



Consulate General of
The Republic of Indonesia
Melbourne

INDONESIAN NEWSLETTER

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JAN-MAR 09

Three big events Indonesia proudly participated

Almost every year, Indonesian Consulate in cooperation with Indonesian Community in Melbourne participates in three big events held in Victoria. The first is Australia Day on 26 January, Pako Festa in Geelong on 28 February and Moomba Festival on 9 March. On Australia Day, the Indonesian Contingent performed various traditional art and culture. About 40 members of the Indonesian team, most of whom were Indonesian Monash University students dressed in colourful traditional clothes from different region of Indonesia. On 28 of February, the Indonesian Contingent performed South Sulawesi wedding procession accompanied by dances and colourful

traditional dress from some regions of Indonesia including the music of Angklung (bamboo music instrument).

Moomba Festival, one of the biggest cultural festivals in Australia, was held on 9 March showcasing cultural performances, fireworks and parade. This year Moomba theme is creatures. Melbourne community from different background, ethnic, beliefs associated as creatures. The Indonesian Contingent performed as “the Eye” of the body of creatures. A big giant Barong Bali dance accompanied by a noise sound of Ceng-Ceng Balinese Gamelan played by Mahindra Bali successfully attracted thousands of audiences.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since the beginning of 2009, many things have happened to us, both good and bad. We shall be thankful that the good things are still abundant upon us.

According to the Chinese belief, the year 2009 is the year of the Buffalo which means 2009 is the year to work hard. In the first three months of this year, the Indonesian Consulate and the Indonesian community in Melbourne have been working hard to enhance bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Australia by strengthening people-to-people relations through social, art and cultural promotions. We have been involved in seven big events in Victoria. At the beginning of the year, we joined hundreds of other community groups in Melbourne to celebrate Australia Day continued on February Indonesian Contingent for the Pako Festa in Geelong. Shortly after that, we participated in one important Australian multiculturalism event by displaying the Giant Barong at Moomba Festival. Not less interesting was Indonesian Festa held at the Immigration Museum showcasing Indonesian art and culture, workshop and traditional culinary. Other events were the Clayton Festival, Holiday & Travel Expo, Alun-Alun PPIA, Festival Indonesia Gippsland community and public lectures. One other important event was when the Indonesian Consulate and Indonesian Community in Victoria welcomed the new Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Mr. Primo Alui Joelianto who succeeded H.E. Mr. Hamzah Thayeb.

Indonesia is not only the biggest economy in Southeast Asia but also the country with largest Muslim population in the world. It was naturally chosen by US Foreign Minister Hillary Clinton to use the "smart power" to form a comprehensive partnership with Indonesia. Meanwhile, in the bilateral sector, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd during the recent Australia-Indonesia Ministerial Forum stated that Indonesia is not just a neighbour of Australia, but also a friend. During the bilateral meeting between trade ministers of Australia and Indonesia that preceded the Australia-Indonesia Conference, bilateral free trade area was the most important point to be discussed. A key component of

the future agreement is to ensure that the benefits of a better investment climate would also accrue to the recipient country. Indonesia's agriculture sector is one potential area where Australia could help in return for the opening up of the dairy and beef sectors to Australian investors.

The Indonesia Consulate with Indonesian Community in Melbourne would like to express our deep condolences to those who were affected by the recent bushfire disaster. In order to contribute to the recovery of bushfire victims the Indonesian Consulate initiated a fund raising event on 12 February 2009. We hope that the things we do here could further assist in reaching the aim of stronger people-to-people relations between Australia and Indonesia.

Selamat membaca!



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Clinton's visit to Indonesia aims at improving tie with Muslim world



Hillary Clinton's visit to Indonesia as the new U.S. Secretary of State was aimed to improve the ties between the United States and the Muslim world. Since Barack Obama was inaugurated as the U.S. president, his administration has launched a new diplomatic strategy, which attaches more importance to the relations with Asia and the Muslim world. Indonesia, not only the biggest economy in Southeast Asia but also the country with largest Muslim population in the world, was naturally chosen by Clinton to use the "smart power" to form a comprehensive partnership with. At the joint press conference with Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda in Jakarta on Wednesday, Clinton said that the United States was willing to reach out the entire world to develop a common future.

