

Opportunity Indonesia

All You Need To Know
From Strength To Strength
Mystical Yogyakarta
Timeless Batik
The Diversity that is Indonesia



a special publication by the embassy of indonesia in singapore



24



6



14



15



21



20

Contents

01 Publisher's Note

03 Ambassador's Message

04 Indonesia

All You Need To Know

05 From Strength To Strength

Charting the Growing Indonesia-Singapore Ties

07 New Investment Policy

An Overview

09 The Indonesian Economy

12 Timeless Batik

14 Mystical Yogyakarta

16 Visit Indonesia 2008

18 The Diversity that is Indonesia

23 Travelling in Indonesia Practical Tips

24 Photo feature Visits, Meetings & Events

PUBLISHER Sun Media Pte Ltd EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Nomita Dhar

ASSISTANT EDITORS Kester Tay, Nandini Narayanan

EMBASSY EDITORIAL BOARD Widya Rahmanto, Hanung Nugraha,

Djunari Inggit Waskito MARKETING MANAGER Manjeet Singh Usma

ADVERTISING & MARKETING Kiran Kaur DESIGN Dilipkumar Kanagaraj

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore

PHOTOGRAPHERS M. Rahmad, Nomita Dhar PRINTING Times printers

EDITORIAL OFFICE **Sun Media Pte Ltd**, 20 Kramat Lane,

#01-02 United House, S228773 tel (65) 6735 2972 / 1907 / 2986

fax (65) 67353114 e-mail: admin@sunmediaonline.com

URL www.sunmediaonline.com

MICA (P) 071/06/2008

This commemorative special is published under the advocacy of H.E.Wardana, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Singapore.

© Copyrights 2008 by Sun Media Pte Ltd. The opinions, pronouncements or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of contributions or authors. The aim of this publication is to guide and provide general information. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of all information contained, the publisher cannot be liable for loss incurred in any way whatsoever by a company or a person relying on this information.

For further inquiries, contact: **Indonesian Embassy**, 7 Chatsworth Road, Singapore 249761 Website: www.kbrisingapura.com

Publisher's Note

We are excited and honoured to present this brand new edition of Opportunity Indonesia. This is truly an exciting time for us to bring out this publication of the Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore. First and foremost, its production coincides with an outstanding occasion – Indonesia's National Day.

As the republic celebrates 63 years of independence this year, its many achievements and progress over the years, being sources of national pride and hope for the future, are also commemorated.

This year is also significant as it witnesses the launch of the 'Visit Indonesia Year 2008' campaign. As the campaign's slogan – 'celebrating 100 years of the nation's awakening' – suggests, this year marks a century of the nation's process of coming into its own. Today, Indonesia is a land of diverse cultures, with 485 ethnic groups spread out over thousands of islands, but the archipelago is united through one common language – Bahasa Indonesia – and its people's love for their country.

As part of 'Visit Indonesia 2008', more than 100 events, happening around the country throughout the year, have been planned. From cultural festivals to world-class sporting events, these programmes offer something for everyone. We are pleased to present a glimpse of the festivities coming soon in the rest of this year in our 'Visit Indonesia 2008' article.

Tourists to Indonesia face a vast range of choices. With more than 17,508 islands, Indonesia is packed with places of interests both on land and in sea. There is so much to experience: the warm and hospitality of the people, white sand beaches, rich marine life, colourful culture and heritage, challenging golf courses and rejuvenating spa retreats. Our

overview of the fun and interesting activities available in each region in the story 'The Diversity that is Indonesia' aims to guide tourists on places to visit in Indonesia.

For Indonesia and Singapore, the past year has been a fruitful one as relations between the two countries have deepened. In 2007, Singapore was Indonesia's largest foreign investor with USD 3.75 billion worth of investments, as well as the first in terms of the number of tourists visiting the country. Various bilateral agreements have been made too, such as the Memorandum of Understanding on Information and Communication signed in September 2007, and the reciprocal aviation agreement involving Tiger Airways and Mandala Airlines made in February this year.

Publications inform, entertain and inspire thought. But more than that, they can also be a focal point, bringing readers closer together. Our hope for Opportunity Indonesia is that it will help promote understanding and friendship among our Indonesian and Singaporean friends, deepening ties between the two countries on various levels and fronts.

On that note, on behalf of my team, I'd like to wish all Indonesians in Singapore a joyous and meaningful National Day, and happy reading!

Nomita Dhar

Editor-in-Chief



communication with soul

At Sun Media we believe in putting not just our minds but our hearts in our work. Combining expertise with dedication, our team works hand-in-hand with clients worldwide to create engaging and well-targeted magazines, websites, events and marketing campaigns. We aim to not only fulfill our clients' goals but inspire others, and in our own little way, make a difference with our products and services.

At Sun Media, we create communication that is fresh, effective and with soul.



publishing. web. marketing. events. branding. printing. distribution.



Sun Media Pte Ltd, 20, Kramat Lane, #01-02, United House, 228773, Tel: (65) 6735 2972 / 1907 / 2986,
Fax: (65) 6735 3114 | email: admin@sunmediaonline.com | Website: www.sunmediaonline.com

**Our Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes
to The People and The Republic of Indonesia
on their 63rd Anniversary of Independence**



www.pnatrade.com

PERTAMINA ENERGY TRADING LIMITED

44/F, Office Tower, Convention Plaza, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel +852 2866 7712, Fax +852 2528 0040, Telex 75699 PERTA HX, Cable: HK PERTOIL

PERTAMINA ENERGY SERVICES PTE LTD

391A Orchard Road #10-04, Ngee Ann City Tower A, Singapore 238873
Tel +65 6736 1977, Fax +65 6736 1487, +65 6736 4070, Telex RS39246 POSL

Wholly owned Subsidiary of PT Pertamina (Persero)





Ambassador's Message

It is with a sense of pride that we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of our independence, on 17 August 2008. On this historic day, we take the opportunity to be introspective and to do a little soul searching in order to rekindle the true spirit of our aspirations, as was achieved in the 1945 struggle for independence.

The spirit of 1945 should appropriately serve as our guiding light in pursuing current reform. There are four pillars of basic consensus and value that sustain our country, Pancasila (five principle ideology of our nation), the 1945 constitution, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity).

The “reformasi” started 10 years ago has successfully built Indonesia into a strong democratic country that is better equipped to deal with new challenges, particularly how to sustain and accelerate economic development. We have recorded a number of achievements and our economy is continuing to grow, as reflected by the stable macro economic indicators. Despite the formidable challenges to the global economy, arising from the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the US and the hike in oil price, Indonesia's overall economic performance in 2007 showed heartening results, with growth at 6.3 per cent, inflation at 6.59 per cent and an exchange rate of about Rp. 9,140 to the USD 1. The first quarter of 2008 has shown continued growth at 6.28 per cent and our national reserves for the first time in the history has reached USD 60.56 billion (July 2008).

Likewise, Foreign Direct Investment also enjoyed a significant increase of 73 per cent to USD 10.3 billion last year and is expected to remain high until the end of 2008, because the New Investment Law, as part of Indonesia's efforts to create a conducive investment and business climate, underlines the key issues identified by the business sector, such as legal certainty, openness, accountability and equal treatment without discriminating based on the country of origin.

With regard to the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Singapore, the basis of our relations remains solid and

strong. Indeed, the leaders of the two countries are close to each other, being friendly, constructive and pragmatic in terms of identifying opportunities for taking our bilateral cooperation to a higher level. I believe regular consultation between the leaders is important to promote bilateral cooperation as well as to strengthen mutual understanding, to bolster confidence and identifying opportunities to beneficially enhance mutual relations.

In the economic field, our economic relations have continued to flourish. Singapore was Indonesia's third largest trading partner with a total trade value of SGD 66.3 billion for 2007 according to IE Singapore. In terms of Foreign Direct Investment, Singapore is ranked number 1 for foreign direct investment realisations in the year 2007 with the value of USD 3.7 billion for 124 projects or 36.2 per cent of the total foreign direct investment in Indonesia. Singapore has also remained the largest source of tourist for Indonesia. Out of the 5.5 million tourists who visited Indonesia last year, about 1.4 million or 26 per cent, were Singaporeans, which is a substantial proportion. On the other hand almost 1.9 million Indonesians visit Singapore in 2007.

I believe that one of the most important aspects of our bilateral relationship is greater understanding between our people. Therefore it is also important to underline our ties beyond established areas such as trade, investment and tourism, and to extend our cooperation in other fields, such as social and culture, education, human resource development and youth. I am confident that the years ahead will see a deepening of our relations and broadening of our cooperations.

