in 9 mission areas. Among the 2,800 personnel, 64 personnel are female.

Based on experience, countries recently out-of-conflict often face problems in maintaining peace in their region. This is due to the lack of human resources needed to sustain peace such as teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers, and policy makers.

“In this case, human resources who have the capacity and experience for post-conflict peace building can complement military and police personnel,” said Foreign Minister Retno.

Indonesia has assembled various civilian experts, mainly in the areas of dialogue and reconciliation, democracy and good governance, law, and inclusive and equitable

development. Foreign Minister Retno stressed that Indonesia is committed to continuously contribute in sending civilian capacity in order to maintain peace.

One of Indonesia’s contributions in terms of uplifting civilian capacity building is the 2012 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on civilian capacity, which was driven by Indonesia and Canada. The resolution emphasizes, among others, national ownership of institutional development, national civilian capacity building, and capacity mobilization of developing countries.

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, USA, Indonesia and Norway recently initiated the South-South Triangular Cooperation to support development in post-conflict countries.

At the end of her speech, Foreign Minister Retno reaffirmed Indonesia’s nomination as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2019-2020 period. By being a part of the UN Security Council, Indonesia will be able to contribute even more for world peace.

“I count on your support for Indonesia’s candidacy in the UNSC,” said Foreign Minister Retno at the conclusion of her speech.

The seminar was attended by various circles and representatives of the United Nations and embassies of friendly countries in Indonesia. In addition to celebrating the 72nd UN Day, the seminar also aimed at raising public awareness about Indonesia and UN partnership, particularly on the peace and security agenda.

Diplomacy of Creative Industry Reflected in the Jakarta Fashion Week

“As a cultural product, traditional clothing such as Batik, Tenun, and Ikat are very closely related to Indonesian diplomacy,” said the Director General of Information and Public Diplomacy (IDP) of the Foreign Ministry, Cecep Herawan, after the opening of the 2018 Jakarta Fashion Week / JFW held on 21 October 2017.

Director General Cecep Herawan further revealed that the Jakarta Fashion Week event, which reflects the progress of creative industry

today, is in line with President Joko Widodo's directive on strengthening economic and cultural diplomacy.

As a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director General Cecep was requested to be one of the guests of honor at the opening session of the 2018 JFW, and together with Indonesia's Head of Creative Economic Agency Triawan Munaf and JFW Chairman Svida Alisyahbana, officially opened the 2018 JFW.

The JFW is the biggest

fashion weekend event in Indonesia and has been around for a decade. With the theme “Diversity and Work”, the 2018 JFW was held for a week starting on 21-27 October 2017.

In this year's event, the JFW did not only showcase the works of the country's designers but also works from the collaboration of local designers with foreign designers, including from Australia, Sweden, India, Japan, South Korea, and England. This collaboration is expected to be

a basis of Indonesia's mode of direction in the following year.

In addition to its cooperation with the National Craft Council in exploring traditional textiles, the JFW also works with the Australian Embassy, The British Council, Swedish Embassy, Korean Creative Content Agency, Korea Model Association, Japan Fashion Week Tokyo and the Fashion Design Council of India. []

The Entrepreneurship Training for Fiji is in the Framework of the South-South Cooperation

Innovation is important and a key strategy in winning global business competition in the future. Therefore, innovative knowledge and mindset is needed to improve business activities and create creative solutions in facing challenges.

The conclusion was summarized in the whole series of entrepreneurship training for Fiji, which was completed and closed on 11 October 2017 by Ambassador Ronny P. Yuliantoro, Officer of the Directorate General of Information and Public Diplomacy (IDP) of the Foreign Ministry and attended by the Director of Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Director of Ciputra Entrepreneurship Center.

The entrepreneurship training was aimed for foreign participants from Pacific

countries, especially the state of Fiji and participated by a number of entrepreneurs from Indonesia, as learning partners, in exchanging information and experiences.

In addition, the training raised the business incubation concept that aims to instill a creative and innovative entrepreneurial spirit in business development. The international entrepreneurship training activity was organized by the Directorate of Technical Cooperation, Directorate General of IDP of the Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Ciputra Entrepreneurship Center.

The entrepreneurship training activity was initiated through an international workshop on entrepreneurship in three phases conducted in November 2015, February-March 2016, and April 2017.