She said Indonesia as a predominantly Muslim country, can play a leading role in bridging the West and Muslim world, because it is the third largest democracy in the world that had clearly demonstrated that Islam, democracy and modernity not only could co-exist but also were tied together. She said that Indonesia and the United States share not only common interests on the range of regional and global issues, covering environmental protection and climate change, trade and investment, democracy promotion, healthy, education, regional security and counter terrorism, but also common values.

That is why the United States provided a proposal to the Indonesian government to consider where both sides can engage in negotiations on broader issues, such as supporting Indonesia to restore economic growth and prosperity. Clinton even ingratiated her country with Indonesia by mentioning Obama's four-year experience in Jakarta in 1960s. She said that the president learned how people with different culture backgrounds live together peacefully.

Analysts here said that Clinton was trying to show sincerity of the United States to Indonesia that Washington expects Jakarta to play in nurturing the close and good relations between the United States and the Muslim world. Local analyst Aleksius Jemadu said that under Obama's administration, bilateral relations between the United States and Indonesia will become a new barometer in the whole reconstruction of U.S. ties with the Muslim world, according to the Jakarta Post on Thursday. Jemadu said that together with Indonesia, whose workable compatibility between Islam and democracy is a real diplomatic asset, the United States can do a lot of things to marginalize the voice of the radical side of Islam all over the world. Thus, he predicted that Obama will choose Indonesia as the place for him to deliver an important speech for that purpose within this year. However, the development may be not as rosy and smooth as expected. Most Indonesians, especially the Islamic constituents, will not applaud the new U.S. government too early, before it can fulfill all its promises especially with regard to the resolving of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, said Jemadu.

The Jakarta Post also quoted the Indonesian analyst Jusuf Wanandi as saying that Indonesia is a decent democracy that appears to be the most stable one in Southeast Asia, and its economy has been stabilized, and the military has been placed back in the barracks, and regional conflicts, especially in Aceh, have been resolved peacefully. So, Wanandi said that Washington could establish strategic relations with Indonesia to strengthen regional security in the East Asian region, promoting a peaceful maritime environment through

cooperation on the important straits in the waters of the Indonesian archipelago, structuring a stable balance of power in the region, regaining credibility in the Muslim world, and developing a stronger framework to counter terrorism and extremism. (Xinhua)

UK says RI can help 'influence' Middle East

During a seminar at the Center for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations in Jakarta, State Minister of the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office Bill Rammell stated that he believed Indonesia could play a major role as an intermediary between Western Countries and the Middle East. He reasoned that Indonesia could leverage its influence with members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to convince them to show the same unity in diversity, the same tolerance and willingness to seek compromise that has proven successful in Indonesia for a long time. Rammell also emphasized that Indonesia is unique in its ability to show that being a nation with devoted respect for religion does not mean we have to pander to those who wish to force one religion or one version of religion on others. The speech came after a closed meeting with Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda which mainly discussed cooperation on foreign policy in the Middle East.

But Rammell later faced difficulties in convincing the wary CDCC audience of his vision of Indonesia's role in conflict resolution and was met by a flurry of tough questioning regarding Britain's policy on Gaza and how exactly Indonesian "influence" would support peace agreeable to Palestinians.

Rammell said Indonesia is rightly supporting the Palestinian people as they are doing in the United Kingdom and although the British government would like to recognize Hamas it would involve steps to be taken on the part of Hamas. He also said that while the UK didn't support the force with which

Israel responded to Hamas attacks during the war in Gaza, the UK was committed to maintaining an alliance with Israel because it has a right to exist and that is recognized by the vast majority of countries internationally. He added that it is also a democracy and that its actions and its compromises are fundamentally necessary to try and get the security desired by all of us. (The Jakarta Post)

Japan invites Indonesia for security talks

Japan's Defense Ministry invited Indonesia to attend an informal regional security talks it would host for the first time in the middle of March 2009. It was going to be an informal meeting and the first of its kinds since Japan had its defense ministry, according to Col. Neno Mamriono, defense attaché at Indonesia's Embassy in Tokyo. Japan's Defense Ministry was officially established on Jan. 9, 2007. Before then, the Japan Defense Agency had managed the country's security and defense issues for 53 years.