H.E. Wardana

Ambassador of the Republic of
Indonesia in Singapore

Indonesia

All You Need To Know

Geography: Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world with a total number of 17,508 islands, according to the Indonesian Naval Hydro-Oceanographic office. The archipelago is on a crossroads between two oceans, the Pacific and the Indian ocean, and bridges two continents, Asia and Australia.

Climate: Tropical; dry season is from June to September while rainy season is from December to March; average temperatures in the coastal plains is 28°C, inland and mountain areas, 26°C, and higher mountain areas, 23°C.

Main cities: Jakarta (Capital), Surabaya, Medan.

Political System: The Government of Indonesia is based on the 1945 Constitution (amended in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002). Article I of the Constitution establishes a republican form of government that recognises the sovereignty of the people.

Government Administration: Administratively, Indonesia consists of 33 provinces, five of which have special status. Each province has its own political legislature and governor. Aceh, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Papua, and West Papua provinces have greater legislative privileges and a higher degree of autonomy from the central government than the other provinces.

Population: 220 million.

Average Annual Population Growth Rate: 1.49 (1990-2000)

Workforce (15 to 64 years old):
65.4 per cent of total population

Human Development Index: 69.6

Life Expectancy: 68.1 years

Literacy Rate: 90.9 per cent

Mean Years of Schooling: 7.3 years

National Language: Bahasa Indonesia

Religion: 85 per cent Islam



Currency: Indonesian Rupiah

Business Hours: Monday to Friday,
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Time: GMT + 7 hours

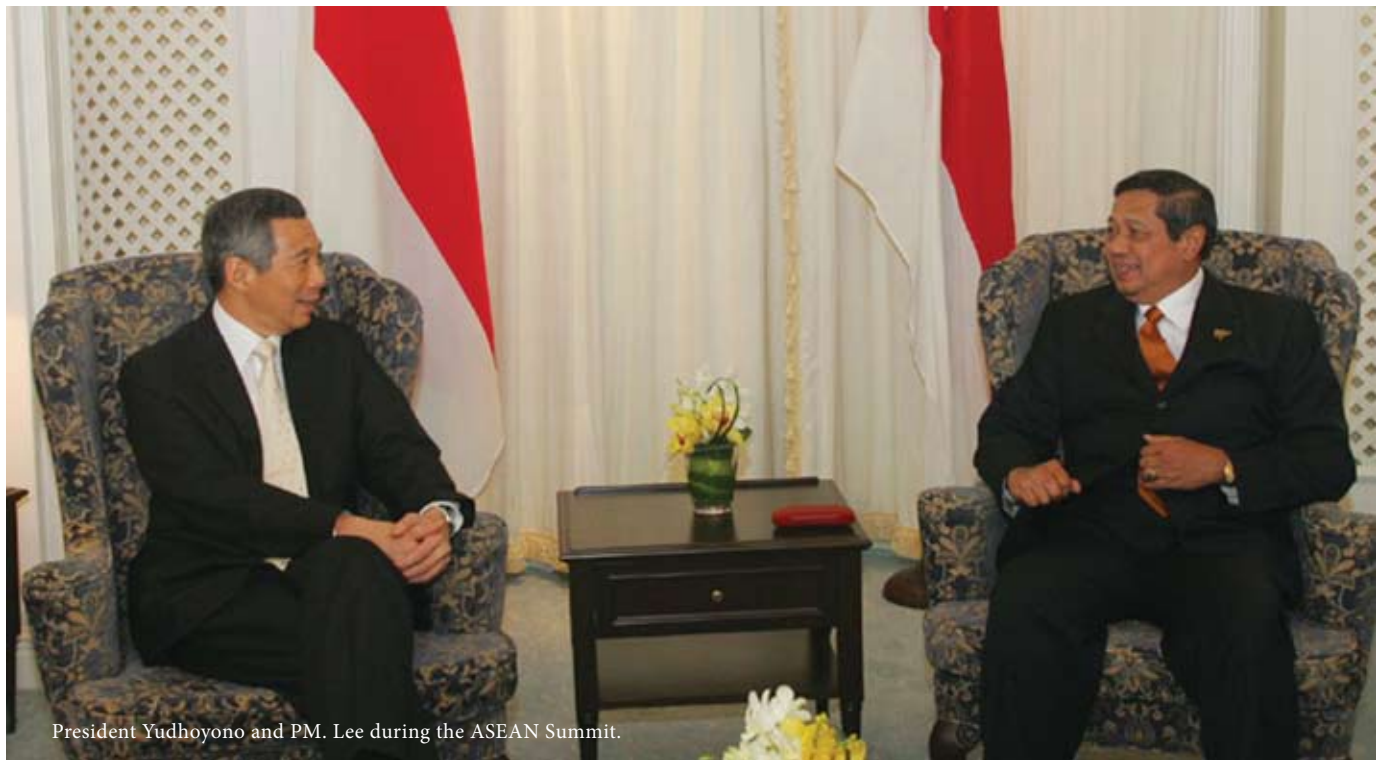
Electricity: 220-240 volts AC at 50 cycles per second

Telephones: Local calls can be made from public phones using coins or pre-paid cards. International calls can be made from public phones with card phone facilities or at any Telkom offices.

Accommodation: Indonesia has a wide range of accommodation at competitive rates. International standard, medium and budget hotels, youth hostels, and timeshare apartments are just some of the types of accommodation available. Privately operated motor-homes are also available for rent.

Cuisine: Staple food is rice; seafood is widely eaten due to its abundance; spices and hot chilli peppers are the essence of most cooking; pork is usually not served, except in non-halal restaurants.

Source: Statistics Indonesia



President Yudhoyono and PM. Lee during the ASEAN Summit.

From Strength to Strength

Charting the Growing Indonesia-Singapore Ties

The past decade has seen relations between Indonesia and Singapore escalate to new heights. This trend, as recent interactions have shown, seems poised to endure. Opportunity Indonesia maps out the key bilateral developments in the past year.

On a multitude of fronts, Singapore's relations with Indonesia have been robust. The island republic ranked first in terms of foreign direct investments (FDI) in Indonesia last year. Singaporean investors pumped a total of USD 3.75 billion into 124 projects. In terms of exports, Singapore is Indonesia's the third largest destination after Japan and the United States. Some SGD 9 billion worth of exports reached Singapore's shores in 2007. On the tourism front, Singapore continued from past years to rank first in terms of the number of tourists visiting Indonesia. Out of the five million foreigners who visited Indonesia in 2007, 1.4 million were from Singapore.

Points of Progress

Bilateral ties have also been strengthened through various events and happenings. Here are some recent highlights:

10 September 2007 - Indonesia and Singapore sign MOU on information and communication

Indonesia and Singapore signed an agreement for more interactions and cooperation in the field of information and communication. The Memorandum of



MoU signing between Minister of Communication Republic of Indonesia and Minister for Information, Communication, and the Arts Singapore

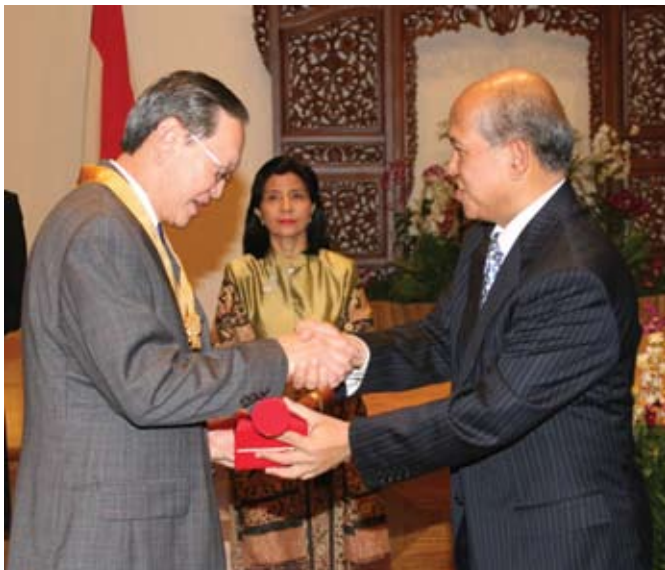
Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Indonesian Minister for Communication and Information Technology Dr Mohammad Nuh, and Singapore's Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Dr Lee Boon Yang. Replacing the 1989 MOU on Broadcasting and Communication, the new agreement broadens the scope for collaboration to include information and communication



Indonesia and Singapore sign MOU on information and Communication

technology (ICT) and postal service. This is on top of the areas the two countries were already working together on, such as radio, television and films, government information service, and press and publications, as set by the old agreement. “The MOU provides a framework,” Dr Lee Boon Yang was quoted by Xinhua New Agency as saying. “It signals strong political commitment on the part of the Indonesian government and the Singapore government that we want to cooperate.”