During the first and

second phases of the event, 14 participants have been invited from Fiji at each stage to meet and exchange views with participants from Indonesia.

For the third phase, Ciputra entrepreneurship experts were sent to Fiji to learn how Fiji participants manage and provide consultation on how to improve their businesses.

The event was then followed by the implementation of three entrepreneurship training sessions, “International Scale up Boot Camp 2017”, held in July, August, and October 2017.

This entrepreneurship training is one of Indonesia's development assistance in the framework of the South-South Cooperation in sharing entrepreneurship knowledge to Fiji.

Indonesia has shared much development assistance to Fiji, which is about 125 capacity

building programs that have been conducted since 1999-2016 and participated in by 540 participants from Fiji. The capacity building programs consisted of many sectors, including agriculture, small and medium enterprises, construction engineering, hydropower, disaster risk management and tourism.

Prior to the closing ceremony, the third training session of the “International Scale up Boot Camp 2017” was completed on the same day bringing in participants from Fiji to provide a clearer picture and information on Fiji's business activities and opportunities, which could be explored by participants from Indonesia. The event was attended by 15 Indonesian participants and two participants from Fiji. []

Socialization of the Indonesian Community Overseas Card (KMILN)

In an effort to empower and enhance the role of Indonesians abroad, adequate facilities are needed so they can actively be involved in economic, social, and cultural activities. With these considerations, on 3 August 2017, President Joko Widodo has signed Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 76 of 2017 concerning Facilities for the Indonesian Community Overseas (MILN).

The MILN is an Indonesian Community Overseas, a foreign citizen who is a former Indonesian citizen, and a foreign national whose one of his parents is an Indonesian citizen.

This was conveyed by the Director of Public Diplomacy, Al Busyra Basnur, at a meeting at the Indonesian Consulate General in Ho Chi Min City on October 15, 2017. Presidential Regulation No. 76 was followed up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia by issuing the Minister of Foreign Affairs Regulation No. 7 of 2017 on the Issuance and Revocation of the Indonesian Community Overseas Card (KMILN).

In the Presidential Regulation Number 76 of 2017, it is mentioned that the KMILN holder is an Indonesian Community Overseas which will be given facilities in the form of: opening an account at a commercial bank, owning property in Indonesia, and / or establishing a business entity in Indonesia in accordance with the provisions of legislation.

In addition to providing information on MILN and KMILN, the Director of Public

Diplomacy also conveyed various information and work programs of the Directorate of Public Diplomacy as an additional introduction

regarding the Directorate of Public Diplomacy, which in turn will strengthen the synergy and cooperation between the Directorate of Public

Diplomacy and the Consulate General of the HCMC. (Source: KJRI HCMC)

Young ASEAN Diplomats Develop Digital Diplomacy Capabilities

The Foreign Ministry continuously supports achieving the 2025 ASEAN Community Vision, among others, through programs that can help attain a people-oriented ASEAN Community with a higher quality of life.

One of the programs offered is the 9th Capacity Building on the Development of ASEAN Community, which will take place in Jakarta and North Sumatra on 6 - 15 November 2017.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn from diplomats, academics, and practitioners who will share knowledge about how the digital world, such as social media, is an important tool in helping diplomacy work in the era of real-time information just like at present.

Considering the rapid development of information technology, the theme Digital Diplomacy was considered

and utilized in order to support a more dynamic and strong ASEAN Community.

In addition, considering the role of ASEAN's young generation as the forefront of ASEAN diplomacy in the International Fora, the importance of capacity building and the quality of young diplomats is also realized. In enhancing the role of ASEAN, there is a need to start with young diplomats who are qualified and have competent capacities.

This was stated by the Director of the Foreign Service School (Monday, 6/11), Spica Tutuhaturunewa, when opening the 9th Capacity Building on the Development of ASEAN

Community in the Center for Education and Training.

This activity is an annual program of the Foreign Ministry's Center for Education and Training implemented since 2009 and was held this time with the theme "the Importance of Digital Diplomacy for ASEAN's Integration".