Neno Mamriono said Indonesia would send Lt. Gen. Safrie Sjamsoeddin, secretary-general of the Indonesian Defense Ministry, to the security talks. The informal talks would discuss regional security issues, including those affected countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) such as the rampant piracy cases at the Malaka Straits which borders a number of ASEAN countries. Japan has interests in the security of Malaka Straits because 60 percent of its energy supplies are going through the straits. (The Jakarta Post)

Indonesia and Australia heading to higher level of bilateral relationship

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd during the recent Australia-Indonesia Ministerial Forum stated that Indonesia is not just a neighbour of Australia, but also a friend. Rudd and the President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met on seven occasions in 2008 alone. He stated that the strong relationship between the two countries went back to 1947 when Australia decided to take the Indonesian side in a negotiation with the Kingdom of the Netherlands which was the colonial power in Indonesia. Since then, Indonesia has developed into a very unique nation with strong and vibrant democracy and economy. According to Rudd, the fact that Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world and the biggest economy in Southeast Asia has made it more important for Australia to build stronger ties between the two neighbours. Living harmoniously with a neighbouring Muslim country and working together in close cooperation would send a strong message to the world.

Prime Minister Rudd also said that his good friendship with President Yudhoyono would encourage Australia and Indonesia to work together not only in bilateral terms but also in addressing the wider and more global problems of the world. He believed there is a great spirit of goodwill across the peoples of the two countries, and it has been reflected in their responses to the recent natural disasters both in Australia and Indonesia. The challenge ahead is to enhance greater dialogue and understanding in terms of faith and belief. According to Rudd, to achieve that from the Australian point of view, Australia needs to do better, a lot better, in their level of Indonesian language study, in development of Indonesian studies within their universities and in their schools and their understanding of the enormous complexity that is Indonesian Islam.

During the bilateral meeting between trade ministers of Australia and Indonesia that preceded the

Australia-Indonesia Conference, bilateral free trade area was the most important point to be discussed. During their joint press conference, Minister Mari Pangestu of Indonesia underlined the importance of capacity building. She called it a key component of the future agreement to ensure that the benefits of a better investment climate would also accrue to the recipient country. She specifically mentioned Indonesia's agriculture sector as one potential area where Australia could help in return for the opening up of the dairy and beef sectors to Australian investors. Her Australian counterpart Simon Crean underlined the importance of creating the right environment for Australian investors. He pointed at the fact that investment could lead to better access to the global supply chain as well as to markets.

Indonesia is Australia's fourth largest trading partner in ASEAN, a rank that prompted Crean to describe a trade relationship that is "underdone." Two-way trade in 2007/8 reached A\$10.3 billion, according to Australian official figures. Australian investment in Indonesia was valued at A\$3.4 billion at the end of 2007. Neither minister was willing to put a time frame on when the comprehensive economic agreement would be signed, in spite of the numerous meetings they have had in the past year. Crean however agreed that moving toward more free trade would be the best course to lift countries out of the current economic crisis. However, to address concerns at home about the possible negative impact on Indonesia's own industry, Pangestu said the two countries have agreed to put the sensitive sectors as the last to be liberalized under the free trade agreement. (The Jakarta Post)

Ministry proposes low duty on imported raw materials of textiles

The Industry Ministry of Indonesia has proposed a cut in duty on the import of raw materials of textiles to increase the competitive edge of the commodity. "It is true we have proposed a cut in duty on the import of raw materials of textile products which have strong market such as batik," Industry Minister Fahmi Idris said at a working meeting with the House of Representatives (DPR) Commission VI last month. He said Indonesia's textile products which had good competitiveness in the global market were among the commodities affected by the current global financial crisis. "So, it is necessary to seek a solution to the matter. And lowering duty on the import of raw materials is one of the solutions," he said. Textiles and textile products are one of the country's main foreign exchange earners. (Antara)