18 September 2007 - Former Singaporean Ambassador receives Indonesia's highest merit award



H.E. Edward Lee Kwong Foo receives Indonesia's highest merit award from H.E. Wardana, Indonesia's Ambassador to Singapore

In recognition of his outstanding work in enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries, former Ambassador of Singapore to Indonesia (1994-2006) H.E. Edward Lee Kwong Foo was conferred the ‘Bintang Jasa Utama’ (The First Class Order of Service Award) by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The Bintang Jasa Utama is Indonesia's highest civilian honour, and is bestowed upon Indonesian citizens and foreigners deemed to have rendered great service to the people of Indonesia. H.E. Edward Lee, whose efforts have strengthened Indonesia-Singapore ties, especially in the

economic sector and humanitarian affairs, received the award from H.E. Wardana, Indonesia's Ambassador to Singapore, on behalf of the President, in a ceremony held at the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore. The award reaffirms the commitment of both countries towards enhancing already expansive bilateral relations.

22 February 2008 - Indonesia and Singapore strike reciprocal aviation agreement

In return for allowing Singapore's budget carrier Tiger Airways to fly to Indonesia, Indonesia's Mandala Airlines would be allowed to land at Singapore's Changi Airport, said Indonesian Transport Minister Jusman Syafii. Mr Syafii added that the Indonesian government will stick to its part of the mutually-beneficial deal, with the intention of liberalising aviation exchange between the two countries. Singapore has asked Indonesia to allow Tiger Airways to provide flights to the four largest cities in the country – Jakarta, Medan, Denpasar and Surabaya.

15 April 2008 - Sembcorp signs USD 5.5 billion deal to buy gas from Indonesia

Leading Singapore-based utilities and marine group Sembcorp signed a deal worth USD 5.5 billion to buy natural gas from West Natuna in Indonesia. The agreement was made between Sembcorp and UK oil company Premier Oil, which operates the West Natuna gas field, and its co-venturers. Prior to the deal, Sembcorp Gas was already importing gas from Indonesia.

Mr Tang Kin Fei, Group President & CEO of Sembcorp Industries and Chairman of Sembcorp Gas, explained the requirement for the extra supply in a press release: “The import of additional gas will allow us to meet growing customer needs on Jurong Island and it will enlarge our earnings base and provide the platform for the future growth of our energy and centralised utilities business.”

11-12 June 2008 - Progress made at Indonesia-Singapore maritime boundaries discussions

Government delegations from Singapore and Indonesia held the fifth round of technical discussions on maritime boundaries between their two countries over two days in Singapore. Both sides said in a joint statement that “substantive progress” was made towards reaching an agreement on the boundary between Singapore and Indonesia in the western part of the Singapore Strait. The Singapore delegation was led by Mr S. Tiwari, Special Consultant, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers, while the Indonesian delegation was led by Mr Arif Havas Oegroseno, Director for Treaties on Political Security and Territorial Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs.

New Investment Policy

An Overview



In 2007, Indonesia made changes to its investment law in order to increase economic growth, simplify investment procedures and attract foreign investment. Opportunity Indonesia brings you an overview.

1 The enactment of the new investment law is an effort by the Indonesian government to improve the investment climate, as decreed in Presidential Instruction number 3 of the year 2005.

2 Following the changes, investment is used to increase national economic growth, to create employment, to increase sustainable economic development, to increase the capacity and capability of national technology, to encourage economic development, and to create the people's welfare in a competitive economic system.

3 This law embraces all direct investment activities in all sectors. This law also provides a guarantee for equal treatment in investment. Moreover, this law directs the government to increase coordination among government institutions, and the Bank of Indonesia, and between government institutions and regional and local governments.

4 The new investment law is concerned with the main problems faced by investors in starting their business in Indonesia. Therefore, it regulates the authorisation

and licensing that govern the one door integrated service. With such a system, the integrated service at the central level and in the regions is expected to simplify and accelerate service. Besides conducting regional investment services, the Investment Coordinating Board is assigned to coordinate the implementation of investor policies. The Investment Coordinating Board Chairman is directly responsible to the President.

5 The new Investment law also gives room to the government to make policies to anticipate international treaties and to encourage other international cooperations to expand the regional and international market opportunities for Indonesian goods and services.

6 The economic development policies in certain areas shall be placed to attract the potential international market and as encouragement to increase the growth in a region or special economic zone that is strategic for national economic development.

7 Moreover, this law regulates the rights of assets transfer and repatriation, while keeping in mind the legal liability, fiscal obligation and social obligations that shall be met by investors.

8 The possibility of disputes arising between investors and the government is anticipated by this law. With provisions for dispute settlement, rights, obligations and responsibilities of the investors specifically regulated in order to provide legal certainty, to emphasise the obligations

of the investors for the implementation of good corporate governance principles, to respect a society's cultural tradition, and to fulfill the social obligations of the company.

9 Such regulation is needed to encourage a healthy business competition climate, to increase environmental responsibility and the fulfillment of the rights and obligations of employees, and to encourage the obedience of the investor to the laws and regulations.

10 Under the new law, investment is carried out based on the following principles: legal certainty, openness, transparency, accountability, equal treatment between domestic and foreign investors that is given from the time of processing of business license until the end of the duration of the investment in accordance with existing laws/regulations and non-discrimination based on country of origin, togetherness, sustainability and protection of the environment, independence, balanced growth and national economic unity.

11 The new investment law is not the only act to strengthen the investment climate. Other laws shall be included such as the revision of tax laws (still in parliament), revision of customs law and excise law (finalised), revision of labor law and empowerment of SME's package. Moreover, there are some regulations that shall be enacted to implement the new investment law, such as the negative list, criteria and requirements of the negative list arrangement, integrated services and simplification of investment procedures.

12 Presidential decree No 76 of the year 2007 regulates the criteria and requirements in arranging the negative list (closed sectors and open sectors with certain conditions). This regulation was enacted as mandated by the new investment law.

13 Presidential decree No. 76 of 2007 has several purposes such as a legal basis in drafting related regulation on investment, transparency, guidance on drafting the negative list, guidance on the negative list review, and guidance when there is multi-interpretation of the negative list. Based on this regulation, each related ministry or institution may propose drafts of the negative list. However, in proposing the draft, there are some basic principles that should be used which are simplification, compliance with international agreements, transparency, legal certainty, and Indonesia as a single market.

14 Presidential decree No 77 of the year 2007 decides the negative list with certain conditions. Simply speaking, all business sectors are open for investment. However, certain sectors are closed such as investment related to guns, explosives, and war equipment. Under the criteria of health, morality, culture, environment, national security and safety and national interest, certain business sectors can be closed. There is also room for reserved business sectors for micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives.

In addition, the government also decided the open sectors with certain conditions under the criteria of environmental protection, development of micro, small, medium enterprises and cooperatives, management of production and distribution, technology capacity, local capital participation and partnership.

15 A regulation which will be launched shortly is the Presidential Decree on Integrated Service and Procedures of Investment. The purpose of this regulation is to simplify the procedure of investment eliminating the red tape on investment procedures.



The Indonesian Economy

The Year 2007 at a Glance

GDP Growth: 6.3 per cent

Inflation (Consumer Price Index): 6.59 per cent

Average Exchange Rate (IDR/USD): 9.140

GDP by Expenditure

- Consumption: 5.0
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation: 9.2
- Exports of Goods and Services: 8.0
- Imports of Goods and Services: 8.9

GDP by Sector

- Agriculture: 3.5
- Mining and Quarrying: 2.0
- Manufacturing: 4.7
- Electricity, Gas and Water Supply: 10.4
- Construction: 8.6
- Trade, Hotels and Restaurants: 8.5
- Transportation and Communication: 14.4
- Finance, Rental and Business Services: 8.0
- Services: 6.6

Unemployment Rate: 9.1

Poverty Rate: 16.6

Real GDP per Capita: USD 1,947

Interest Rate

- Interbank Money Market (overnight): 6.50
- 1-Month Time Deposit: 7.19
- Working Capital Loan: 13.00
- Investment Loan: 13.01

Sources: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Bank Indonesia



Underscoring this were the robust balance of payments and more equitable income distribution. Poverty was reduced from 17.7 to 16.6 per cent based on the Government's poverty line, a reduction of 1.9 million persons. And unemployment fell from 10.3 to 9.1 per cent. Also, exchange rate was stable and fiscal deficit was contained. Inflation was subdued, reaching 6.6 per cent at the end of 2007, close to the upper end of the government's target. However, rising food prices has driven inflation up to 7.4 per cent this year.