The participants were 13 young diplomats from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Timor Leste, and Indonesia. The opening ceremony was also attended by representatives from the Embassies of Laos and East Timor and the Directorate General of ASEAN Cooperation. []



Indonesia Urges International Community to Solve the Root of the Problem in the Flow of Refugees



Geneva, Switzerland: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) held the 5th Thematic Discussion process of compiling the Global Compact on Refugee in Geneva, Switzerland (15/11). The UN Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia in Geneva, Ambassador Hasan Kleib, stressed that the international community should take part in addressing the problem in the flow of refugees. According to Hasan, the problem in the flow of refugees comes mostly from countries of origin, whether they are security, economic, human rights or fundamental freedom.

Hasan added, "Although

the international community needs to continue to tackle the flow of refugees through voluntary repatriation to the country of origin, resettlement in a third country as well as reintegration in the transit country, but on the other hand, the international community should also seek to establish a safe, organized and lawful international migration channel."

During the meeting, Ambassador Hasan Kleib described in front of UN member state delegates the goals and achievements of the Bali Process, co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia, as a regional institution in the Asia Pacific region focusing on the prevention and eradication

of people smuggling and trafficking, as well as other relevant cross-country crimes.

Although the mandate of the Bali Process focuses on handling people smuggling and trafficking, the Bali Process also plays a role in capacity building, expertise, cooperation, and networking in the region. This has helped prepare the region for handling irregular migration, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, and encouraging the establishment of a safe and orderly migration channel in the Asia Pacific region. Therefore, Hasan asserted that the practice and arrangement of regional cooperation within the framework of the Bali Process can serve as a model

for a comprehensive refugee handling framework and action program at the Global Compact for Refugees.

Hasan, who served as chairman of the Bali Process for the period of 2012- April 2017, was specifically invited by the UNHCR to be a panelist and explain the role and contribution of the Bali Process in handling the refugee problem comprehensively. The UNHCR also observed Indonesia's role and leadership in the region in addressing the issue of safe international migration. The panel discussion presented a panel of representatives from regional organizations, namely ECOWAS, African Union, Organization of American States, Arab League, and the Bali Process.

The thematic discussions, which was attended by UN member states and relevant international stakeholder organizations, aim to capture the inputs of countries and international stakeholders in drafting the Global Compact on Refugee, which will comprise the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) document and Program of Action, to support the CRRF implementation. Scheduled for February 2018, the UNHCR was able to complete the initial concept of this Global Compact on Refugee document for re-consultation and approval by member countries at the UN General Assembly in September 2018. []

UN Appreciates RI in UN Peacekeeping Mission



VANCOUVER, CANADA - "AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE 2019-2020 UN SECURITY COUNCIL, INDONESIA WILL REMAIN COMMITTED IN SUPPORTING UN'S PEACEKEEPING MISSION. INDONESIA'S PEACEKEEPING CONTRIBUTION STARTED SINCE 1957, AND MORE THAN 2,600 INDONESIAN PERSONNEL ARE IN 9 MISSIONS", AS STATED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF RI'S MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN THE UN PEACEKEEPING DEFENSE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN VANCOUVER, CANADA (15/11)

The selection of Indonesia for the third time as a co-host on a similar meeting shows the appreciation of the United Nations and countries in the world for the rapid increase of Indonesia's active role in peacekeeping in the past 10 years.

The RI delegation at the meeting consisted of elements from the Ministries of Defense, Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Center for Maintenance of Peace, TNI Headquarters, PTRI New York, and RI representatives in Canada, namely the RI Ambassador in Ottawa and the Consul General in Vancouver.

The Vancouver meeting was aimed to acquire the commitment on new troop contribution from contributing countries to address capacity gaps in missions and seek innovative solutions to improve the effectiveness of the UN Peacekeeping Mission.

The meeting discussed 4 main areas, namely Smart Pledges; Innovation in Training and Capacity Building; Protecting Those at Risk; and Early Warning and Rapid Deployment. The meeting has also resulted in the Vancouver Communiqué containing policy recommendations on these 4 key areas to improve

peacekeeping performance and capability.

In the discussion session, the Indonesian Delegation conveyed the current focus of the Government of Indonesia, which is currently implementing the delivery of 1 TNI Composite Battalion to MINUSCA (800 personnel), 1 Formed Police Unit to UNMISS (180 personnel), and 100 Individual Police Officers to various missions.

"Indonesia also has some national capacities that is potential as a specialized contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Mission, such as medical counseling, military skills training, and capacity training in law enforcement for personnel of other countries, which are required in the mission", explained the chairman of RI's delegation.

