

# Indonesia News & Views

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## YOGYAKARTA

It stretches from the slopes of mighty Mt. Merapi in the north to the wave-swept beaches of the powerful Indian Ocean to the south. It was the mighty Javanese Empire of Mataram, Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat.

Yogyakarta came into being in 1755, when a land dispute split the power of Mataram into the Sultanates of Yogyakarta and Surakarta (Solo).

source: [www.my-indonesia.info](http://www.my-indonesia.info)

## Why Indonesia and Its ETF Are Emerging Market Leaders

Indonesia's economy, along with its related ETF, has been one of the top performers this year as the country maintained its self-reliance as it coped with the global recession.

How did Indonesia do it? Indonesia's economy grew 4.2% in the third quarter from a year earlier as the economy was bolstered by consumer confidence, increased domestic spending

and a stable political climate. Unlike many other Asian countries, Indonesia's economy was not fettered by the dip in global export demand ... (continued to page 1)

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- ♦ "...Indonesia and other developing countries are pushing for a legally binding treaty to protect their precious natural resources and cultural heritage..." (page 11)
- ♦ "...participants of the climate change meeting would fully support the Indonesian commitment by providing the country with funds to deal with the impact of climate change." (page 15)

## Useful links of Indonesia:

Government

[www.indonesia.go.id](http://www.indonesia.go.id)

Department of Foreign Affairs

[www.deplu.go.id](http://www.deplu.go.id)

Ministry of Cultural and Tourism

[www.budpar.go.id](http://www.budpar.go.id) ,

[www.my-indonesia.info](http://www.my-indonesia.info)

National Agency for Export

Development

[www.nafed.go.id](http://www.nafed.go.id)

Investment Coordinating Board

[www.bkpm.go.id](http://www.bkpm.go.id)

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Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia  
Kuusisaarentie 3, 00340 Helsinki  
FINLAND

Telp. +358 9 477 0370  
Fax +358 9 458 2882  
[info@indonesian-embassy.fi](mailto:info@indonesian-embassy.fi)  
[bidpen@indonesian-embassy.fi](mailto:bidpen@indonesian-embassy.fi)  
[www.indonesian-embassy.fi](http://www.indonesian-embassy.fi)



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# INDONESIA

## *ULTIMATE IN DIVERSITY*



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## DOMESTIC ISSUES

### Political Issues

#### **President Leads World Peace Day Event in Ambon**

Ambon, Maluku Province - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono led a commemoration of World Peace Day 2009 in Ambon, Wednesday (25/11/2009).

Ambon was appointed by the United Nations as the 34th World Peace site, after a social conflict broke out in the city in 1999.

The capital of Maluku Province has been selected to host the World Peace Day celebration to show the world that the situation in Ambon had now become peaceful and secured.

The president, accompanied by Mrs Ani Yudhoyono, arrived at Pattimura airport here at 2.30 pm Eastern Indonesian Time on Tuesday and was driven straight to the Maluku governor's official residence where the head of state would stay during his visit to the province.

The head of state struck a gong of peace, which was made by an artist from Jepara, Central Java in 2002, to mark the peak of the World Peace Day function.

The Peace Gong was stricken for the first time by then president Megawati Soekarnoputri, on December 31, 2003 when launching Indonesia's Peace Year.

And later the UN Secretary General struck the Peace Gong in Geneva to officially open the Second Global Summit on World Peace, also in 2003.

The UN has declared September 21 as the World Peace Day. But this year's commemoration of the World Peace Day has been postponed to November 25, 2009, because September 21, 2009 coincided with the Idul Fitri Islamic festivity.

Among those attending the function in Ambon

was People's Welfare Coordinating Minister Agung Laksono, Political, Legal and Security Affairs Coordinating Minister Djoko Suyanto, Communication and Informatics Minister Tifatul Sembiring, Defense Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Youth and Sports Minister Andi Mallarangeng, Women's empowerment Minister Linda Gumelar.(ANTARA)

### Economic Issues

#### **Why Indonesia and Its ETF Are Emerging Market Leaders**

Indonesia's economy, along with its related ETF, has been one of the top performers this year as the country maintained its self-reliance as it coped with the global recession.

How did Indonesia do it? Indonesia's economy grew 4.2% in the third quarter from a year earlier as the economy was bolstered by consumer confidence, increased domestic spending and a stable political climate, [report Aloysius Unditu and Novrida Manurung for Bloomberg](#).

Unlike many other Asian countries, Indonesia's economy was not fettered by the dip in global export demand.

James Lord, economist at Capital Economics Ltd., sees that the current President's cabinet includes a team of economists that are "pro-reform technocrats" who will deliver the needed reforms to hit a 7% growth target. President Yudhoyono is trying to expedite infrastructure projects and he has pledged to curb abuses of power in the country.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Indonesian finance minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Singaporean finance minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam called for flexible global exchange rates, stating that "market-oriented exchange rates in line with economic fundamentals will be essential in assuring the resource and sectoral shifts to match and foster the new patterns of demand," [according to The Wall Street Journal](#). The ministers also urged countries to focus more on sustaining private demand growth as fiscal measures are lifted.

Market Vectors Indonesia ETF (NYSEArca:  
[IDX](#)): up 170.9% since the market low



Max Chen contributed to this article.

Source: <http://seekingalpha.com>

### RI's Growing Prospect Encourages GE to Invest

*When the widely-diversified business giant General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt visited Indonesia in October, he vowed to double his company's investment which has reached US\$1.2 billion on the back of the country's economic resilient despite heavy blows from the global economic slowdown. His assessment on Indonesia's economic condition was agreed by the President and CEO of GE Technology Infrastructure, John G Rice. The Jakarta Post's Argha Desafiti Hapsari talked with Rice during his recent visit in Jakarta last week about his company's plan to invest more in the railway and health care industries.*

**Question:** GE Technology Infrastructure signed deals with China earlier this week. Will there be similar cooperation with Indonesia?

**Answer:** We are working on it. What you saw in China are two things: obviously a series of agreement that are our substantial commitment and partnership in our aviation, energy and transportation businesses

We are committed to expanding our global footprints and not just in countries like China. One of the things we are working on here is our locomotive proposal and we consider ourselves a partner of the Indonesian railway (company) and we want to expand that partnership.

*So there will be new deals and new investment, especially in the railway business?*

Yes, we are working on the details of that with our local partners... We are not ready to make an announcement today but we are moving it forward and we are working hard to make sure that we respond to what the railway is looking for.

We are absolutely prepared to invest. We have to work with the leadership of the railroad (management), and make sure that we have a program that makes sense for everybody.

(The state railway company PT KA) has been ordering four or five (locomotives) on an annual basis.

They decided that it might not be the most efficient way to do things. If you look at your requirement and take a multi-year view, you can create enough critical mass that it makes sense for us to (invest). For four or five units it doesn't make sense to do a lot but for 100 or 150 it makes more sense to design a specific locomotive, to (make) local investment.

*Jeffrey Immelt said he was going to double GE's investment here, which has reached \$1.2 billion. What do you say?*

I think it is not impossible for us to put billions of dollars anywhere. We allocate capital based on where we see the best long-term prospect, so making investment of that magnitude is not out of the question.

*Are you planning on investing in other sectors than what you have going on here in Indonesia?*

I don't know that we are. We've never ruled that out but we look at our businesses and our technologies and we think we have plenty of room to grow. Our healthcare business is a massive global business... and we're relatively small in Indonesia. And partly that is because we have not spent enough time developing technology, which is suitable in a market like Indonesia.

Indonesia, with distributed nature of the population, and the fact that there are many people in relatively remote areas could be a good place for us, so we'll be exploring ideas there.

*So you're talking partnership and cooperation in healthcare?*

There is a new health minister; we have to determine what's on her agenda and make sure

that we're ready to support the direction of the government. So it's too early to say what that could be. But it's a priority for the company. We have activities underway in many countries and we think that there should be opportunities for us to do more here.

### **GE's projects in Indonesia**

PT KA made an order of 20 C20-EMP locomotives worth US\$40 million in July, with deliveries slated for 2010 and 2011.

GE and PT KA have also signed an MOU that commits the parties to work together to develop a long-term plan for the purchase or lease of up to 150 additional locomotives that will be specifically designed for Indonesia.

GE installed a PET-CT system, a diagnostic tool essential for cancer detection and treatment in children as well as for adults, in a hospital in North Jakarta in 2008. The project valued at around 8 million.

GE also provides MRI scanners for various hospitals in Indonesia. A scanner is priced at around 1 million.(The Jakarta Post)

### **Italian Bizmen Satisfied About RI Investment Climate**

Rome - Italian entrepreneurs who have been doing business in Indonesia are in general quite satisfied about the investment climate and economic conditions in the country, an Indonesian investment official said.

Chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Gita Wirjawan made the statement here on Thursday (19/11/2009) on the results of a meeting between visiting Vice President Boediono and Italian businessmen.

Vice President Boediono was in Italy from November 16-19 to attend a World Food Security Summit at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters on Wednesday (18/11/2009).

Boediono held a meeting with top executives of two companies, namely Asocarboni and Coeclerici Logistics.

The vice president also had lunch with 14 Italian businessmen who have invested or were planning to invest in Indonesia.

Gita said the Italian businessmen did make some critical remarks about the investment climate in Indonesia. But this was something businessmen always did, according to Gita

Nevertheless, this did not mean Indonesia could be complacent and not do anything to correct perceived shortcomings, he added.