This accelerated growth momentum came mostly from the expansion in household consumption and investment. Household consumption saw a 5.0 per cent growth in 2007, well ahead of the 3.2 per cent increase recorded in the previous year. This growth came with the improvement of public purchasing power due to controlled inflation, pay rises for formal sector employees and labourers and high levels of remittance transfers from Indonesians working overseas. Another main reason was the adequate availability of consumer financing.

Investment grew significantly in 2007, attaining 24.8 per cent of GDP, due to reform progress and improved business perceptions, as reflected in various survey findings pointing to buoyant confidence in the growth outlook for the domestic economy. This momentum continued in the first half of 2008. Foreign investment for the January-June period increased 160 per cent to US\$ 5.56 billion, according to Head of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) M Lutfi. "The realisation of foreign investment increased more than 160 per cent while that of domestic investment contracted by 60 per cent. But as a whole the realised investment growth in that period reached over 80 per cent.

Performance

Fastest Growth in Ten Years

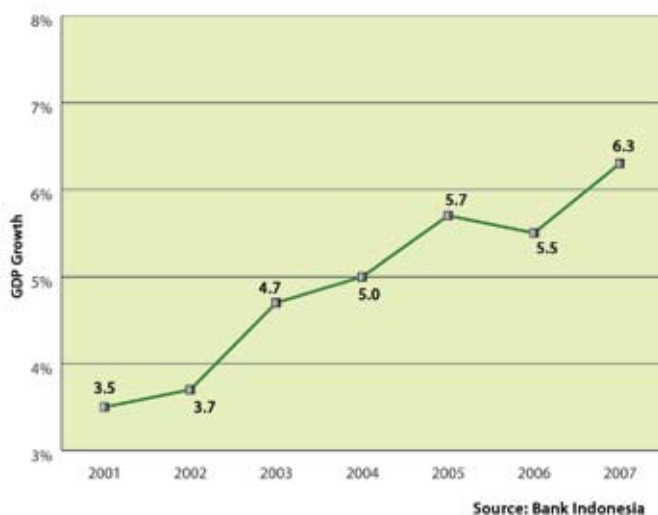
Against the backdrop of external turbulence, Indonesia's economic growth leaped to a ten-year high of 6.3 per cent in 2007, as compared to 5.5 per cent in the previous year.



This is a sign that foreign investors still have confidence in us,” Antara News quoted Mr Lutfi saying.

On the supply side, the major drivers of economic growth in 2007 remained unchanged. They were the manufacturing, hotels and restaurant, agriculture and trade industries.

Indonesia's GDP Growth



Manufacturing growth during 2007 reached 4.7 per cent, up slightly from 4.6 per cent in 2006. The agricultural sector recorded more vigorous growth due to increased productivity, especially in the food crops subsector, as well as strong export demand for rubber and palm oil.

Growth in trade climbed from 6.1 per cent in 2006 to 8.5 per cent in 2007. In its 2008 Global Trade Report published in June, the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked Indonesia 47th among 118 countries according to the Enabling Trade Index, reported The Jakarta Post. The

index measures countries' openness and international trade capabilities. Indonesia scored well on trade policies, in which it was ranked in the top 22 countries, ahead of Britain, Australia, Italy, Singapore and Malaysia. It was ranked 34th for good regulatory environment, a sector that included ease of hire of foreign labor, ease of foreign ownership and regulations encouraging foreign investment. The report also added that Indonesia has competitive trade connectivity, due to its location, competitive shipping costs and logistics companies.

Indonesia's strong economic performance can also be attributed to a range of supportive government policies. Aimed at building domestic economic resilience against external and domestic shocks, these policies include the pursuit of monetary policy geared towards achieving inflation target, fiscal sustainability, prudential banking policies and sectoral policies for promoting investment and export market expansion.

Prospects

Experts Agree: Indonesia Will Weather Global Economic Slowdown

Indonesia would be able to sustain economic growth even if a global recession becomes reality, said Indonesia's Minister of Trade Mari Pangestu, according to a press release by Citigroup Inc. She was speaking at Citi Indonesia's Economic and Political Outlook 2008 event held for clients and the press in Jakarta in March. "Our policies related to infrastructure development, job creation and trade are designed to enhance productivity and efficiency," she said. "Because of these, we believe we are well positioned to grow our export sector. In addition, given rising production costs in China, Indonesia is becoming increasingly attractive to

foreign investors.” Other political and economic expert speakers such as Mr Moh Siong Sim, Director, Emerging Markets Strategy, Citi Singapore had similar views. Presenting his macro perspective, Mr Moh said that Asian markets like Indonesia are more likely to be impacted by rising inflation than an economic slowdown in the U.S.

Similarly, The Wall Street Journal reported in an article that economists generally expect the Indonesian economy’s momentum to be sustained in 2008. The Journal quoted chief economist at Action Economics David Cohen saying: “The 6.3 per cent annual growth in 2007 continued the steady expansion of recent years, supported by a combination of exports and domestic demand. Even if growth moderates in sympathy with slower global growth during 2008, Indonesia should maintain sufficient momentum to continue expanding.”

In a key report released on 2 April, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Indonesia’s economy would continue to grow, albeit at a slower rate. The think tank predicted growth rate to slow to 6.0 per cent in 2008, from 6.3 per cent in 2007, then pick up to 6.2 per cent in 2009. Growth would be fuelled mainly by private consumption, encouraged by the lagged effect of lower interest rates, the report explained. The decreased rates, together with an improving investment climate, would also spur private investment. Inflation is

predicted to rise to 6.8 per cent in 2008 due to increased domestic demand and high global food prices before reducing to 6.5 per cent in 2009 given world food prices ease up. Although export is expected to be more moderate in 2008-09 due to weaker global demand and a reduction of international commodity prices, import is expected to remain strong because of rising domestic demand.

Bank Indonesia forecasts economic growth in 2008 to reach 6.2 per cent. Sharing similar views with ADB, the central bank said in its 2007 annual report on the country’s economy that growth would be primarily driven by private consumption and investment. Released on 7 July, the report added that this economic performance would remain firmly underpinned by macroeconomic and financial system stability. The bank expects the rupiah exchange rate to remain stable in 2008 in view of attractive investment returns and availability of foreign exchange from export earnings and capital inflows. Supporting this growth would be anticipatory measures, which the government has shown consistency in delivering. Further, Bank Indonesia is committed to safeguarding macroeconomic and financial system stability, especially in the exchange rate, and on further strengthening of fiscal and monetary policy coordination.

Sources:

Citigroup Inc., Asian Development Bank, Bank Indonesia

Indonesian Business Centre IBC

Promoting Business Network Between Indonesia & Singapore

Profitable partnerships begin with Indonesian Business Centre (IBC)

IBC, now in its 8th year, synergises business network among Indonesian businessmen, their Singaporean counterparts and expats residing in both Singapore and Indonesia respectively. The membership of IBC, currently stands at 3000, comprises primarily eminent businessmen, entrepreneurs and professionals. Celebrate Indonesia 63rd Independence Day and subscribe to IBC Privilege Membership by 31st August 2008 to enjoy exciting rewards. **1st prize:** a return business class ticket to Jakarta (excluding taxes) by courtesy of Lufthansa German Airlines. **2nd prize:** a hotel voucher by courtesy of Hotel Mulia Senayan, Jakarta. **3rd prize:** a spa voucher by courtesy of Expressions International Pte Ltd. Plus..... 60 additional prizes !!!