The RI delegation also stated that the UN Peacekeeping Mission has been instrumental in supporting the capacity of host countries

in the conduct of civil protection. "As recommended by HIPPO, civil protection must be realistic in view of the challenges on the ground, and through broader political approaches", RI's delegation continued.

The importance of the strategic role of female peacekeepers has been an issue reinforced by the RI delegation. "The presence of female peacekeepers is very beneficial to the effectiveness of the mandate of civil protection in conflict situations," RI's delegation added.

The Secretary General of the Indonesian Ministry of Defense also had the opportunity to hold a bilateral meeting with the UN Under-Secretary General for Field Support, Atul Khare. In the meeting, UN's appreciation of the quality of Indonesian personnel deployed in 9 UN missions was conveyed. The meeting also discussed the strategy of increasing Indonesia's contribution in the future. A similar appreciation was also made by the Heads of Delegations of Egypt, Fiji, and Northern Ireland in a bilateral meeting with the Secretary General of the Indonesian Ministry of Defense.

The UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial Meeting took place on 14-15 November 2017 in Vancouver and was a follow-up to a similar meeting in September 2016 in London and the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015 in New York. []

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IORA Seminar and Indonesia's Role as a Maritime Gateway of the Middle East to the Pacific



Lampung: Indonesia's cooperation potential with Middle East countries is huge, both within the bilateral, regional, and international framework. Within the IORA framework, Indonesia cooperates with 3 IORA members, namely PEA, Oman, and Yemen. This was stated by Middle East Director Sunarko at the Seminar of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) with the theme: "IORA and the Role of Indonesia as Maritime Gateway of the Middle East to the Pacific" at Lampung University (13/11).

Sunarko added that Indonesia currently has three main priorities in the Middle East region and they are politics and security; economic, trade and investment; and the protection of Indonesian citizens.

"Indonesia-Middle East relations and cooperation continue to increase. This was characterized by the increase in visits between Heads of State and high officials, both from Indonesia and from partner countries. The visits resulted in a number of commitments,

including investment in infrastructure, energy, and tourism. In 2017, Indonesia received state visits from the King of Saudi Arabia and the Emir of Qatar," said Sunarko.

The IORA Seminar was organized by the Directorate of Middle East and Directorate of Regional Intra-Asia Pacific and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the University of Lampung (Unila). The seminar aimed to disseminate the results of Indonesia's IORA chairmanship in 2015-2017 as well as the role of IORA in strengthening cooperation between Indonesia and Middle Eastern countries.

The seminar was officially opened by Unila Rector, Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasriadi Mat Akin, and attended by Unila's FISIP Dean, Dr. Syarief Makhyar, 120 students from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of Lampung, especially the study program on international relations (HI), deans, lecturers, and academics from Unila. Attending as guest speaker was the Director of Middle East, Sunarko, the Functional Officer of KSIA Aspasaf, Asa

Silalahi, and Lecturers of Unila's Department of HI FISIP, Iwan Sulistyio and Gita Karisma. Acting as moderator was Aman Toto Dwijono, Head of the HI Department / Study Program of Unila.

In his speech, Unila's Rector explained the importance of cooperation in the maritime field, particularly for the development of logistics lines. "The theme of today's IORA seminar is very precise. It is time for Indonesia to increase its role in the Pacific region as a maritime gateway of the Middle East," said Unila's Rector. The Rector also added that Indonesia can presumably build international ports supported by maritime industries.

Meanwhile, Asa Silalahi, KSIA Aspasaf's Senior Functional Officer, said in his presentation that the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean are Indonesia's "front lawns". There is much potential for cooperation that Indonesia can develop within the framework of IORA. Indonesia's chairmanship in the IORA in 2015-2017 was utilized to lay the strategic foundations for

strengthening cooperation between Indian Ocean countries in the future.

The next resource person, Iwan Sulistyio, emphasized in his presentation the importance of IORA in marine / maritime security issues. It is important for the IORA to contribute in preventing and combating transnational security issues that pass through the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Furthermore, resource person Gita Karisma stressed that as a regional organization the IORA can be utilized to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of trade through the increase of food and textile exports and halal-certified products. He underlined that as an organization the IORA has still a number of challenges, particularly issues of conflict between members.