Gita said Italian investment in Indonesia this year had reached a total value of about 50-60 million US dollars.

He said Indonesian coal exports to Italy had a chance to increase because there was rising demand for the energy source in Italy. Currently Indonesia was exporting about 5 to 7 million tons of coal per year to Italy.(ANTARA)

### **Investment May Reach Rp2,000 Trillion: BKPM**

Jakarta - Investment in the country may reach Rp2,000 trillion so that the average economic growth target of 7 percent in the coming five years is achievable, the investment chief said.

"It is not easy to attract an investment of Rp2,000 trillion but it is neither impossible. We will work hard to attract foreign and domestic investors," Head of the Capital Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Gita Wirjawan said.

He said that Indonesia now had good assets to attract private investment which was targeted at 55 percent of the total investment need.

The BKPM chief said that one of the good assets was the well-preserved macroeconomic stability. Regardless of it however, the government still had to do various homeworks, apart from improvement of regulations and bureaucratic reforms that had been carried out so far.

"There are homeworks that have to be done in order to improve the investment climate," he said.

Apart from macroeconomic stability, the establishment of special economic zones would also help attract foreign investors to do business in Indonesia, he added.

"The special zones will attract investors," Gita Wirjawan said.

In the meantime, Hiramasyah Sambudi Thaib, president director of Bakrieland Development, said that the biggest foreign investment was usually made in the infrastructure sector.

Therefore, the government should be able to attract foreign investors to do business in the

country not only in the capital market but also in other sectors.

"Infrastructure is needed. The government should soon issue policies that attract foreign direct investment (FDI), not only capital market investors, but also long-term ones," he said.(ANTARA)

### **President Optimistic Economic Growth Reaches 4.3 Pct**

Kuala Lumpur - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he was optimistic that the country's economic growth this year would reach 4.3 percent as projected in the state budget.

The president expressed the optimism when he met with about 200 Malaysian business executives at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC) here on Wednesday.

"Indonesia is now intensifying its development and minimizing the impact of the economic crisis. We hope this year its economic growth would reach 4.3 percent. Admittedly it is much lower than the growth we had before the economic crisis but we are convinced it would continue to increase by up to 7 percent in 2014," the president said.

The president believed that with a just and distributable economic growth, the development carried out by the government would be able to reduce poverty and unemployment, and improve the people's life.

In order to achieve the target, he said, the government would reinforce partnership with domestic and foreign private businesses, particularly with the aim of meeting the investment need of US\$150-US\$200 billion per year.

Yudhoyono offered Malaysian businesses a number of projects, among others those in the sectors of agriculture, fertilizer and sugar mills, power plants and manufacturing industries.

"I am inviting Malaysian investors to cooperate in investment on the revitalization of agricultural industries, sugar mills and fertilizer factories as well as in the manufacturing sector," the president said.(ANTARA)

### **Secretary General: OECD Welcomes Indonesia to Join**

Paris - The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) welcomed Indonesia and other developing countries which are non-members of OECD to join the organization, OECD's Secretary General, Angel Gurría, said here Friday (27/11/2009).

OECD has invited Indonesia and other non-OECD members to a number of activities held by the organization to get information and insights on various aspects especially those on economic developments in Indonesia, the secretary general said.

Indonesia was also involved in several global forums recently held by the Paris-based OECD, Gurría said, adding that on the occasion, he met an Indonesian delegation to share ideas and experience on economic development.

Gurría made the remark at a meeting with several journalists from developing countries which are non-OECD members. The journalists were also expected to provide inputs and share experience especially on economic developments in their respective countries.

According to Gurría, he had met with the Indonesian delegation which was led by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who was on the occasion of the global forum accompanied by a number of cabinet ministers including Sri Mulyani who was then Acting Coordinating Minister for Economy and Mari Elka Pangestu who was Trade Minister.

He said President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at that time had briefed him on aspects relating to government regulations on economic development in the archipelagic country of more than 220 million people.

In addition, he said, Sri Mulyani, Mari Elka Pangestu, and Boediono who was then Governor of Bank Indonesia (the central bank), were his interlocutor partners in the discussions on different issues pertaining to economic development in Indonesia.

He said OECD got valuable insights and information from every OECD activity which was participated in by the Indonesian delegation, and the inputs were made important reference in making recommendations which were incorporated in the organization's annual report.



The journalists from the developing countries were in Paris from 22 to 28 November 2009, on the framework of OECD's Fellowship Program in the hope the organization could be known better by peoples in the world especially those in developing countries. The visiting journalists include those from South Africa, China, Indonesia, India and Brazil, who perceived that OECD was an organization which only consists of rich countries like the US, Britain, Germany, Canada, Australia, Japan, France and Denmark.

However, OECD's Visual Communications and Brand Manager John Tarver who earlier met the journalists disagreed on the perception as OECD with 30 members which are mostly developed countries also has members which are developing countries like Mexico, Turkey and Korea.

According to Tarver, OECD likewise involves developing countries in different activities like dialogs and seminars which discuss various issues related to global, regional and national economic developments like environment, education, unemployment, health, transportation and communications,

On the occasion, Tarver also hoped the journalists could help OECD improve the image of the organization which was so far perceived as an elite group which only consists of developed countries.

OECD has the mission to encourage governments both from developed and developing countries in the world to strengthen their commitments on democracy and market economy focusing on sustainable economic growth, boost employment, increase living standard, maintain financial stability, help developing countries in the respective economic developments and give contributions to the world trade growth.(ANTARA)

### **RI to Become an Important Food Supplier**

Given its abundant agricultural resources, Indonesia is well positioned to become one of the world's most important food suppliers in the coming years, Indonesian Vice President Boediono said here Wednesday (18/11/2009).

"The development of infrastructure, including in the agriculture sector, is a top priority in the government's plan.

"The government is ready to remove regulatory stumbling blocks that hinder investment in agribusiness," Boediono said at the end of a three-day World Summit on Food Security held at the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) headquarters.

Attending world leaders have strived to work together to reverse the decline in domestic and international funding of agriculture, promote new investment in the sector, improve governance of global food issues in partnership with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and proactively face the challenges of climate change to food security.

"We need to improve our logistic system to optimize our vast geographic potential," Boediono said.

He recognized the basic problem of food security was to increase food supplies quickly and sustainably.

"The key is to accelerate investment in agricultural research, development and infrastructure."

The government has allocated Rp 33 trillion (US\$1.9 billion) in subsidies for the agriculture sector this year.

Boediono said the global trade environment was a critical factor in sustaining global food production.

"We need international trade rules that are supportive of agricultural development in developing countries. It's a shame the Doha Round has now come to a standstill. We should work together for its reinstatement," he said.

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon called the current food crisis "a wake-up call for tomorrow".

"There can be no food security without climate security," he said, adding that if the glaciers on the Himalayas melted, it would affect the livelihood of 300 million people in China and up to a billion people in Asia.

FAO director-general Jacques Diouf stressed the need to produce food in countries that suffered from poverty and boost agricultural investment in those regions.

Diouf said that in some developed countries, 2 to 4 percent of the population were able to produce enough food to feed the entire nation and even to export, while in the majority of developing countries, 60 to 80

percent of the population were unable to meet the country's food requirements.

"Eliminating hunger requires US\$44 billion in official development assistance per year be invested in infrastructure and technology.

"It is a small amount if we consider the \$365 billion of agriculture producer support in OECD countries in 2007, and the \$1,340 billion in world military expenditure in the same year," he said. (The Jakarta Post)

### **RI Becomes Potentially World's Textile Giant**

Indonesia has potential to become one of the giants' textile and textile products world. Increased competitiveness becomes a key point. Minister of Industry MS Hidayat explained that it is not impossible for Indonesia to become one of the giant textile and textile products (TPT) of the world. Export value of about 10 billion U.S. dollars to 11 billion U.S. dollars and the structured integrated textile industry should make Indonesia to be ambitious to become one of the main suppliers of TPT in the world.

Currently, Indonesia ranked ninth the world for the garment industry (apparel and other textile products). As for the textile and garment materials, is ranked 11th world. Market for United States (U.S.), Indonesia has the potential to go beyond Vietnam and India as major supplier of textile with a capitalization value of 250 billion U.S. dollars. "My target in 2014, before I quit, Indonesia could become one of the world's textile giants," he said when opening the National Textile Conference in Jakarta, Wednesday (18/11/2009).

According to him, the national textile industry is now a mainstay in the manufacturing sector with employment approximately 1.84 million people and foreign exchange export of 10.4 billion U.S. dollars in 2008. TPT industries provide employment for 15 percent of the total absorption of workers in the manufacturing sector. "In fact, when the global crisis last year, textile exports was still able to achieve a surplus of more than 6 billion dollars," he said.

He explained, as a completed industrial structured, a national textile products have a

local content level reaches 66 percent. The only problem was cotton material which 99.5 percent still imported. Cotton itself became one of textile raw materials with 38 percent contribution, in addition to fiber polyester (oil-derived products) and rayon fiber (wood derivative products). "Ministry of Industry to prepare a variety of devices, such as a road map, strategy development, and real action for the vision to become a giant textile world," said Hidayat.

However, before becoming a giant textile world, a number of issues need to be addressed in order to support the development of the national textile industry. Too many imported TPT products, both legal and illegal in the domestic market, the case trans-shipment products imported from Indonesia, old machinery factory, and high cost of economy should be completely resolved.