Wood Carving



Weaving Ikat Cloth



Mask Painting



Compulsory education to achieve 98 percent in 2009

National Education Minister Bambang Sudibyo is optimistic that the nine-year compulsory education program will achieve 98 percent of the target of the 2005-2009 National Education Development's strategic plan coverage this year. "The compulsory education program for junior high school students has achieved 95 percent of its target in 2008, especially in major provinces," Minister Sudibyo said when officially opening the 2009 National Education Conference at Depok, West Java, on Monday. Some obstacles facing the national compulsory education program included a geographical problem and a lack of parents' awareness of education importance for their children, he said. The coverage achieved in the compulsory education program was 85.22 percent in 2005, 88.68 percent in 2006, 92.52 percent in 2007 and 96.18 percent in 2008.

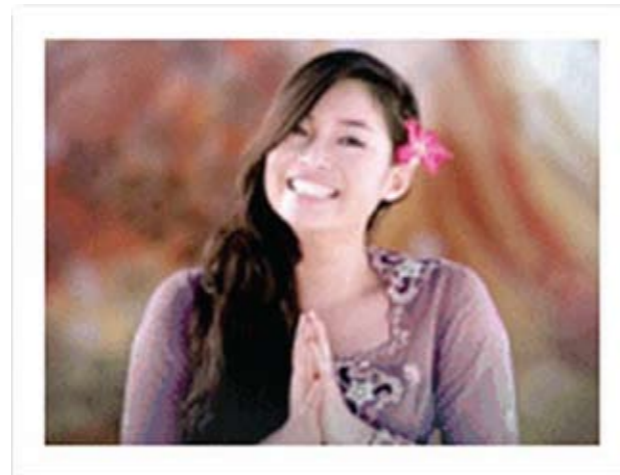
Ten provinces which have achieved the highest coverage percentage, were Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Riau Islands, Riau, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD), West Sumatra, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), Bengkulu, Bali, and East Java, Suyanto, the director general of elementary and intermediate school management, said. Ten provinces having the lowest coverage percentage were West Kalimantan, Southeast Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Gorontalo, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Papua, West Papua, and South Sumatra. The education ministry would focus on providing education services to around 963,891 children aged between 13 and 18 years old, or 7.48 percent of those not yet covered by the compulsory education program, he said. (Antara)



Borobudur



Balinese Dancer



Menikmati Indah Pantai Santolo Garut



Siapa bilang Garut tidak memiliki objek wisata seindah Pulau Dewata? Bagi mereka yang pernah mengunjungi Pantai Santolo, Pemeungpeuk Garut Selatan, bisa jadi akan mengatakan Pantai Santolo yang konon lebih indah dari Kuta Bali.

Pasirnya putih. Sepertinya lebih putih dari pasir di Pantai Sanur atau di Kuta. Tak ada bebatuan besar sepanjang pantai. Yang ada hanya bentangan pasir putih sejauh mata memandang. Ada beberapa ongkongan sampah, karena pantai itu memang belum diurus dengan baik oleh pemerintah setempat. Air lautnya jernih. Ombaknya menggulung membubung tinggi, bertubi-tubi menghantam bibir pantai. Bunyi deburannya memecahkan keheningan sekaligus menghilangkan penat, dan stres.



Banyak orang menyebut suasana Pantai Santolo ini mirip seperti suasana Pantai Kuta di era 1970-an yang masih bersih dan sepi. Kuta di era 1970-an, khususnya di lokasi yang jauh dari jalan utama Legian, tidak ada aktivitas dan keramaian yang berlebihan. Di sana hanya ada beberapa penduduk setempat yang sibuk dengan upacara adat dan keagamaan. Selebihnya, beberapa turis asing yang mandi matahari.

Pantai Santolo juga seperti itu. Seperti Pantai Kuta di era 1970-an. Sepi dan tenang. Hanya tampak sejumlah anak-anak sekolah yang mencoba bermain dengan ombak, dan menikmatinya dalam keluguan mereka.