Websites: www.ibc-club.sg; www.indonesian-business-centre.com.sg Tel: (65) 6235 1163 Fax: (65) 6234 4740 Email: ibciarc@singnet.com.sg



Where Variety Comes To Life

Nirwana Gardens

Jalan Panglima Pantar, Lagoi 29155 Bintan Resorts, Indonesia
Tel: +62 770 692505 Fax: +62 770 692550
Reservation Tel: +65 6323 6636 Fax: +65 6323 7717
Email: reservation@nirwanagardens.com
Website: www.nirwanagardens.com

Nirwana Pte Ltd (Singapore Sales & Marketing Office)
991D Alexandra Road, #01-22/23, Singapore 119972
Tel: +65 6213 5830 Fax: +65 6291 1343
Email: sales@nirwanagardens.com

GoodLink
Employment Agency
Tel : 63156925 Fax : 63435894



Puri Bunga
Beach Cottages

www.puribungalombok.com
email: info@puribungalombok.com

Timeless



Batik

It is part of a tradition dating back to some 1,500 years ago. But, today, the textile art of batik that is a national artform in Indonesia is as trendy and hip as ever.

It would be impossible to visit or live in Indonesia without being exposed to batik. Most of Indonesia's students and government officials wear batik once in a week, a tradition that has been around for a long time. In a batik store or factory, you will undoubtedly experience an overwhelming stimulation of the senses – due to the many colours, patterns and the actual smell of batik. Design motifs are close to nature. They include leaves and flowers, butterflies, birds, fish, insects and geometric forms rich in symbolic meaning. Although experts disagree as to the precise origins of batik, samples of dye resistance patterns on cloth can be traced back 1,500 years ago, to Egypt and the Middle East. Samples have also been found in Turkey, India, China, Japan and West Africa from past centuries. Although in these countries people were using the technique of dye resisting decoration, within the textile realm, none have

developed batik to its present day art form as the highly developed intricate batik found in Indonesia.

'Batik' is comes from the Indonesian word '*ambatik*' which means 'a cloth with little dots'. The suffix '*tik*' means 'to make dots', originating from the Javanese word '*tritik*', which describes the process for dying where patterns are reserved on the textiles by tying and sewing areas prior to dying, similar to tie dye techniques. Another Javanese phrase for the mystical experience of making batik is '*mbatik manah*' which means 'drawing a batik design on the heart'.

The process of batik printing is a long and tedious one. The first step is to apply wax over the pencilled-in design outline on the fabric. The original cloth is almost always white or beige. Next, the cloth is dyed in the first dye bath. The area of the cloth where the wax was applied remains white. Wax

is then applied additionally to prevent the previously dyed areas from absorbing a different colour from the next dye bath. To dye the white areas still covered by wax, the wax has to be removed. This is done by heating the wax and scrapping it off, and also by applying hot water and sponging



off the remaining wax. This process of waxing, dyeing and wax-removal is repeated over and over until the required print is achieved.

Batik reached its peak of development in Java, Indonesia. Dutch traders were so impressed by this craft that in 1835, they brought batik artists back to Holland with them when they returned from trading trips. These ‘imported’ batik artists taught the process to factory designers and workers so the beautiful batik fabrics could be produced to meet the European demand for it. They thus sparked the global spread of Indonesian batik.

To keep itself relevant, the art of batik has evolved with the times. “The trend is now to create modern motifs, fusing traditional motifs with modern motifs. There are also adaptations to the contemporary Western silhouettes and shapes,” says Rayson Tan, Executive Director of Indonesian batik fashion house Alleira, which just opened its first overseas boutique in June here in Singapore. As one of the leaders of this trend, Alleira creates batik pieces for casual nights out, stylish weekend wear, clubbing and even for elegant evening wear. Perhaps batik, as a fashion institution, is not only timeless but boundless.



Annisa Pohan

ALLEIRA
Batik | B & W | classic

Ready-To-Wear | Scarfs | Shawls
Textiles | Gift Items

Available at 39 Stamford Road,
#02-02 Stamford House, Singapore 178885
Tel: (65) 6883 2510,
Website: www.alleirabatik.com

Mystical Yogyakarta



With its temples, traditional buildings, cultural activities and famous artists, Yogyakarta's cultural colour is obvious. This is further accentuated by the presence of living tradition and everyday life of the Yogyakarta community, which is art loving and hospitable. In May, our editorial team was enchanted by this tourist destination when they joined a media group on a familiarisation trip organised by the Indonesian embassy here. This photo feature captures their experience.



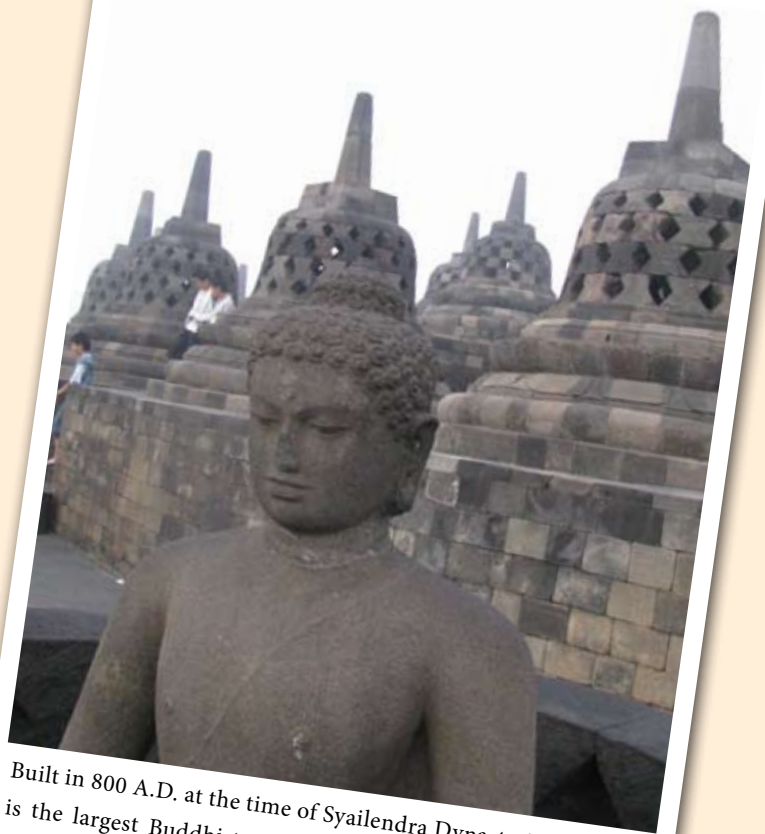
'Kraton' (the Sultan's Palace) is the key attraction of Yogyakarta. The Sultan's palace is the centre of Yogya's traditional life and, despite the advance of modernity, it still emanates the spirit of refinement, which has been the hallmark of Yogya's art for centuries.



Thanks to the fertile volcanic soil, the production of rice is not bound to seasons. Harvest comes three times a year.



Taman sari, which means 'beautiful garden', was built in 1757 as an escape for the Sultan of Jogja to relax with his family and renew his spiritual power to rule his land.



Built in 800 A.D. at the time of Syailendra Dynasty, Borobudur is the largest Buddhist temple in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The largest Hindu temple in Southeast Asia, Prambanan temple has three main temples in the primary yard, namely Vishnu, Brahma and Siva.



A cultural performance.



Indonesian Ramayana Ballet at the open air theatre in the Prambanan Temple.



Colourful and delicious Indonesian sweets.

Visit Indonesia 2008



On 26 December 2007, the Ministry for Culture and Tourism launched 'Visit Indonesia Year 2008', offering more than 100 events around the country throughout the year. Celebrating the history and diversity of Indonesia, the campaign events showcase the archipelago's vibrancy and richness.

To call Indonesia vast would be an understatement. As the biggest archipelago in the world, the country consists of more than 17,508 islands, of which 9,000 are inhabited. Stretching 3,200 miles (5,120km) from east to west, it straddles the equator between the Australia and Asia Continents. Its 220 million strong population, the world's fourth largest, consists of 480 ethnic groups and 583 different languages comprising a cultural diversity of kaleidoscopic proportions collectively constituting one of the most rewarding travel destinations in the world.

Indonesia's cultures and religions are diverse but it is unified in one nation. Consequently, Indonesia has become a midpoint of many festivals and cultural performances continuously and regularly performed every year in every region throughout the country. These festivities come from a rich heritage of traditions and art, as well as religion, especially on the island of Bali. From highly sophisticated music and dances developed by the royal

courts to religious ceremonies steeped in history, there is no short of unique, cultural experiences that will leave tourists satisfied and wanting more. Opportunity Indonesia highlights some of the upcoming events.