On the same occasion, Chairman of the Indonesian Textile Association (API) Benny Soetrisno rate said that Indonesia is able to achieve the vision into the world of textile giant with optimal government support. "Political will (desire) of the Government of Indonesia is good, just need to implement it," he said.

According to him, the government needs to secure the domestic textile market. Currently, the dominated market by local textile producers only 67 percent. Industrial competitiveness could be increased along with increased production capacity, if the local market control is bigger. "Local markets can be competitive foothold in the industry prior to the export market," he said.

In 2008, Benny said, the local textile market reached 6 billion U.S. dollars. From this value, the local textile production over 4 billion dollars and the rest filled imported products. "The value of imports both legal and illegal in the domestic market was 2 billion dollars," he said. (*unofficial translation*, Suara Karya)

### **RI Targeting Position of World's Biggest Fish Producer**

Gorontalo - The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DKP) has set a target to

make Indonesia a world biggest fish producer in 2012, a cabinet minister said.

DKP Minister Fadel Muhammad said here on Monday (16/11/2009) that the plan to make Indonesia a world biggest fish producer was part of the DKP targets in its coming years' work programs.

"Indonesia should become a center of fish production so that it could control the world's fish trade," the minister said.

He said that Indonesia had the marine and fresh water potentials which were not possessed by all countries. Thus, it would not face significant barriers to achieve the target.

"Facilities at fish auction markets, access roads and fishermen's fuel tanks to meet the need for fishing activities must also be improved and be made complete," the minister said.

Besides, he said, his ministry was also adopting a special program called 'minapolitan', a program which combines agriculture and fisheries aimed at raising the income of farmers and fishermen.

The minapolitan scheme could be carried out, among others, with a 'mina padi' program where fields were planted with rice while at the same time were also sowed with fish seeds so that the fields could yield rice and fish at the same time. (ANTARA)

### **Fish Export Challenges to France**

Indonesia has greater opportunities to export fishery product to France. Government of Indonesia and France has signed an agreement on marine resource called as *Technical and Scientific Cooperation for Improvement of Marine and Fisheries Resources* that valid until 2012, said Maritime Affairs and Fishery Minister, Fadel Muhammad, after met Ambassador of France for Indonesia, Philippe Zeller, on Tuesday (17/11/2009).

On the last year 2008, Indonesian fishery products export were 845.939 million, with a value of about 2708 million U.S. dollars. With the classification, 79.127 tons or approximately 315 million U.S. dollars is to European Union market which the third Indonesia sea product export target, after U.S. and Japan. France is one of the largest sea product importer country in the world, it could be a target of fishery product exports. This

country that lay in European continent is taking fourth position, after Japan, USA, and Spain, still above Italy, China and Germany, with value of 5.108 million U.S. dollars.

Indonesia's exports to France in 2008 nearly 43 million U.S. dollars, mostly in the form of frozen shrimp, which is more than 32 million U.S. dollars. Other export products rather significant is frozen fish, oyster and ornamental fish. Frozen fish requested mostly are red snapper and freshwater fish that tend to increase demand. Oyster type is including land snails, or snails. While the popular ornamental fish in the country is hickey fish.

There are three considerations to put France as one of the fishery product exports target. First, French people is the highest of fish consumer per capita in Europe, which is 36 kg per year (2006), under Spain and Portugal. High above European population average, which is 22 kg, much less than fish consumption per capita in the world which is only 16.6 kg. The increase was quite significant when compared to fish consumption in 1990 of French citizens consumption are still 27 kg per capita per year. Second, currently there are trends of fish consumption patterns in France changed from fresh fish to frozen fish and fish preparations. Since 2000, consumption of fresh fish, declining 3% per year. Frozen fish increased 9% per year and fish processing 3% per year. This condition would bring a benefit to Indonesia which located far from France, making it difficult to supply fresh fish, and its not difficult if you send frozen or processed fish. This phenomenon may be influenced by the increase of fresh fish prices on average 3,7 per year, while the processing fish instead down to 2,8% per year.

Third, fish production in French more declines, resulting in greater deficits. Moreover, demand is more increasing. From 1997-2006, that had been deficit for 450 thousand tons, eventually became 640 thousand tons, or from 1.71 billion euros in 1996, become deficit of 2.56 billion euros in 2006. This decrease is easily understood, because France is one country that is very limited in catching fish for sustainable fishery in their country.

According to the Charge d'Affaires (AI) of Indonesia Republic in Paris, Maruli Tua Sagala, seeing the development of Indonesian fishery products exported to France and consumption in France, our exports of fishery products can still be improved with the development of quality and competitiveness. France currently is most supplied from relatively nearer countries, such as mackerel from Portugal, tuna from Spain, Ivory Coast and Madagascar, shrimp from Madagascar and Brazil, as well as smoked fish from Norway and Ireland.

Hari Prawoko, Trade Attache in Paris says that the main constraints faced by Indonesia is 100% control application of European Union, which of course reduce the competitiveness. For that reason it need efforts from various parties, including through bilateral meetings Indonesia-EU, in order to replaced 100% control of EU with a sample control as applied to shrimp products since 2008.

Of course, increasing the competitiveness not only on consumer area factor. Conditions in Indonesia itself should be supported, such as improving product quality, product diversification creativity to adapt to consumer tastes, as well as to press a high costs, such as formal or informal charges, or the high cost of production factor and other marketing.(Ministry of Maritie Affairs and Fishery of the Republic of Indonesia)

### **RI Replaces Malaysia As World'S Biggest CPO Producer**

Bogor, W Java - Indonesia has developed into the world's biggest crude palm oil (CPO) producer, replacing Malaysia, Amin Tamin Subandrio, deputy to the research and technology minister said here on Tuesday (24/11/2009).

He said Indonesia had since last year replaced Malaysia as the world's biggest CPO producer. Now Indonesia's CPO production had reached 19.2 million tons per annum, exceeding Malaysia's 17.8 million tons.

Subandrio said the fact was "interesting" because Indonesia was able to become the

number one producer two years sooner than previously projected.

"It turns out that we achieved the target in 2008," he said.

In the meantime, despite price fluctuations in the world market, the volumes of CPO exports rose to 12.5 million tons in 2008 with plantations covering 8.127 million hectares. Indonesia's plantation productivity reaches 3.7 million tons per hectare, the deputy minister said.

The increase in national CPO production was having an impact on national economic growth. The oil palm industry now accounted for 4.5 percent of the national gross domestic product with its foreign exchange contribution to national income amounting to Rp3.5 billion.

"Palm oil industries play significant roles in the national economy. This industry influence much economic growth and people's welfare," he added. (ANTARA)

### **CPO Exports to Raise 10% in 2010**

Indonesia targets increased exports of crude palm oil (CPO) in 2010 by 10 percent or about 17.6 million. This year, CPO exports projected to reach about 16 million tons.

As stated by the Joint Secretary General of Indonesian Palm Oil Entrepreneur Joko Supriyono in Jakarta, Thursday (19/11/2009). "Currently, the growth of world demand for CPO is still higher than supply," Joko said in Jakarta yesterday (19/11), in between the exposure of the Indonesian Palm Oil Conference and Outlook 2010. This event will be held in Bali, 2-4 December 2009 to come.

With this condition, the CPO market potential is still high and the national industry performance prospect is promising. Until September 2009, the national CPO exports reached 11.47 million tons. With the assumption of national CPO exports of 1.2 million to 1.3 million tons per month, so until the end of this year's CPO exports will be close to 16 million tons. In 2008 Indonesia and CPO exports reached 14.7 million tons. So, until September 2009 the export of CPO has grown



about 16 percent compared to the same period last year.

According to Joko, the count of conservative, Indonesian CPO exports were still able to grow about 10 percent in 2010 accompanied by increased production. In 2008, the national CPO production reached 19.2 million tons this year and production is expected to penetrate the numbers 21 million tons. "Next year the national CPO production must be on the 22 million tons. This year I will penetrate the projected production of 21 million tons of numbers," he said optimistically.

He then admitted CPO business experiencing severe challenges in the form of resistance from EU non-tariff which is the main destination of exports. Barriers mainly related to environmental protection standards in palm oil plantations.

"Though Indonesia has a regulation that ensures the development of sustainable palm oil plantations and sustainable. For that, employers and government must be brave and confident that the policy applied to the concept of Indonesia's crude palm oil plantation development in a sustainable manner. So, we cannot be controlled on behalf of foreign standardization," Joko said.

Until now, he continued, there are many negative campaigns against the Indonesian palm oil products by certain parties abroad continuously and systematically. Therefore, the government must enforce the rules relating to the development of sustainable palm oil plantations, and employers must also have a commitment to run it.

In addition, Joko also stated the importance of the implementation of the certification requirements of greenhouse gases (green house gas / GHG) in the framework of the principles roundtable on sustainable palm oil (RSPO) of oil products. This decision is the result of the RSPO Board meeting in public session to-6 in Kuala Lumpur, some time ago. This delay is done until there is a thorough study and strong scientific facts.

Delays related to the implementation of RSPO principles are not separated from six organizations in the Indonesian oil fields and a loud Malaysia refused to plan the implementation of GHG in the RSPO certification. One of the points that the debate on GHG by producers of CPO is about the

value of carbon stocks in the palm oil by 35 tons per hectare. (*unofficial translation*, Suara Karya)

### **Indonesia Offers Four Sectors to Japan**

The Indonesian government offers investment of four industrial sectors like agroindustry, transportation, ICT and manufacturing industry to Japan.