Sewa Perahu

Bila ingin menikmati ombaknya, serta panorama di tengah laut, para pengunjung bisa menyewa perahu. Di sana banyak nelayan tradisional pencari ikan di Samudera Hindia. Kadang-kadang mereka melaut sampai di dekat Pulau Krismas Australia. Tidak jarang mereka ditangkap. Di laut lepas itu memang cukup indah. Tetapi bagi pengunjung yang ingin menikmati panoramanya, bisa menyewa perahu tradisional dan bepergian untuk beberapa jam dari pantai.



Untuk mengunjungi pantai tersebut, orang harus menempuh perjalanan cukup lama. Dari Garut menuju Pemeungpeuk akan ditempuh sekitar lima jam. Jalannya berliku melewati kebun teh. Pemandangan di areal pegunungan hingga menuju ke selatan di pinggir pantai cukup indah. Orang tidak hanya menikmati pantai selatan yang indah, tetapi dihibur adanya objek wisata lain sepanjang perjalanan. Misalnya ketika melewati kebun teh yang ada di kiri, kanan jalan. Selain itu masih ada beberapa objek wisata lain yang cukup menarik. Di antaranya, pemandangan air terjun Neglasai. Wisata air terjun ini letaknya di atas gunung. Orang bisa menikmatinya dari areal kebun teh.

[SP/Mike Wangge]

Source : Suara Pembaharuan : 27/3/09

Romance, serenity at the Water Palace

The Jakarta Post, 01/22/2009 Surfing Bali



Culture: A view over the ponds of the Soekasada water palace, with the garden compound in the background. (JP/Retno K. Djojo)

If you're hungering for a taste of history, art and culture, you will get a good dose in Karangasem regency, in the eastern part of Bali, which is rich in examples of the island's cultural heritage. Taman Soekasada or "The Water Palace" in Ujung is one of Bali's finest such cultural treasures. It is, in short, an astounding architectural and cultural jewel not to be missed.

The 12-hectare water palace complex some 5 kilometers south of Amlapura, the capital of Karangasem, is ringed by an ornate fence. The three big pavilions float on a serene lotus pond, connected by bridges, creating an intriguing and romantic atmosphere.

The palace was designed and constructed under the patronage and protection of Karangasem's last king, Anak Agung Anglurah Ketut Karang Asem, in 1926. The late ruler, a learned and well-traveled man,

modeled Soekasada on the Versailles Palace in France.

It was originally intended as a meeting place and guesthouse for delegates of the Dutch government and dignitaries of other countries visiting tropical Bali.



Serenity: The still waters of a lotus pond in the Soekasada water palace, East Bali, surround one of the pavilions. (JP/Retno K. Djojo)

The wide windows of the pavilions look over the palace waters, testimony to the late ruler's passion for harmonizing nature and art. As a culturalist with

an international perspective, he blended traditional motifs with modern materials, and balanced Western-style geometry with a Balinese sense of place and symbolism. To ensure his cultural vision materialized, he personally oversaw work at the construction site. A visit is memorable: Take in the exotic blend of western and Middle Eastern architectural styles enlivened with intricate Balinese carvings, or stroll under the Middle Eastern flavored archways held up by elegant Italian columns, or pause a moment in a walkway shaded by frangipani and mango trees.

The highest point in the park affords a marvelous view over the distant Lombok Strait and the lush green hills of Mt. Rinjani in Lombok. The view north is a breathtaking panorama of rice terraces set against the backdrop of the mighty Mt. Agung.

Soekasada sustained severe damage during the eruption of Mt. Agung in 1963 and the earthquake in 1975.

Because of the future of Bali's rich art and cultural heritage lies in its past, intensive restoration work was carried out from 2000 to 2004 by members of the Karang Asem court. Thanks to these efforts, one of Bali's finest examples of its cultural heritage has been saved.

-- Retno K. Djojo



Taman Ayun Temple



Candi Prambanan



Rumah Gadang

Indonesia's assistance to bushfire victims in Australia



The Indonesian government sent a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team to Australia last month to help in the identification of dead victims of the recent bushfires in Victoria which claimed more than two hundred lives. The team consisted of seven personnel, including Director of DVI Indonesia, Musaddeq Ishaq.