The seminar went on smoothly and received positive response from seminar participants as they were passionate in the discussion and question and answer sessions. The participants hoped that Indonesia's participation in the IORA can really be optimized to develop useful cooperation for Indonesia's national development. At the end of the event, the Head of the HI Study Program expressed his gratitude to the Foreign Ministry for trusting Unila to hold the Seminar. In the future, it is expected that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can organize similar activities because it is beneficial to the development of insights of Unila's students and academic community. []

Vice President Jusuf Kalla Receives Benevolence Award in the 2017 WECS



in the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, and the conflict in the Middle East, to the humanitarian problem in Myanmar, the refugee problem in Europe and to concerns on US policies under its current President," he said.

Moreover, the Vice

revolution provides an opportunity for developing countries such as Indonesia to take part, and in fact, some Indonesian startups are already known at the regional level. "But there are still negative impacts that need to be anticipated from this progress, which is unemployment, gaps and demand and supply imbalances" he said.

In ending his speech, JK called for the world community to increase cooperation and collaboration in overcoming these challenges. "We need to create a history that can inspire the next generation", said the Vice President.

In addition to Vice President JK, the 2017 WCES also presented the award to Hong Kong Chief Executive CY Leung and other community and professional leaders from other Chinese diaspora. The committee said that in addition to Vice President Jusuf Kalla, the Benevolence Award recipients of previous years included former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

In the Gala Dinner, present were Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin, the Special Envoy of the President for Dialogue and Interreligious Cooperation and Civilization, representatives of the Consulate General of Hong Kong and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN). []

Hongkong, China: Considered laudable and contributing greatly to conflict resolution and peace efforts, Vice President Jusuf Kalla was awarded the "Benevolence Award" by the ASEAN Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI), a Malaysian-based study institute.

The awarding ceremony was held in the Gala Dinner and awards night held in "The 9th World Chinese Economic Summit (WCES) 2017" in Hong Kong on Monday (13/11). The event was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and by more than 300 government and private representatives from around 30 countries.

In his initial remarks at the awarding presentation, ASLI Chairman Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah mentioned that as part of the WCES it rewards Chinese diaspora who is considered meritorious and contributes

leadership in various sectors. "But specifically for this Benevolence Award, we are awarding it to a non-Chinese dignitary who has contributed a lot in leading a society," he said.

Dr. Cheah explained that "benevolence" or virtue is the main concept that forms the moral values of Confucianism adopted in China. "We perceive that only basic moral values of goodness and character can one perform actions that are beneficial to the environment of the society," he explained.

Meanwhile, Vice President Jusuf Kalla in his acceptance speech delivered a video recording expressing his gratitude for the award. "This is a tangible form of our desire to create a world of peace and prosperity," the Vice President said.

Furthermore, the Vice President stated that the world is facing a very big challenge. "Starting from disagreements

President also said that the world community is entering a fourth industrial revolution characterized by the rapid development in the field of artificial intelligence, robotic technology, and "Internet of Things". "Similar to the previous industrial revolution, this fourth industrial revolution will also more or less change the global political and economic landscape," he explained.

As a result of such development, the Vice President said that the community will face a new challenge, which is unemployment caused by the replacement of manpower by machines. "In addition, the dominance of big technological companies will result in difficulties for small companies to compete," the Vice President said.

The Vice President believes that this fourth industrial



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cooperates with Google for MSME's Advancement in the ASEAN Market

Padang, West Sumatra: "Strengthening the domestic market and expanding ASEAN market by utilizing the internet" is relatively the message emphasized in the series of activities of the ASEAN Economic Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the West Sumatra Provincial Government, the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs, ASEAN Studies of Andalas University, as well as Google Indonesia in Padang, West Sumatra. (30-31 / 10)

The Expert Staff of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on Economic Diplomacy, Mr. Ridwan Hassan, together with the Head of Marketing on Small and Medium Business Google Indonesia, Farida Renata Heyder, conveyed the policy advice to the West Sumatra Provincial Government and the technical guidance on digitizing MSME's marketing to more than 175 participants.

The interest of West Sumatra Province to advance MSMEs digitally was re-emphasized by the Governor of West Sumatra, Prof. Dr. H. Irwan Prayitno, S.Psi., M.Sc. to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Google Indonesia. Through the

activity initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Google Indonesia will explore the opening of the Digital Gapura Program operation in West Sumatra Province for the development of micro and small medium enterprises (MSMEs) on a continuous basis.