"I've brought forth focuses for the next five years. I will prioritize on food-processing industry which is based on agriculture, electronics, textile, infrastructure and power plant," said Industry Minister MS Hidayat.

As for agroindustry, the investment is open for palm oil, rubber and fruit processing industry. In the meantime, manufacturing industry, mainly textile, footwear, steel, capital goods, component, consumer electronics and petrochemical.

To boost investment in the sectors, the government will plan out electricity supply and harbor upgrading within 100 working-days.

Japan is committed to helping Indonesia develop human resources concerning mainly with environment handling. The country otherwise called on Indonesia to improve infrastructures. (Pelita, VIVAnews)

### **Malaysian and Singaporean Navy Purchase Banyuwangi Patrol Ship**

The production of PT Lundin Industry Invest, a boat manufacture company in Sukowidi, Banyuwangi regency, East Java, sought a number of countries in Southeast Asia. Malaysian and Singaporean Navy bought about 24 units. Now the company is under negotiating with Brunei. TNI AL (Indonesia Navy Force), the National SAR Agency (Basarnas), and Maritime Security Coordinating Board in Indonesia also purchased the ship from PT Lundin.

PT Lundin held boat operation joint training in the waters around Port Benoa, Denpasar, Thursday. There are three types of rigid inflatable boat (RIB), among trainees are a team of Basarnas, Army Navy Marines and Navy personnel from Malaysia and Singapore.

Owner of PT Industry Invest Lundin, Lundin Lizza, stated, that purchasing ships by the

neighboring navies are evidence towards quality of the ship production.

"As a native of Banyuwangi, of course, we are proud. Besides capable to produce, the results of our work is used by foreign naval forces. For us, it is the honor of working together with TNI AL," said Lizza who develops PT Lundin with a Swedish husband, John Lundin.

Purchase contracts and cooperation between PT Lundin and TNI AL began in 2007. In addition to buy 10 ships and 12 ships RIB Catamaran, the two sides also agreed to work together in order to make some research and engineering development of fast patrol boats, to increase human resources capacity, and construction of dock facilities for patrol boats. The cooperation stipulated in the charter agreement signed by Chief of Naval Staff (then) Admiral Slamet Soebijanto with Lizza Lundin.

Special Forces 69 Command Chief Navy of Malaysia Diraja Azizan Abdul Azis satisfied with the quality of PT Lundin production of RIB type boats. Besides speed and steady, the ships also use the latest technology in global positioning system devices and radar. With speeds reaching 100 kilometers per hour and the cruising range to 250 nautical miles, Azizan said, the RIB ship of PT Lundin is qualified as a patrol ship and to ambush pirates. Malaysian Navy has ordered six ships of type RIB.

In addition to producing a military ship, PT Lundin also produces ships for civilian purposes, such as boats for water sports, sightseeing and diving. Type RIB boat and Catamaran also included in this type of civilian ships. According to Lizza, the ships of this type had been sold to Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and some countries in Europe. The productions of PT Lundin are done entirely in Banyuwangi. Lizza said most of the total 150 employees are citizens of Indonesia. (*unofficial translation*, Kompas)

#### **Japan to Accept Up to 500 Indonesian Healthcare Workers in Fy 2010**

Tokyo - Japan will accept up to 500 healthcare workers in fiscal 2010 starting April 1 under

an economic partnership agreement, the health ministry said Tuesday (25/11/2009).

Japan informed the Indonesian government of the decision the same day, said officials at the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The quota breaks down into 200 nurses and 300 caregivers.

In the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years, Japan set the quota at 1,000 and accepted 570 healthcare workers from Indonesia -- 277 nurses and 293 caregivers.

Japan International Corp. of Welfare Services, a health ministry affiliate, will recruit hospitals and nursing care facilities from across Japan that are willing to accept the Indonesian healthcare workers, the officials said.

Under a similar agreement with the Philippines, Japan has accepted Filipino nurses and caregivers. (ANTARA)

#### **Wimax Chipset, Made in Indonesia**

PT Dama Persada, an electronic industry based in Bandung, Indonesia has successfully developed it's WiMAX chipset called [XIRKA](#) System-on-Chip. According to Adiono Trio, Director of Design chipset PT Dama Persada, the chipset is designed to compatible with WiMAX technology or broadband wireless access. This chipset can be applied both in fixed and mobile WiMAX.

XIRKA's uniqueness is the ability to accommodate special requests for customization in order to create the best solution for our clients. This will enable any WiMAX equipment integrator and solution providers the ability to implement their own design and products for subscriber station (SS), mobile station (MS) and USB peripherals (including dongle and minicards).

Specifications :The software runs on SPARC processor, providing flexibility, while the MAC hardware acceleration greatly enhances system performance and throughput. Channel bandwidth is supported up to 10 MHz.(GNFI)

## Socio-Cultural Issues

### **RI Pushes for Treaty Against Theft of Genetic Resources and Culture**

In a move that will likely cause unease among Western academics and artists, Indonesia and other developing countries are pushing for a legally binding treaty to protect their precious natural resources and cultural heritage from being "stolen" or "misused" by other countries.

Director for legal treaties on economic and cultural affairs at Indonesia's Foreign Ministry, Damos Dumoli Agusman, said 33 Asian and African countries would gather in Bali from Nov. 23 to Nov. 27 to prepare a draft treaty that will be brought before a meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) to be held in Geneva in December.

"We hope to finalize the draft soon because we cannot afford to let developed countries, which oppose our initiative, to come up with a resolution ahead of us," Damos told reporters here Wednesday (18/11/2009), adding that Indonesia and South Africa were leading the effort to pass the treaty.

Indonesia, like many developing countries, is biologically-diverse, with abundant genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions which Damos claimed had been "exploited" by other parties, mainly due to lack of clear regulations regarding their use and protection.

Indonesia has more than 47 different ecosystems, 28,000 indigenous species of flora and thousands of species of micro-organisms.

For decades, it has also lured renowned anthropologists, such as Clifford Geertz and Benedict Anderson, who have produced influential works in the discipline.

With its diverse cultural heritage, the country remains an interesting lab for scholars.

"It is the right time for developing countries to reclaim what is theirs," Damos said. "Take Discovery Channel and National Geographic, for instance. They make a lot of money from filming the lives of indigenous people in developing countries. But how do those indigenous people benefit?" he said.

Damos said there should be at least a "benefit of sharing" for people whose cultural icons have been exploited to profit other parties. He said the financial mechanisms should be different from that of royalty payments because a cultural product is owned by a community, not an individual or a company.

He acknowledged that the treaty was still "embryonic" and further discussions would be needed to resolve complications that might arise in the future, such as defining what constitutes "cultural theft" and what to do with shared or cross-border cultures.

Indonesia has experienced a diplomatic row with Malaysia due to claims from the neighboring country over some cultural works, an accusation repeatedly denied by Kuala Lumpur. (The Jakarta Post)

### **Ecotourism Contributed Rp80 Trillion**

Ecotourism contributed Rp80 trillion (US\$8.6 billion) to the Indonesian forestry sector's earnings last year, a 33 per cent increase compared with a year earlier, a spokesman said.

The figure might go up in line with the government's effort to increase the number of ecotourism spots under the management of the forestry ministry, head of the ministry's information center Masyhud said here on Wednesday (18/11/2009).

"Ecotourism has become the sector capable of contributing huge foreign exchange earnings to the state's coffers. In 2008 alone, foreign exchange earnings from the sector rose to Rp80 trillion with the number of foreign tourist arrivals reaching 6.5 million," he said.

According to the ministry, ecotourism has good prospects now that Indonesia has 530 conservation areas including 245 nature

preserves, 77 wildlife reserves, 50 national parks, and 123 nature tourism parks.(Republika)

### **Three Indonesian Students Achieve UNESCO Awards**

Three Indonesian students received achievement awards from the [UNESCO](#) Mondialogo Award and the German company Daimler AG that produces Mercedes-Benz luxury cars, in Stuttgart, Germany.

In addition to the three [Indonesian](#) engineering student achievement, Mondialogo Engineering Award is also given to 60 outstanding students from 28 countries, said Sosbud and PIPP Counselor Embassy to Berlin Agus Priono AFP correspondent of London, Thursday.

He said the award was divided into 30 projects are areas of development, poverty alleviation and the environment.

Third [Indonesian](#) student achievement is Benny from the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM) Yogyakarta with the Zero Waste Project Production System in Small/Medium Industrial Clusters the gold medal.

While Fengky Satria Yorestra from Andalas University Infrastructure project from the Tsunami Evacuation for Coastal Communities in West Sumatra Silver medal.

Students Udayana Nanang Sugianto with the project Development of a Transportable Treatment Anaerobic Bioreactor for the bronze medal.

Benny the project, the students of Chemical Engineering 7th semester is partnering with the UGM Awqi Gibran from Chalmer University of Technology, Gothenberg, Sweden independent jury judged useful and creative for successfully creating alternative energy sources for sustainable settlements.

The jury is coming from several countries assess Benny projects utilizing industrial waste and biology to produce goods of daily needs such as herbal soaps, entitled the gold medal.