August 23-26: Pacu Jalur (Canoe Races)

Teluk Kuantan, Indragiri Hulu, Riau-Jalur canoe races coincide with Indonesia's Independence Day celebrations. Every decorative jalur used for the race on the Kuantan River is made of one single large bark of tree, approximately 30m long and 1m wide, manned by 25-30 rowers. Before, the festival was only held after a harvest and considered a sacred event.

August 25-30: Krakatau Festival

Lampung-This annual event is held at the end of August. The festival remembers Krakatau's eruption in the late 19th century. The volcano is located in the Sunda Strait, South of Lampung, in the southern tip of Sumatra.

Fourth week of August: Borneo Festival

Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan-Honouring the Dayak and Melayu culture, the event is participated by East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, and South Kalimantan acting as host. Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam are honoured guests.

September: Bunaken Festival

Manado, North Sulawesi-Bunaken is a small island off the coast of Manado known for its fabulous underwater gardens. Not far lies the volcano Manado Tua. Highlights during the festival include art and cultural performances from the four ethnic groups living in the North Sulawesi Province, namely Bolaang Mongondow, Sangihe-Talaud, Manado, Bitung and Minahasa. The performance is held in open air stage and includes storytelling of legends and folklore, bamboo music and a pop song festival, decorated floats and exhibition of local products.

September: Kenduri Seni Melayu (Melayu Art Festival)

Batam-The festival invites the participation of all Malay ethnic groups spread across Southeast Asia, in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and even Thailand in an event that celebrates Malayan culture. The event hopes to become the benchmark for the development of the Malayan culture in these regions.

September: International Surfing Competition

Mentawai Island-This is one of the popular events in the surfing world, attracting participants from all over the world thanks to the island's superb waves and unique local colour.

October: Bangawan Solo Fair

Surakarta, Central Java-Bangawan Solo Fair (BSF) is a nationwide annual trade, culture and tourist event. The



Krakatau Festival

programmes of this event are the Borobudur Trade Mart, Solo Great Sale, and Trade & Tourism Exhibition.

November 1-30: Art Summit Indonesia (ASI)

Jakarta-An international contemporary art festival, ASI also holds workshops and seminars, as well as contemporary art performances by performing groups from foreign countries. The event's programmes take place in various venues – cultural centres and performing theatres throughout the capital, such as Gedung Kesenian Jakarta, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Teater Utan Kayu and Goethe Institute.

December 1-2: Asian Formula 3

Sentul International Circuit-The best of Asian drivers compete in this international event to win the title of best Asian F3 driver.

December: Jambi Cultural Week

Jambi-The local government and tourism industries in Jambi participate in a week-long exhibition on tourism developments. Traditional music, dances, art performances as well as traditional sport competition are held during this event.

December 31-January 1: Tourist Appreciation

Batam-This end of year event welcomes visitors to Batam. At the same time the people of Batam express their thanks to visitors leaving the city with fireworks display and arts and cultural performances.

The Diversity that is Indonesia

In Indonesia, tourists are spoilt for choice. Besides the white sand beach havens that the country is famous for, visitors can also look forward to a rich, colourful culture, rejuvenating spa treatments, shopping in modern malls and traditional markets, unique marine biodiversity, thrilling trekking, surfing and diving experiences, and more.

The name 'Indonesia' is composed of two Greek words: 'Indos' which means Indian and 'nesos' meaning islands. The archipelago's 17,508 islands can be broken down into 33 provinces, 30 smaller archipelagos, and five main islands (Sumatra, Jawa, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua). Each region offers something different; together, the country is a buffet of diverse sights, sounds and tastes that has something for all kinds of travellers.

The following is an overview of tourism in the archipelago's main regions and destinations. We hope it helps make your tourist decision of where to visit *a little* easier.

Bali

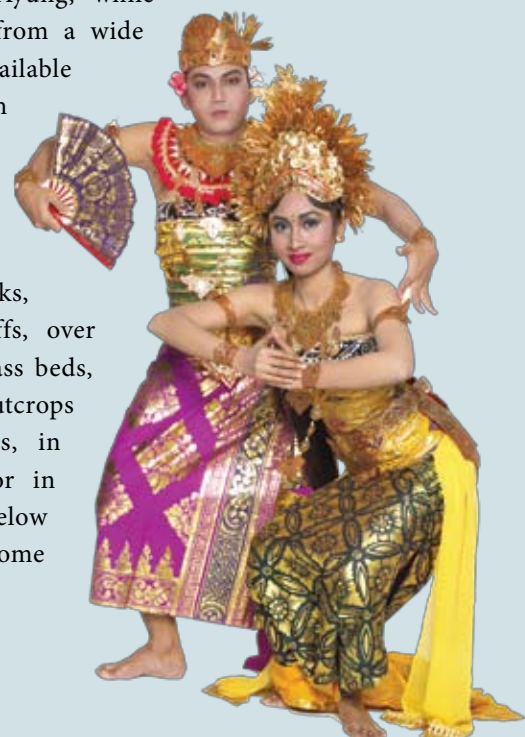
Dynamic dances, music, colourful costumes, sacred ceremonies and mystical temples are part of the endless rites of passage and religious beliefs, which influence the lives of the Balinese, a harmonious way of life that is not found anywhere else in the world.

For the Balinese, religion is inexorably tied to their daily lives. The largest and holiest temple in Bali is the sanctuary of Besakih on the slopes of Mount Agung. Over a thousand years old, steps ascend through split gates to the main courtyard where the Trinity shrines are wrapped in cloth and decorated with flower offerings.

Art for the Balinese is a form of worship, thus most Balinese

are skilled craftsmen or performers. Around Bali, villages specialize in different skills, which give them their singular character. The centre of Balinese painting, Ubud is popular as an artists' village. Despite the influences and western techniques brought in by foreign painters, traditional Balinese paintings are still made and sold.

Surrounded by the Indian Ocean, the island boasts fabulous beaches, clear waters and perfect surf and diving spots. Hardy travellers may try white-water rafting down Bali's longest river, the Ayung, while divers can choose from a wide variety of sites available around Bali which lend the place its charm as an idyllic diving destination. Whether it's diving on steel shipwrecks, off vertical drop-offs, over sand slopes or seagrass beds, off black volcanic outcrops or limestone shores, in roaming currents or in calm bays, life below the water is as awesome as on top.



Jakarta

One cannot help but be overwhelmed by Jakarta for Jakarta's vastness and population. As the country's capital, Jakarta is a bustling metropolis where the traditional and the modern, the sacral and the worldly often stand side by side. Because of its location on the shores of the Java Sea, for centuries Jakarta has been a meeting point for different cultures of hundreds of ethnic groups that make up Indonesia. Today, Jakarta has all kinds of attractions to offer such as museums, art and antique markets, first-class shopping and a wide variety of cultural activities.

Indonesia's most famous landmark, the National Monument is located in the heart of city. The 137m tall marble obelisk is topped with a flame coated with 35 kg of gold. Climbing to the top of the monument will provide the viewer with a panorama of the city. For a brief glimpse into Indonesia's rich past, the National Museum holds an extensive collection of historical, pre-historic, archaeological and ethnographic artefacts and relics.



The culture and traditions of Jakarta's indigenous habitants, the Betawi people, are preserved at several of the city's Betawai cultural reserves, such as Situ Babakan in South Jakarta.

Jakarta's lush tropical landscapes and challenging greens come as a pleasant surprise. Over 30 world-class golf courses are found in and around the city, designed by some of the world-renowned golf course architects and by great players.

A recreation and entertainment venue for the whole family, the Jaya Ancol Dreamland is a fantasy theme park boasting different fun rides, Sea World, swimming pools, fishing, boating, an art market, restaurants and first-class hotels.



Java

No matter where you are, Java will humble and astound you with the promise of a rich spiritual experience. As Indonesia's most populous island, it has everything from volcanoes to inspiring 1,000-year-old monuments.

The land's physical features promise a wealth of options for the outdoor person, from the dense tropical jungles of Ujung Kulon to the cool tea plantations of Puncak, to the black sandy shores of Parangtritis and sea of sand of Bromo. Trekkers exploring the tropical rainforests of Ujung Kulon at the south-western tip of West Java may be lucky enough to meet the reserve's most famous inhabitants – the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, panthers and crocodiles.