Indonesia has actively entered the regional value chain of the ASEAN Economic Community. MSMEs and tourism are cross-cutting strategic sectors that are very superior but not well cultivated. With the establishment of a strong platform, it is expected that these sectors can improve Indonesia's competitiveness in ASEAN. Not only improve competitiveness, but Indonesia can gain maximum profit through the existence of the AEC.

Indonesia probably needs to create a model whose impact can directly touch people's need. Cooperation in the MSME sector in the ASEAN region has enormous value and contributes to increased income per capita, employment absorption, and open investment. But with the existence of the AEC, there are still many Indonesians who see the AEC as a threat to MSMEs in Indonesia. However, with sound

competence, the AEC is a great opportunity for Indonesia's tourism, MSMEs, and investment to penetrate a wider market.

In ASEAN, MSMEs are the backbone of the economy with the following statistics: i) their total number is 96% of all firms in the ASEAN; ii) labor absorption contribution is about 50-97%; iii) contribution to GDP is about 30-60%, and; iv) contribution to exports is around 19-31%. The largest number of MSMEs in ASEAN is in Indonesia.

In an effort to implement Indonesia's commitment in ASEAN and improve the efficiency and productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in this case represented by the Directorate of Economic Cooperation of ASEAN, strives to implement training program to policy makers, MSME players, and students as agent of change candidates for national economic issues in West Sumatra. Public lectures and training will be conducted in cooperation with relevant ministries and central government agencies, government universities, businesses, and MSMEs with high potentials. It is expected that through this program, the MSME sector in Indonesia, West Sumatera in particular, can gain knowledge, business practices, and more precise financing access to become part of the regional / global value chain (RGVC) MEA. []

Young Asian and European Diplomats Join Public Diplomacy Training



Head of Education and Training Center Eko Hartono opened Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative: 5th Face-to-Face Training on Public Diplomacy in Jakarta (9-13 / 10/2017).

Jakarta - The series of activities of the Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative: 5th Face-to-Face Training on Public Diplomacy took place in Jakarta on 9-13 October 2017. The Head of the Center of Education and Training, Eko Hartono, accompanied by the Director of Inter-trade and Interregional Cooperation of America and Europe, Dewi Gustina Tobing, and the Deputy Executive Director of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Mr. Sun Xiangyang, opened the activities involving young Asian and European diplomats, (9/10).

The series of training activities was attended by 23 young diplomats from 18

Asian and European countries coming from Indonesia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, New Zealand, Vietnam, China, India, Mongolia, Portugal, Switzerland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative: 5th Face-to-Face Training on Public Diplomacy was the result of the cooperation between the Directorate General of America and Europe and the Center for Education and Training of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Asia-Europe Foundation, DiploFoundation and National Center for Research in Europe (NCRE). Before the face-to-face training activities were conducted, participants first

attended an intensive online training for 8 weeks with a rigorous and selective assessment system.

In his speech, the Head of the Center for Education and Training said that the Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative demonstrated Indonesia's commitment to encourage increased connectivity in ASEM, in the areas of youth, education, and culture. Participants were expected to share their experiences and gain a better understanding of the experiences of ASEM partner countries in optimizing regional cooperation forums. Meanwhile, the Deputy Executive Director of ASEF

has expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for willing to host the event that began in 2013.

At the opening ceremony, some participants from Europe and Asia also expressed their positive impressions on this activity because it is considered very useful in building network and understanding that can bridge various differences in their attitudes and perspective on various issues discussed.

During 4 days of training, participants will gain knowledge and comprehension on diplomacy from international and Indonesian experts from various backgrounds, such as from DiploFoundation, the National Center for Research in Europe, University of Canterbury, Le Temps and Le Figaro, European Parliament, University of Indonesia and Universitas Gadjah Mada and senior diplomats from Indonesia and Switzerland. During their stay in Jakarta, the participants will also be invited to visit some tourist attractions such as museums, Kota Tua, and Taman Mini Indonesia Indah.

The Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative is an initiative developed by ASEF since 2013 to support the implementation of one of ASEM's pillars, which is culture and youth. ASEF is the only body in ASEM that was established to implement various thematic programs discussed and approved by 53 ASEM partners including Indonesia.