The awarding of the medal is Leadership Summit Daimler AG and Mercedes Benz Walter Eldern and representatives from UNESCO Dieter Zetsche.(ANTARA)

### **US Aims to Double Number of Indonesian Guest Students**

US Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron Hume has announced his support for an initiative to double the number of Indonesians studying in the US within the next five years.

The "Take Control" initiative will increase Indonesian students' access to free advisory services from AMINEF EducationUSA, a State Department-supported network of educational advising centers around the world tasked with assisting international students.

"I endorse this initiative to encourage Indonesian students to study in the United States. They should take control of their future, and we can help to make it happen," Ambassador Hume said.

Almost 7,700 Indonesian students are currently studying in the US. To double that number, Education USA said it would send advisors out to mobile centers around the country.

Visitors to the booths will be able to talk to an adviser and get help on how to select a university, apply for a course of study, assess financial needs and apply for a visa. More information is available at [www.educationUSA.or.id](http://www.educationUSA.or.id) .(The Jakarta Globe)

### **Indonesia by province: Yogyakarta**



It stretches from the slopes of mighty Mt. Merapi in the north to the wave-swept beaches of the powerful Indian Ocean to the south. It was the mighty Javanese Empire of Mataram, Ngayogyakarta





#### Hadiningrat.

Yogyakarta came into being in 1755, when a land dispute split the power of Mataram into the Sultanates of Yogyakarta and Surakarta (Solo).

Prince Mangkubumi built Kraton of Yogyakarta and created one of the most powerful Javanese states ever. The Kraton is still the hub of Yogyakarta's traditional life and despite the advances of the 20th century; it still radiates the spirit of refinement which has been the hallmark of its art and people for centuries. Yogyakarta is one of the supreme cultural centers of Java. Gamelan orchestras keep alive the rhythms the past, classical Javanese dances entrance with visions of beauty and poise, shadows come to life in the stories of the wayang kulit (leather puppet) and a myriad of traditional visual art forms keep locals and visitors alike spellbound. It stretches from the slopes of mighty Mount Merapi in the north to the wave-swept beaches of the powerful Indian Ocean to the south.

#### Tourist Office:

Tourism Board Jl. Malioboro No.14, Yogyakarta 55213  
Phone. (0274) 582628, 587486 Fax. (0274) 565437

#### Provincial Culture and Tourism Office:

Jl. Cendana 11 Phone : (0274) 562 628, 589 350 [www.tasteofjogja.com](http://www.tasteofjogja.com)

#### Getting there:

Domestic and International flights service Yogyakarta. Tugu train station close to Malioboro Street has several inexpensive express trains from and to java overland every day. Good express service from Jakarta and Surabaya. Buses also operate regularly to Borobudur and Prambanan Temples. Bicycles and motorcycles can be hired cheaply.

#### Tourism Events:

- The Ramayana Ballet is a very popular show. It performed at open air theatre in Prambanan Temple every full-moon evening from May to October from 7.30 pm.

- Jathilan Kuda Lumping (Bamboo Horse Dance) at Bugisan Village near Prambanan Temple.

#### Places of Interest:

##### **Kaliurang**

A popular mountain resort 24 km from Yogyakarta and lies on the slopes of Mt. Merapi is surrounded by enchanting countryside. Mt. Merapi active volcano 2,968 m above sea level. It takes 10 hours to reach the top.

##### **Taman Sari**

Just west of the kraton, are the ruins, pools, arches and underground passages of the former pleasure gardens, the Taman Sari (Water Castle). Literally "fragrant garden" Built in 1758 by Sultan Hamengkubuwono I, the Sultan and his harem would relax here and from the tower overlooking the female bathing pools. It is located in the old part of the city within walking distance from the Bird Market. Open every day from 8 am to 2 pm.

##### **Imogiri**

The official cemetery of the royal descendants from Yogyakarta and Surakarta, is about 17 kms southeast of Yogyakarta and easily accessible by the bus or car. The tombs lie within three main courtyards perched on a hilltop. Entry into the smaller courtyards housing the tombs of the prin-ces is allowed only by visitors wearing traditional Javanese dress. Open on Monday 09.00 am to 12.00 pm and Friday 13.00 pm to 16.00 pm The cemetery is closed during the Moslem month of Ramadhan.

##### **"Beringharjo" Traditional Market**

This traditional market sells many things from batiks to traditional cuisines in the north of the kraton.

##### **Jalan Malioboro**

Food stalls replace souvenir stands on Jalan Malioboro and serve the Yogya's specific menu "gudeg" rice with young jackfruit cooked in coconut milk. Enjoy the food in

“lesehan” (seat on the woven mats) foodstall along the pavement and enjoy the Yogya’s specific menu “gudeg” rice with young jackfruit cooked in coconut milk.

#### **Sonobudoyo Museum**

Jalan Malioboro This museum founded in November 1935 and designed by the Dutch architect Kersten, in the traditional Javanese style of architecture. On exhibit are weapons, wayang kulit (leather puppets), masks, original eight century statues and bronze articles from temple in Central Java, ceramic from Neolithic age, textiles, curios and old Javanese gamelan instruments. The museum is situated on the northern side of the city’s alun-alun (Main Square) in front of the Sultan’s Palace. It opens on Tuesday - Thursday at 8 am - 1 pm and 8 pm - 12 pm on Friday - Saturday.

#### **“Ngasem” Bird Market**

All kinds of birds and other animal are sold in this “Javanese Styles” market open every day. Located at the South of Taman Sari, this is pleasure place to visit.

#### **Batik Research Center**

Situated on the eastern outskirts of the city, the Batik Research Center has an interesting permanent exhibition of batiks in classic and modern designs. Both the hand-drawn and hand stamped batik processes can be seen here.

#### **Affandi Museum**

Set in a lush garden off the main road between the airport and the city stands the Affandi Museum on the bank of the Gajah Wong River. Affandi was Indonesia’s foremost impressionist painter who built a private museum for his own paintings. Open Monday - Friday from 9 am-4 pm and on Saturday from 9 am-1 pm.

#### **Kalasan Temple**

This unique Buddhist temple is located some 16 km eastern side of Yogyakarta, on the south side of the main road between Yogyakarta and Solo. It was built in honor of the marriage between king Pancapana of the Sanjaya Dynasty and a Princess of the Cailendra Dynasty, Dyah Pramudya Wardhani. It is elaborately ornate, with finely carved reliefs preserved with “vajralepa”, from the sap of a local tree.

#### **Kotagede**

A picturesque town about five kilometers southeast of Yogyakarta, was once the seat of the mighty Mataram Empire. Since the 1930s Kotagede has become famous as the center of the Yogya silverwork industry. Kotagede is easily reached by four wheeled horse drawn cart, taxi, bus, or car.

#### **Sewu Hills**

Sewu Hills Karst area formed by rock dissolubility and covers about 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> with unique geomorphology, indicated by conical limestone, domes, valleys (doline and poltje) and caves with stalactites and stalagmites inside, and also underground rivers. Based on its unique scientific values and also social phenomenon, the International Union of Speleology proposed that the Sewu hills area in Gunung Kidul regency, to be World Natural Heritage. Enjoy rock climbing at Siung Beach (Seropan and Watu Grupit). Caving (Cerme, Seropan, Bribin, Grubug, Jomblang and Kalisuci Cave), Historical and Religious Tourism (Rancang Kencono, Brahlo and Maria Tritis Cave).

#### **Parang Tritis Beach**

A popular seaside resort 28 kms south of Yogyakarta on the Indian Ocean, Parang Tritis combines rocky hills, dunes, and a white sandy beach. It is famous in Javanese mythology as the home of the Goddess of the South Seas, who was married to Panembahan Senopati, founder of the Mataram Kingdom. Every year the sultans of Yogyakarta make special offerings to her in a beachside ceremony called “Labuhan”.

#### **Kasongan**

Kasongan famous for its artistic export quality pottery. It is located some 7 km from Yogyakarta.

#### **Parangkusumo Sand Dunes**

Parangkusumo Sand Dunes are a world heritage site, a lump of sand that is 20 m<sup>2</sup> above sea level.

#### **Agrotourism Salak Pondoh**

Agrotourism Salak Pondoh, is located some 5 km, east of Temple District in Sleman regency.

### **Taru Martani cigar**

Taru Martani cigar was founded in 1918, created to satisfy craves of the cigar lovers. Until now the company produces 14 types of cigars which are well known worldwide: Cigarillos, Extra Cigarillos, Senioritas, Panatella, Slim Panatella, Half Corona, Corona, Super Corona/Grand Corona, Boheme, Royal Perfecto, Rothschild, and Churchill.

### **Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat Palace The Kraton (palace)**

Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat Palace The Kraton (palace) court with its grand and elegant Javanese architecture lies in the center of the city between the Winongo and Code Rivers. The palace grounds, courtyards and buildings stretch from north to south, in line with Mount Merapi. Until now, the Kraton still serves as the Sultan's open every day 8 am - 1 pm, except Friday close at 12 pm.

### **Prambanan Temple**

Prambanan Temple This magnificent Hindu temple derives its name from the village where it is located, seventeen kilometers east of Yogyakarta. Locally known as the Roro Jongrang Temple, or the Temple of the Slender Virgin, it is the most magnificent and beautiful Hindu temple in Indonesia. Located some 17 km from Yogyakarta it opens everyday from 06.00 am to 05.00 pm.

[Source: [www.my-indonesia.info](http://www.my-indonesia.info)]

## **ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

### **RI Plays Important Role in Copenhagen Climate Change Talks**

Pekanbaru - Indonesia is one of the countries that will play an important role in next month's climate change talks in Copenhagen, a British minister said.