The Consul General of Indonesia for Victoria and Tasmania, Budiarkan Bahar, also explained that his office organized a function for members of the Indonesian community in Melbourne to raise funds to help the bushfire victims. Regarding the fate of some 20,000 Indonesians living in the state of Victoria during the four days the bushfires lasted, Bahar said so far there had been no report that any of them was affected by the calamity.

But the Consulate General was continuously monitoring the admission of bushfire victims into several local hospitals to take immediate action if there were Indonesians among them, he said. The bushfire victims were among others found in the areas of Kinglake, Kinglake West, St. Andrews, Wandong, Callignee, Hazelwood, Jeeralang, Humevale, Bendigo, Upper Callignee, Long Gully, Strathewan and Arthur's

Creek. Indonesian people generally live in an area located between Melbourne and Geelong but the consulate general in Melbourne was also monitoring the situation of Indonesians living in other small towns near the bushfire stricken areas'

Indonesia Festa at the Immigration Museum



A party for the people, "Indonesia Festa" was held by the Immigration Museum of Victoria in cooperation with the Indonesian Consulate and the Indonesian community in Melbourne. The event was held at the Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne, on 15 March 2009 as a community engagement program and part of multiculturalism in the city of Melbourne.

Almost all elements of the Indonesian community in Melbourne participated with various displays of art and cultural performances such as dance, music, pencak silat (traditional self defence), gamelan, wayang kulit, angklung (bamboo instrument), traditional Indonesian food stall, Indonesian film screening, workshop and Batik Fashion Show which was coordinated by Dharma Wanita Persatuan of the Consulate.

Dangdut music also enlivened the event. One popular dangdut band called "the Bandrex" performed with an Australian dangdut singer, Mr. John, who sang pop song "Jujur" in dangdut version.

In his address, the Indonesian Consul General Budiarkan Bahar expressed his high appreciation to the parties that organized Indonesia Festa. He emphasized that Australia as a multicultural country rich in diversity is enhanced by the different types of cultural performances from various regions in Indonesia. It is expected that a true feel of the Indonesian tradition can be deeply felt by the visitors particularly the locals.



Whilst enjoying the atmosphere of Indonesia, visitors could also see the historical development of multiculturalism in Australia. The museum is a witness of the success story of multiculturalism, including information about the displacement of indigenous Australians, the White Australian Policy and the story of immigrants in Australia at the beginning of last century. Australia is known as a country which has the biggest percentage of immigrants in the world. In Melbourne itself there are more than 240 tribes, 180 languages and 80 religions/beliefs.

On that day in this heritage building, thousands of visitors were pampered by arts and delicious foods. Ms. Mirah Lambert, Program Manager for Community Engagement at the Museum, it was sold 1,099 tickets were sold on that day. Normally on Sundays the

museum has only around 300 visitors. Visitors greatly enjoyed the event, which began 11 am and finished at 4pm.

Indonesia Festa is a very good example of promotion of art and culture. It shows a great trust to the Indonesian community by the Immigration Museum in Melbourne as not many communities get the opportunity to hold such event. This event also contributes to efforts to strengthen the people-to-people relations by enhancing socio-cultural understanding and strengthening broader relationship between the two countries.

Meet new Ambassador for Australia and Vanuatu



The New Indonesia Ambassador for Australia and Vanuatu visited Melbourne and met with the Indonesian Community in Victoria. Mr. Primo Alui Joelianto was appointed by the President of the Republic of Indonesia as an ambassador at Canberra. In his speech, Mr. Ambassador said that he would work together with the Indonesian Community to enhance bilateral relationship between Australia-Indonesia. One of the efforts is through people to people relation. According to Mr. Joelianto, "ambassadors at the front line" who directly interact with local people.

GALLERY

Australia Day , 26 January 2009



Interfaith Dialogue, 27 February 2009



Pako Festa, 28 February 2009



GALLERY

Moomba Festival, 9 March 2009



Indonesia Festa, 15 March 2009



Melbourne Holiday and Travel Expo, 21-22 March 2009





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