Much of the Java's landmarks bear influence from Hindu, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. Stark Shivaite temples, the oldest Hindu temples in Java, can be found in Dieng Plateau in the highlands of Wonosobo. Visiting Java would not be complete without a trip to the majestic Buddhist 'monastery on the hill' Borobudur, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

West Java's lush setting offers golfers a wealth of choices. Natural slopes on the courses belong to Bogor Ray a, Emerald, Riverside, Rancamaya, and Lido Lakes courses. Golfers touring East Java will not want to miss a round at the Finna and Toman Dayu courses in Surabaya, Indonesia's best hillside courses. In Yogya, the active volcano, Mount Merapi is a silent spectator of golfers in action at the Merapi Golf Course.

For centuries, the rich bounties of Java have been put to good use for various healing and meditative treatments. Set in breathtaking locations, spas, ecotourism and agro-tourism destinations offer total relaxation and rejuvenation. Javana Spa is situated on the slopes of Mount Salak with the rainforest, natural springs and waterfalls providing the perfect spot for cleansing both body and mind. Treatments include traditional Indonesian massages, volcanic mud body masque, facial aromatherapy and hydrotherapy.



Kalimantan

Kalimantan (Borneo) is the world's third largest island. A third of the island consists of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam and the Eastern Malaysian provinces of Sarawak and Sabah.

Kalimantan is the land of the Dayak people. The best way to see Dayak culture is to venture from the coast up the Mahakam and Kahayan River into the Dayak country in Central Kalimantan. Having strong communal ties, Dayak families live in great longhouses that may shelter from a dozen families to a hundred heads under one roof.

The central part of Kalimantan is made up of mountain ranges. The island's exotic wildlife yields the world's largest flower the Rafflesia, valuable timber such as ebony and ironwood, 600 species of birds (including the hornbills that are sacred to the Dayaks), orangutans, proboscis monkey, clouded leopard, leaf monkeys, crab eating macaques and ant-eating pangolins.

To see orangutans, travel down the Sekonyer River in a klotok or motorised canoe to the Tanjung Putting National Park and its three camps, Tanjung Harapan, Pondok Tanggul and Camp Leakey.

In the Makassar Strait between Kalimantan and Sulawesi, the tiny archipelago of Derawan, Sangalaki and Maratua are rich in planktons and shelters a diverse ecosystem that creates a paradise for divers. In Derawan, sea turtles (green, hawksbill, scarlet and star fruit turtles) come on shore at night to lay their eggs. Surrounded by a shallow lagoon and the reefs, Maratua and Sangalaki present over 500 species of hard and soft corals, manta rays and turtles. The area is also the site of bountiful pearl divers.

Lombok & Nusa Tenggara

Looking for sun, sea and sand without the holiday crowd? Senggigi is Lombok's most developed tourist region. Many first-class resorts have mushroomed around its secluded bays and tranquil beaches. Tajung Aan is probably Lombok's finest beach. Northwest of the island are the emerald-like islands of Gili Air, Gili Meno and Gili Trawangan. Boasting white sand beaches, crystal-clear waters and an amazing underwater world, these islands are perfect for diving and snorkelling. Sekotong and Bangko-Bangko in Lombok, and Lakey Beach in Sumbawa are world-famous Desert Point surf locations. But perhaps the best surfing experience to be had on Roti Island is in Nusa Tenggara.

East Nusa Tenggara's Flores is crowded with volcanoes and mountains. One of the best tourist sites is Mount Kelimutu with its three-coloured crater lakes. Other natural wonders include a red water lake at Mount Wawu Muda near Bajawa. At Lewoleba on the island of Lembata in the Solor Archipelago, you can follow pearl divers out to sea and watch them harvest pearls. For trekkers and climbers, try Mount Rinjani (3726m), the third highest mountain in Indonesia. Its two crater lakes are popular camping sites before reaching the top.



The Komodo National Park on Komodo Island is home to the world's only prehistoric 'dragon' or giant lizards, which can measure more than 3 metres and weigh over 130kg. At Liang Bua near Labuan Bajo, pre-historical remains provide an interesting insight into the past.

Maluku

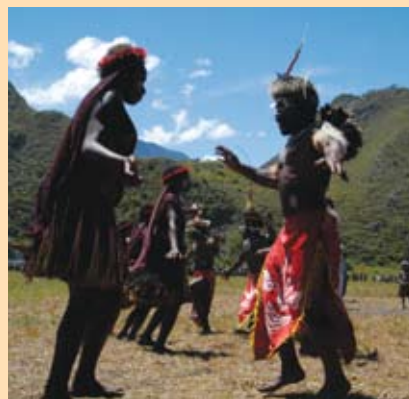
Once the famed Spice Island, Maluku is blessed with fabulous sea-gardens and an enormous variety of endemic plant and animal species. A paradise of ornithologists, Maluku is home to rich variety of exotic feathered species. The forest-coated mountains of the islands are home to brilliantly-coloured king fishers, the red-crested Mollucan cockatoo, and many multi-coloured lorikeets and parrots.

Some of Southeast Asia's most beautiful powder-white beaches are in the kei islands and in northern Halmahera while the beaches on Ternate and Tidore are mostly of black volcanic sand.

Visit Pulau Pombo and Banda Island marine Reserve for diving and snorkelling. Take a trip back in time to Morotai Island, the site of WWII battles. Wrecks of aircrafts and rusting guns still litter the island.

Another must-do on the island is climbing volcanoes. Popular ones include the dormant, 650 m Gunung Api, which rises from the Banda Sea, and the 1721 m Mount Gamalama on Ternate. In Ternate, see the spectacular remains of an 18th century lava flow at Batu Angus (burned rock). At Aru Tenggara Marine Reserve and Pulau Baun Reserve, see kangaroos, wallabies, monitor lizards and crocodiles. Although tougher to reach, the 189,000 hectares Manusela Reserve on Seram Island is worth a visit.

Many aspects of life in the islands, such as music, dance and religion showcase a fascinating blend of east and west. Fort Duurstede on Saparua, Fort Nassau, Belgica and Hollandia are 16th to 18th century Dutch strongholds in the Banda Islands. The stone canoe in the village of Sanlia Dol is believed to be the vessel that first carried the village's forefathers.



Papua

The cool highlands and mountains of Papua are an invitation to trekkers to explore the largely untouched territories. Visit Dam honays or huts that are built close together in a traditional village compound in the Baliem Valley. The two highest peaks in the Jayawijaya Mountain range are among the world's few capped mountains located on the equator. To enjoy some tranquil fishing, take a boat ride on Lake Sentani in Jayapura.

Papua is an exotic experience offering a rich variety of dives and spectacular marine species. See WWI fighter ships and planes in their watery graves in the shallow waters of Cendrawasih Bay and in the island off new Guinea's western tip. Raja Ampat has a variety of diving sites too.

The bird park on Bosnik in Biak Island offers the rare chance to see birds of paradise and other rare species. There is also an orchid park that grows as many as 72 types of orchids. Manokwari and the Arfak Mountains are famous as the habitat of rare butterflies and insects.

Papua is a treasure trove of history and culture too. Doyo lama Village around 45 km from Jayapura has megalithic monuments that are engraved and believed to have supernatural powers. West of Biak, see fire-walking dances at the Adoki Village. The annual Baliem Festival held every August showcases traditional Dani dances and music. Mock tribal wars are also staged during the event. Taking moments to prepare, the Sago grub Feast is an important event that brings together different clans. The attending clans dance and feasts on sago grubs.





Sulawesi

Some of the world's most beautiful underwater environments are located in Sulawesi. There's the Bunaken Marine Reserve with white sandy beaches, a dense population of fish, coral and deep underwater gullies and valleys; Lembeh Straits and its WWI shipwrecks and unusual black sand bottoms; the Togean Islands which host all major reef formations (fringing, barrier, patch and atoll); Wakatobi in the Tungkang Besi Archipelago and its fascinating fossil reef formations and a myriad of marine species, such as sperm and pilot whales, spinner, bottle-nose dolphins and dugongs; the sea gardens of Takabonerate National Park, southwest of Selayar Island, which is the third largest coral atoll in the world; and last but certainly not least the Banggai Archipelago, the Makassar Straits, Kapoposang, Bira and Selayar Islands.

The Lariang River, which runs for half its length of the Lore Lindu National park, is a world-class venue for white-water rafting. Lore Lindu in Central Sulawesi is the largest habitat for Sulawesi's endemic mammals, such as the anoa, babirusa, deer, tarsius spectrum, cuscus, civets, squirrels, rats and over 55 types of bats and more than 230 species of birds including the maleo and red knobbed hornbill.