"Indonesia will play a very important role in the Copenhagen meeting because it has vast forests," British State Minister for Energy and Climate Change Joan Ruddock said here on Monday (16/11/2009).

While in Indonesia, Ruddock is also scheduled to meet with a number of ministers with regard to Indonesia's target of reducing

greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent-40 percent by 2020.

He expressed his belief that participants of the climate change meeting would fully support the Indonesian commitment by providing the country with funds to deal with the impact of climate change.

The Copenhagen meeting is seen by many as a last resort to agree on painful measures needed to ease the pace of climate change.

The aim of the U.N. meeting is not only to set ambitious targets for cutting greenhouse gases, but also raise funds to help poor countries tackle global warming.

Ruddock was in Riau for a one-day visit during which he inspected peatland forest in Langgam subdistrict, Pelalawan district.

Accompanied by British Ambassador to Indonesia Martin Hatfull, Ruddock also held a meeting with local and international NGO activists.

The peatland has been under the spotlight after police detained 21 Greenpeace activists for sealing the heavy-duty equipment of a logging company.

The Greenpeace activists from several countries had set up a camp in an effort to save peatland forests in Kampar Peninsula since October. (ANTARA)

### **RI and UK Agreed on Carbon Emissions**

Indonesia and the British Government agreed to perform a variety of working together to push even more carbon emissions.

After meeting with Minister of Energy and Climate Change Joan Ruddock in Jakarta, on Wednesday (18/11/2009), Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Darwin Saleh Zahedy said in the future, Indonesia will use more new and renewable energy such as geothermal, water, and biofuels (BBN).

"We agreed to create a cleaner world through the development of new and renewable energy," he said. Although, in the short term, Indonesia is still using energy sourced from coal instead of oil fuel (BBM). However, the utilization of coal is accompanied by using eco-friendly technologies that carbon capture and storage (CCS).

"In the medium term, we will use new and renewable energy such as geothermal and BBN," he said.

Utilization of the BBN, he added, did not compete with food needs.

"The government will balance the two interests, namely energy and food security," he said.

Darwin explains about the second phase of project generating 10,000 MW that use geothermal resources.

After meeting with Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Ruddock said the British government will disburse the funds 10 million pounds, or around Rp 157 billion to help the development of renewable energy sources and development of natural resource development (SDA) in Indonesia as support for Indonesia's energy security.

Indonesia and UK, he said, should make campaign in order to reduce carbon emission. The efforts to prevent global warming cannot be stand alone.

Therefore, the development of electrical energy and cultivation in conserving the forest environment (nature) should be regulated.

"That's why we support Indonesia to develop renewable energy. I've coordinated with the Coordinating Minister for Economy, how Indonesia can cut carbon emissions to 41%, according to Indonesian the Presidential program, from earlier only 26%," he said in the House Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economy, Hatta Rajasa explained, UK will poured additional funds, if Indonesia could cut carbon emissions from previously only 26% to 41% until the year 2020. "If we could do so, UK will provide whatever we need," he said. (*unofficial translation, Suara Pembaruan*)

#### **Walhi Supports Stoppage of Forest Project in Aceh**

Banda Aceh - The Indonesian

Environmental Forum (Walhi) for Aceh supports the Aceh governor's decision to stop the Aceh Forest Environment Project (AFEP) because it was not benefiting local people, the forum's chief said.

Walhi Aceh director Bambang Antariksa said here on Thursday now was the time for the governor to take a courageous and positive step to stop the project which was initiated in the name of forest preservation while in fact it was done in the interest of certain foundations.

Aceh Governor Irwandi Yusuf was reported to have stopped the AFEP project which was sponsored by Yayasan Leuser Internasional (YLI) and Fauna Flora Internasional (FFI) foundations.

Antariksa said that if the project was continued it would further cause damage to Aceh forests and the foundations would enjoy a financial gain of hundreds of billions of rupiah.

The funds were contributed by international donors worth US\$17.5 million which were under the management of YLI and FFI since 2006.(ANTARA)

#### **Norway Wants to Work with RI on Climate Change: Minister**

If every country was like Norway, a small but rich Nordic country, and every environment minister was like Erik Solheim, our global greenhouse gas emissions might have already been reduced drastically.

Unfortunately, we have only one Norway on our planet.

Norway is on the one hand a major producer of fossil fuels like oil, a bad source of energy, and on the other it's a leading player in curbing greenhouse gas emissions through positive use its oil money and advanced green technology. It is ready to go any lengths to achieve its ambitious climate change targets.

Solheim, a leftist leader, is really transforming Norway from an oil producer into becoming a key player in tackling global climate change issues.

Norway's climate change policy is based on the target of limiting the average rise in global temperature to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial level.



“We are like a paradox. On one hand, we are proud to say that we are an environmentally friendly nation and want to be in the forefront of the environmental campaign. On the other hand, we are the fifth biggest oil exporter,” Norwegian minister for Environment and International Development Solheim told Indonesian journalists, including from The Jakarta Post, recently in Oslo.

Norway wants to cooperate with Indonesia, one of the world’s biggest emitters of carbon greenhouse emissions, and other countries, on climate change issues.

“Norway wants to work with the European Union, the United States, China, India and Indonesia. We are more than willing to cooperate with others. That’s the starting point,” Solheim, the leader of the Norway’s Socialist Left Party, said.

In order to help Indonesia and other countries working on the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiative, Norway launched a comprehensive climate and forest initiative in Bali during the UN climate change conference there in 2007, Solheim said.

REDD is a collaborative UN initiative that aims to provide compensation to participating countries which reduce their carbon emissions by stopping and reversing deforestation and land degradation.

“The UN-REDD is 100 percent financed by Norway. We have decided to make available on an annual basis 3 billion Norwegian kroner (NOK), which is approximately US\$600 million, for the conservation and sustainable use of rainforests,” Solheim said.

Another important feature of Norwegian climate policy is carbon capture and storage (CCS), a global climate mitigation measure.

“Carbon capture and storage is the most advanced [technology] in the world,” Solheim proudly said. Although CCS is safe and feasible, it is extremely expensive.

“We are now focusing on bringing down the costs of this technology,” Solheim said.

A high level Indonesian delegation attended an international conference on CCS in Bergen, Norway, in May this year.

For next year, the Norwegian government is planning to allocate NOK 2.1 billion, an increase of NOK 650 million from 2009, in efforts to prevent deforestation in poor countries.

In Norway, about 70 percent of emissions are either covered by the emissions trading scheme or a CO2 tax.

Surprisingly, Norway, a fjord-fringed country of 4.8 million people, depends heavily on renewable energy rather than its oil and gas. Most of its oil and gas is exported to the US and Europe. More than 80 percent of its own energy comes from hydroelectricity.

Both Indonesia and Norway agreed in April 2009 to work closely together in the field of renewable energy.

Norway has set an ambitious target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020, aiming to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Carbon neutrality means when a country’s emissions from burning fossil fuels would be totally offset by its carbon reduction policies and mechanisms.

As a country strongly committed to the climate change, Norway is ready to do more if its actions help a global climate deal to be reached in Copenhagen next month. “I won’t rule out ... that we can open up to going beyond 30 percent if it contributes to reaching an agreement [in Copenhagen],” Norway’s popular Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told the NRK Radio recently.

Even on the carbon neutrality target, Norway is ready to go for it by 2030 if there is an agreement to do so in Copenhagen.

When asked about what should be done in order to achieve a new global post-Kyoto climate regime, Solheim said that the major

powers, especially the US, must provide leadership in Copenhagen.

“The European Union and the US must take the lead in setting ambitious targets. Without the US leadership, we will not have an effective climate deal,” Solheim said.

He considers the Copenhagen summit as a major step in a long journey, but not the end of the journey.

“We may see a partial success in Copenhagen. Nobody is expecting a complete success. That’s impossible, Solheim said.

Though the Copenhagen meeting may not solve all the problems, Solheim added, it will be positive.

“It will not be the last and final global conference on climate change. But it will be a major step forward,” Solheim said.

The success of the conference in Copenhagen, according to Solheim, will depend upon Obama’s leadership, and that the developed world adopts ambitious targets and is willing to provide money to developing nations to do likewise, along with a strong commitment from emerging markets like China, India and Indonesia.

In Norway, about 70 percent of emissions are either covered by the emissions trading scheme or a CO2 tax.(The Jakarta Post)

#### **UK Encourages RI to Access \$25 Billion Fund for Forestry**

Developed countries may provide US\$25 billion in interim funds to help countries such as Indonesia develop forestry sector programs to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, a minister says.

The British Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change Joan Ruddock said Tuesday the fund would be used for forestry programs between 2010 and 2015.

“This week, we and many developed countries tried to determine how much interim funding could be provided,” Ruddock told The Jakarta Post after a meeting with Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati at the latter’s residence in Jakarta.

“The working group has said that this will probably be about US\$25 billion for

between 2010 and 2015. There would be a global fund,” she said.

Ruddock added that she had exchanged views with Mulyani on how to further ensure the funds were made available.

“From our side, we are working on trying to get this commitment. We ask Indonesia to work on plans that can show what Indonesia requires from the world community,” she said.

Indonesia is host to the world’s third-largest forested area with about 120 million hectares of rainforest. But the country also has the highest deforestation rate in the world with 1.08 million hectares lost to widespread illegal logging, forest fires and farmland conversion. (The Jakarta Post)

### **REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

#### **Vice President Boediono to Speak at World Food Summit**

Rome - Vice President Boediono is scheduled to speak at the World Food Summit at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) head office in Rome, Italy, on Wednesday (18/11/2009).

The vice president and his entourage left Jakarta on Tuesday morning and to arrive in Rome in the afternoon local time, vice presidential special media staff Yopie Hidayat said here on Tuesday.

Hidayat said the World Food Summit would take place in Rome from Monday to Wednesday (November 16-18, 2009) and be attended by heads of state/government from FAO member countries.

Besides attending the summit, the Indonesian vice president in the company of Agriculture Minister Suwarno would have a series of bilateral talks with a number of his counterparts from other countries.

At the opening of the summit on Monday, the world’s leaders agreed to renew their commitment to reducing the problem of starvation around the world.

They also agreed to prevent the reduction of domestic and international funds to support agriculture and investment sector, to step up global partnership to deal with the problem of starvation, and to pro-actively manage climate

change problem that could influence agriculture sector.

In his opening address, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for world's attention to the food problem in the future.

"There is no food security without climate security," Ban Ki-moon said, adding that if the snow at Himalaya Mountain melted, it would have a negative impact on the welfare of millions of people in China and Asia.

According to FAO record, around one billion people around the world were under threat of starvation.

Therefore, FAO Director General Jacques Diouf stressed on the importance of food production in the region with poor people and the improvement of investment there.

Diouf said in a number of developed countries two until four percent of the population were able to produce food for their people and even for export.

But in the developing countries, 60 to 80 percent of the population were unable to meet the food demand of their people. (ANTARA)

#### **Indonesia Re-Elected As IMO Council Member**

London, - Indonesia has been re-elected as a Category C member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the period of 2009-2011 collecting 132 out of 153 votes.

The election was done at the 26th IMO Assembly in London on November 26, 2009, the third secretary of the Indonesian embassy in London, Billy Wibisono, said to ANTARA here on Saturday (28/11/2009).

He said at the debate Indonesian minister of transportation Freddy Numberi asserted that Indonesia as a maritime country had already played its role as an IMO Council member by especially prioritizing safety in the country's shipping activities.

Category C members of the IMO are countries that have special interest in the field of sea transportation or navigation proportionately representing geographic positions.

Indonesia finished third in the vote, a level higher than its position in 2007 when it could only finish fourth with 114 votes.

The position is also better than those of the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand and other

Category C members such as Turkey, Malta, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Chile, Bahama, Denmark, Mexico, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Australia and Jamaica.

With its re-election Indonesia would be able to continue its important role as a member of IMO Council played since 1973.

The re-election however will also raise the country's burden and responsibility especially with regard to efforts in assuring efficient shipping security and safety guarantee and protection of marine eco-system.

The re-election was the result of hard work from all stakeholders dealing with marine resources and diplomatic approaches by Indonesian representatives in the IMO member countries and in Britain where the IMO headquarters is located, he said. (ANTARA)

#### **RI Sends 1,125 Troops to Lebanon**

Jakarta - The Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI) on Thursday (19/11/2009) sent 1,125 personnel to Lebanon to replace soldiers who had served in the Indonesian contingent in UNIFIL over the past one year.

The 1,125 servicemen were seen off by TNI Chief General Santoso at the TNI Headquarters in Cilangkap, east Jakarta.

The Indonesian contingent in UNIFIL so far comprised 850 personnel from the Mechanical Infantry battalion (Konga XXIII D), 50 form FHQSU task force (Konga XXVI-B1), 150 from Force Protection Unit (Konga XXVI-B2), and 75 Military Police unit (Konga XX-B).

The sending of troops to join the UN Peace mission was a long tradition of TNI's contribution to world peace and human rights protection to help enable people to live safely, peacefully and free from fear.

"During the UN mission, the TNI's task force had always performed well and this is something the Indonesian people can be proud of. Being part of UN peace troops is an honor and a reason for pride to every TNI member," he said.

And joining the UN mission also had a diplomatic purpose of strengthening relations with other countries' militaries, he said.

After France and Italy, Indonesia is the third largest contributor of military personnel to UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon).

UNIFIL was created by the Security

Council in 1978 to ensure Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security and assist the Lebanese government in restoring its effective authority in the area.(ANTARA)

### **Foreign Minister Says Indonesia Would Support Palestinian Independence**

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said his government would support a unilateral Palestinian declaration of independence.

"If they choose to declare independence unilaterally, we will support them but at this moment we like to prioritize the peace process," he said at a news conference in Jakarta today (20/11/2009), responding to a question on the issue. Indonesia is home to the largest population of Muslims in the world.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has said he plans to start lobbying abroad for recognition of an independent Palestinian state at the United Nations after years of negotiations with Israel. Abbas is considering the UN route after unsuccessful efforts by President Barack Obama to get Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat told the Jerusalem Post this week the Palestinians aren't planning to unilaterally declare statehood. Instead they are seeking a UN resolution endorsing a two-state solution according to the pre- 1967 borders, he told the newspaper.

The US and European Union said this week they wouldn't support a call for immediate recognition and reaffirmed support for the 'road map' that envisages an Israeli and a Palestinian state side by side, once questions of borders, refugees and the status of Jerusalem are settled.(the Jakarta Globe)

### **RI Condemns Israeli Government for East Jerusalem Settlements**

Indonesia condemned Thursday the decision of the Israeli government to continue expanding settlements in East Jerusalem,

calling on the international communities to launch a collective action to urge Israel to halt settlement building.

Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said the settlement building had gone against international law and a UN resolution, risking peace process efforts in the region torn by decades of conflict.

"The Indonesian government strongly condemns the decision of the Israel government to develop settlement building in East Jerusalem," Marty told the press after opening an exhibition forum at the foreign ministry building.

The Israeli government Tuesday (17/11/2009) approved the development of 900 homes in East Jerusalem in a movement that has drawn criticism from Washington. The UN Security resolution in 1979 declared that Israel's settlement on land it occupied in 1967 war is illegal.

"The Israeli government is apparently not ready for talks as they keep coming up with decisions that hampers \*peace efforts\*" said Marty.

Israel defied request from Washington to block the additional settlement Monday when US special envoy George Mitchell met with an aide to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in London.

Washington said the move was counterproductive to efforts to relaunch the stalled peace talk between the two. Palestine said they would only resume the negotiations after Israel stopped building the settlements.

"Other countries, including the United States and other Western countries have voiced similar concern... International communities have to join up efforts to urge Israel government to halt the settlement," said Marty.

Indonesia is a staunch supporter of Palestinian cause, citing rights of independence for every nation as enshrined in the country's Constitution.

Jakarta has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

Palestine officials have recently stated Palestine might declare unilateral independence without Israel's consent, reflecting frustrations at deadlock in peace talks. Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told a local media that Palestine had decided to seek UN Security Council for support for

establishing a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Reuters reported that the State Department had declined direct comment on the Palestinian plan, but saying that they wanted the negotiation to resume. Experts said Palestinian efforts would be met with a veto from Washington in the Security Council.

The European Union called the recognition of a Palestinian state "premature", saying it should concentrate on resuming negotiations.

Muslim countries, which are supporters of Palestinian cause, including Indonesia, have not made available their position on the Palestinian idea of unilateral independence.

The Palestinians already once announced unilateral independence in 1988 but the declaration was not followed up by implementation on the ground. (The Jakarta Post)

### **Indonesians Make a Mark As 'Influential Muslims'**

Notable Indonesian figures, including President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and former President Abdurrahman "Gus Dur" Wahid, made it into "The 500 Most Influential Muslims — 2009," a book that lists and provides short biographies of outstanding Muslims from the fields of politics, religion, women, the media and radicalism.

The book, edited at Washington's Georgetown University, is the first in what is planned to be an annual survey of top Muslim personalities worldwide.

Having steered Indonesia toward a strong democracy while working toward eradicating terrorism, Yudhoyono made the list's most influential in the political category.

Gus Dur was also mentioned in the same category, as the cleric who rallied against the formation of an Islamic state in Indonesia.

Scholar Azyumardi Azra, a prominent Indonesian academic who serves as advisor to the vice president, was also included on the list.

Indonesians who made it into the top 50 were Hasyim Muzadi, chairman of Indonesia's largest Islamic organization, the 40-million-strong Nahdlatul Ulama, who ranked 18th on the list.

Abdullah "AA Gym" Gynastiar, Indonesia's most popular preacher, ranked 48th.

Indonesian women also made their mark.

Tuti Alawiyah, the nation's former women's empowerment minister, is dean of As Syafi'iyah University, Indonesia's oldest institution of Islamic education. Siti Musdah Mulia, who chairs the women's arm of the NU, helped produce the Counter Legal Draft, aimed at revising the Islamic legal code on the banning of polygamy and child marriages.

Lily Zakiah Munir, the only woman and sole Muslim to serve on the monitoring commission for the Afghan elections, is founder of the Center for Pesantren and Democracy Studies, an organization that educates Islamic boarding schools about rights and political participation.

Maria Ulfah, the first woman to win the international Qur'an recitation competition, serves as director of the women's department at the Institute for Qur'an study in Indonesia.

Abu Bakar Ba'asyir, considered the philosophical leader of the terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, made it in the radicals category. (the Jakarta Globe)

### **Asia-Pacific Wants 'Inclusive' Growth**

Ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries agreed in Singapore on Thursday to dispense with protectionism as they sought to achieve a sustainable economic recovery while allowing for balanced growth.

Businesspeople and civil society groups expressed their full support for achieving the goals.

Acknowledging the current fragile recovery from the financial crisis, the top foreign, trade and finance officials expressed commitment in their joint statement to pursue economic growth that was "inclusive and



broad based", to enable everyone to enjoy benefits of regional economic integration.

To achieve the goals, the ministers agreed to resist protectionism, commit to open markets, improve trade facilitation and support trade finance.

"We will seek to ensure that economic growth is consistent with sustainable development," the statement read, as leaders of the 21 members of the regional economic hub started to arrive Thursday to reach a solution to world's most pressing problems.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono arrived here after meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Kuala Lumpur.

APEC's 21 members are home to more than 2.7 billion people, 54 percent of the world's GDP and 44 percent of world trade.

The Pacific Economic Cooperation (PECC), an influential think tank for the APEC, urged the officials to invest more in people, the green economy and knowledge.

The institution argued that a sustained recovery would require tackling different problems, including imbalances between the United States, China and other economies.

"We have to find ways to address the imbalances," Indonesia's Jusuf Wanandi, co-chairman of the PECC, told reporters.

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), a group of business leaders, said rising unemployment and continuing weak demand would raise the risk of protectionist measures and trade-distorting subsidies being implemented cross the region.

"In our annual report, we urged APEC leaders to take prompt action to reverse recent trade-restrictive measures, including the rise of non-tariff barriers; complete the Doha round and initiate the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific," said ABAC chairman Teng Theng Dat.

"This is the best way to mitigate the risks to economic recovery."

Jusuf said Indonesia could play a more active role in helping resolve problems of rising protectionism, striving for open markets and balanced economic growth by becoming an example for the region.

"As the only member of the G20 in Southeast Asia, and with a proven record of riding out this crisis, Indonesia has been

acknowledged as an important player in the region," he said. (The Jakarta Post)

### **APEC 2009: Post-Crisis Infrastructure Financing is a Challenge**

Several Apec finance ministers and the presidents of World Bank and Asian Development Bank discussed challenges faced and strategies taken in financing post-crisis infrastructural development, at a panel discussion during yesterday's World Bank-Singapore Infrastructural Finance Summit.

The downturn has allowed governments to ramp up infrastructure spending, a significant component of many stimulus packages. But, the Apec finance ministers said many challenges remain in getting the private sector involvement needed to bridge the huge gap in infrastructure financing needs.

While infrastructure requirements in Asia could soar to US\$750 billion a year by 2020, private investments currently account for only 20 per cent of the region's infrastructure financing, Asian Development Bank's president, Haruhiko Kuroda said.

Thailand's finance minister Korn Chatikavanij said that the Asean finance ministers are discussing the creation of an Asean infrastructure fund to channel the Asean economies' foreign reserves into infrastructure investments in the region. If such a fund is set up, having a party such as the ADB to provide financial backing and credit enhancement would be critical, he said.

To engage private sector interest in public-private partnerships, 'the government needs to signal its commitment' by putting in place strong and transparent regulatory and governance frameworks, said Singapore's second minister for finance and transport Lim Hwee Hwa.

As a rehaul of policy framework takes time, Mr Korn said that it is only practical to first focus on drawing private investment for existing infrastructure assets, 'rather than try to

entice them into greenfield infrastructure projects'. This would help build their confidence in investing with the public sector, and hopefully catalyse involvement in more ambitious and novel projects, he said.

And, 'it's not just about the money, it's about the ability to move', said Indonesia's finance minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, who stressed that project feasibility and preparation are key to making sure they get off the ground. She also advocated allowing for continuous competition in the course of the project, not just in the initial bidding, to ensure delivery of quality infrastructure.

World Bank president Robert Zoellick, also on the panel, said that other challenges include that of risk management, as these projects are long-term and capital intensive, as well as dealing with currency mismatch, as many payment streams come in local currencies.

Standardization of these projects is another challenge, said Mr. Zoellick, who also referred to fellow panellist, Australia's Treasurer Wayne Swan's comments on the setting up of Infrastructure Australia, a new, national approach to planning, funding and implementing projects, which has made considerable investments in road, rail and ports across the country. (source: [www.thebusinesstimes.com](http://www.thebusinesstimes.com))

### **RI and the Parliament of World Religions and Climate Change**

Simultaneously, this December two major international conferences are taking place. One The Copenhagen Climate Change Conference where the world's political leaders meet focusing on our external environment and the serious challenges posed by global warming.

The other occurring on Indonesia's doorstep sees Melbourne hosting 8000 people at a meeting of the Parliament of World Religions with a focus on man's inner environment in the face of humanities multiple challenges in an increasingly interdependent world.

That these two events take place at the same time may seem a coincidence but the link

between spirit and soul and the environment or atmosphere has always been acknowledged.

The holy books, prophets, great art and plain common sense are all evidence of this connection. While the last 400 years has seen this link somewhat blurred by elements of science and its focus on the mind and materialism, this like climate, is changing.

Simply using the lens of etymology we see most of the established languages attesting to the earlier strength of the link.

Greek, Latin, Hebrew and others had similar words for spirit and breath, soul and air. Closer to home Sanskrit which had a role in the development of Bahasa Indonesia had a word \*Atman' which is the root for the English word atmosphere.

The word \*Atman\* has multiple meanings, air, breath and soul.

I have no doubt that among the hundreds of indigenous languages of Indonesia this same connection can be found. The parallel exists in many of the Native American Indian languages.

The Copenhagen conference has received much attention in the Indonesian media, rightly so as Indonesia is home to one of the world's critical lungs, the threatened tropical rainforests.

The Parliament of World Religions (PWR) on the other hand has been conspicuously absent from news reporting in Indonesia, despite the fact that Indonesia has a multi-faith constitution and the world's largest Muslim population.

Although certain to have some Indonesia representation its unlikely that many will attend.

The PWR is the world's largest inter-faith gathering held only once in every five years. The parliament, open to all will consist of many of the world's religious, spiritual and indigenous leaders together with men and women of all ages from around the world.

Their aim is to cultivate harmony amongst the world's religious and spiritual communities. The week long gathering commencing on the 3rd of December will feature 500 different events, including lectures, dialogues, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

The theme of this years parliament is "Make a World of Difference" "Hearing each other and Healing the earth".

In addition to the climate change issue, key topics to be discussed in an open forum include, sharing wisdom in the search for inner peace, creating social cohesion in the pursuit of justice, reconciliation with indigenous people and overcoming poverty in a patriarchal world.

This historic event aims to be a festival of Unity in Diversity (Bhineka Tunggal Ika), Indonesia's national motto. One is led to wonder if the parliament which has never met in Asia might one day meet here in Indonesia.

This multi-faith nation with its strong spiritual underpinnings and tradition of synthesis accommodation, understanding of spiritual diversity and the individual's unique ability and right to receive grace has the potential to lead the development of a new paradigm in facing the spiritual crisis that besets this world.

Recent events here and the impact of inter-religious conflicts in other countries have eroded some of Indonesia's leverage in this sphere. Much as the destruction of rainforest's constrains Indonesia's influence and ability to play a major part in the climate change debate.

It's not too late however for Indonesia has just re-elected a president with an enlarged mandate obviously keen to see Indonesia playing an important part on the world stage.

These two major international issues climate change & religious harmony obviously present Indonesia, the president and people with an exciting opportunity.

Well thought out constructive policies in both these areas would gain much domestic support and see Indonesia's international profile considerably enhanced. It will need vision, expertise and serious commitment.

There are numerous reasons for Indonesia, to host the World Parliament of Religions.

A strong Indonesian participation in Melbourne would be a good start. For more information on the Parliament of World Religions please visit [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org) .(The Jakarta Post)

## 16 Foreign Fishing Vessels Arrested

Sixteen foreign fishing vessels that stole fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Indonesia in the Natuna waters were arrested. The seized

held in a joint operation netted between Marine and Fisheries Department, Police Headquarters, and Army Navy, Thursday (19/11/2009) and Friday (20/11/2009) last week.

A Thai fishing boat had been shot and sunk when it fought back. In this incident, three Thai fishermen were killed.

12 Vietnam boats and 1 Malaysian boat were brought to Pontianak for legal process, while the other 2 Vietnam ships used to deport tens of crew.

"The boats were captured 50-150 miles north Ranai Islands. Almost all fishing boats using trawling equipment. Indonesia losses about USD 3.5 billion-USD 4 billion per ship due to illegal fishing, "said Director General of Supervision and Control of Marine Resources and Fisheries DKP Aji Sularso, in Pontianak, West Kalimantan.

Foreign fishing vessels weigh about 40-100 tons. All the shipmaster and chief detained in the engine room control station of Marine Resources and Fisheries (PSDKP) Pontianak to undergo the legal process. Evidence of the ship and the caught fish were seized and placed in Pontianak PSDKP Station. Director V Specific Crime, National Criminal Investigation Police Headquarters, Brigadier General (Pol) Alius Suhardi, who headed the joint operation, said, six fishing boats from Thailand to escape persecution. "Seven Thailand ships had observed by the team. When about to be arrested, they are deliberately sacrificing one ship to another to escape, "he said. (*unofficial translation, Kompas*)