To experience ancient culture and ceremonies, head to the fertile plateaus of Tana Toraja (Torajaland) in south-central Sulawesi. Apart from the wonderful scenery of lush valleys and rice fields sheltered by rocky cliffs, Torajan villages are architectural masterpieces, consisting of the beautifully decorated Tongkonan houses. At Lemo, carved-out cliff balconies hold tau-taus, wooden effigies of the dead. The pre-historic cave at Miasa Te'ne (Leang Lopo Cave) has finger paintings depicting men and pigs. The cave was once inhabited by the Toalae indigenous people some 5,000 years ago.

Sumatera

The third biggest island in the archipelago, Sumatera is divided into nine provinces. Interestingly, these divisions not only represent distinct ethnic groups and cultures, geographically speaking each province also display singular physical features. From the north to the southern tip, the island offers vast attractions to see and do.

Sumatera is a paradise for nature lovers. National parks cover regions from the northern until the southern tip of the island. Taman Nasional Gunung Leuser in Aceh, is one of the largest national parks in the world and home to a variety of primates, such as gibbons and orangutans, the Sumateran rhinoceros, tigers and elephants.

One of the most exciting river adventures can be found in this region. White water rafting down the rapids and bends of Krueng Tripa and the River Alas is an experience that will have you soaking wet and breathless.

Apart from its ruggedly beautiful and diverse landscape, the many ethnic groups that inhabit the island is undoubtedly an attraction in itself. From the highlands area around Lake Toba, the musical Batak people are fiercely proud of their ulos, a cloth with significant traditional value and used during all rites of passage. Dance is another important aspect in the lives of people in Sumatera. Be soothed with the graceful Malay handkerchief dance and the candle dance from Padang, or be mesmerized with the synchronized movements of the dynamic Saman dance from Aceh.

A striking feature of most regions is the traditional architecture. The Rumah Gadang with their horned roofs belong to the Minangkabaus, while Batak longhouses are built with rope and wooden pegs, without nails yet can last for nearly a century.



Travelling in Indonesia

Practical Tips



Picture Courtesy: Meliã Purosani, Yogyakarta



Travel Formalities

All travellers to Indonesia must be in possession of a passport valid for at least six months from date of arrival and have proof (tickets) of onward or return passage. Immigration authority will provide Free Tourist Visas for a period of 30 days to nationals from 11 countries only – Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Chile, Morocco, Peru and Vietnam. Visa on Arrival (VOA) will be given to citizens of certain countries; other nationals must apply for visa at Indonesian Embassies or Consulates in their home country. For more information, visit www.indonesia.com.

Transportation

Air transport is the easiest and most comfortable means of travel in Indonesia. Air services are available to all provincial and district capitals and other remote areas operated by Garuda Indonesia, Merpati, Bouraq, Mandala, and Jatayu Airlines. For land travel across Java and Sumatra, trains, being fast and cheap, are the way to go.

Tipping

At most hotels and restaurants, a charge of 21 per cent for tax and services is added to the bill. An airport or hotel porter expects Rp 5,000 per bag. Taxi drivers will round up to the nearest Rp 500 or Rp 1,000. Leaving the change is appreciated but not mandatory. It is advisable to carry small change around as taxi drivers are often short of change.

Accommodation

In order to keep up with the growing number of visitors and the need for their comfort, more hotels all over Indonesia have been built, ranging from small bungalows for budget travellers to the luxurious tourist resort area.

Emergency Services

For Information, dial 108.

For Police, dial 112.

For Ambulance, dial 118.

For Fire Department, dial 113.

Etiquette

It is inappropriate to use the left hand to eat or to give or receive anything. Proper decorum should especially be observed when visiting places of worship.

Clothing

Dress is normally casual. Light clothing is advisable due to the hot and humid climate. Trousers or slacks and shirts are generally considered appropriate but a jacket and tie are required for formal occasions or when making official calls. For certain formal occasions, long-sleeved batik shirts are acceptable. For travel to mountain areas, a light sweater or jacket is recommended. Halter tops and shorts are frowned upon in most places except around sports facilities or on the beach.

Photo feature

Visits, Meetings & Events



Opening Ceremony of the 41st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.



Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda and Minister George Yeo.



Foreign Minister of Indonesia, DR. N Hassan Wirajuda in the launching of "Citizen Service" programme at Indonesian Embassy.



The launching of Indonesian tourism advertisement on SMRT bus.



ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting during ASEAN Summit 2007.



Indonesian Chief of Police Force receives distinguished service order / Bintang Darjah Utama from President S.R. Nathan.



Recital Punakawan at Esplanade Theatre.



ASEAN Summit 2007.



President Yudhoyono and PM. Lee during the ASEAN Summit.



President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono with Singaporean Business community.



West Sumatra Trade, Tourism & Investment Forum in the Indonesian Embassy.



The inauguration of Bintang Jasa Utama to Mr. Edward Lee, former Singapore Ambassador for Indonesia.



MoU signing between Minister of Communication Republic of Indonesia and Minister for Information, Communication and the Arts, Singapore.



Enchanting Indonesia - 2008.

Dedicated to Medical Excellence

- because every life matters -

Singapore Health Services – SingHealth is Singapore's largest healthcare group, offering a complete range of integrated services. Cutting edge technology and facilities support SingHealth's internationally qualified doctors, dedicated nurses and committed health science professionals.



Medical Excellence,
Genuine Care

- 42 clinical specialties
- 1,000 internationally qualified doctors
- 3.7 million patient visits per year
- 197,000 surgeries per year
- 50% of all day surgeries in Singapore

SingHealth Hospitals



Singapore
General Hospital



KK Women's and
Children's Hospital



Changi
General Hospital

National Specialty Centres



National Cancer
Centre Singapore



National Heart
Centre Singapore



National
Neuroscience Institute



Singapore National
Eye Centre



National Dental
Centre Singapore

Please contact SingHealth Medical Associates in Indonesia for one-stop international patient services :

JAKARTA

(North) PT Medilink Adi Prima, Tel: +62-21-6409842/3, 24-hr hotline: +62 817852438,
Fax: +62-21-6409841, Email: medilink@cbn.net.id

(North) PT. Medic-One, Tel: +62-21-66603665, 24-hr hotline: +62-8111874180,
Fax: +62-21-6631039, E-mail: email@medic-one.co.id

TANGERANG

• PT Famom Global Medika, Tel: +62-21-55781600, 24-hr hotline: +62 8159106070,
Fax: +62-21-55781525, Email: ims@rsgm.co.id

BANDUNG

• 24-hr hotline: +62 8122010203,
Email: info@hcm-medika.com

SURABAYA

• 24-hr hotline: +62 8175078008,
Email: reservation@masterglobetravel.com

PONTIANAK

• 24-hr hotline: +62 81649029866,
Email: lenny_ka@mailcity.com

BALI

• 24-hr hotline: +62 81558068686,
Email: bali@hcm-medika.com

BATAM

• 24-hr hotline: +62 8556531777,
Email: mailbox@rsawalbrosbatam.com

SINGAPORE 24-Hour Hotline: Tel: (65) 6326 5656, Fax: (65) 6326 5900, Email: ims@singhealth.com.sg, Website: www.singhealth.com.sg/International

ASIA~EURO HOLIDAYS

- China & Worldwide Ticketing
中国与世界国际机票
- Budget Airfares 廉价航空机票
- Tour Packages 旅游套餐
- Free & Easy Packages 自由行套餐
- Hotel Reservations 代订各国酒店
- Travel Insurance 旅游保险

乐乐假期

SEE THE WORLD WITH US!

3rd Level Chinatown Point

唐城坊三楼

Your Worldwide
Ticketing & Travel Specialist

您的国际机票与旅游顾问

Tel: 6338 5566

Email: sales@asiaeuroholidays.com.sg website: www.eztravel.sg

133 New Bridge Road, #03/24-35, Chinatown Point, Singapore 059413



TA 1295 / ROC No.: 200210016C

Best wishes
to the people and
the government of Indonesia
on their 63rd Independence Day



BRILLIANT RELIABLE FRIENDLY

371, Beach Road,
#01-17D Keypoint
Singapore 199597
Tel: (65) 6293 3191
Fax: (65) 6293 3375
E-mail: tours@brf.com.sg
Website: www.brf.com.sg

Congratulations and Best Wishes
to the people and Republic of Indonesia
on their 63rd National Day



OPEN 24 HOURS

Serangoon Plaza
320 Serangoon Road
Singapore 218108

Mustafa Centre
145 Syed Alwi Road
Singapore 207704

TEL »
+65 6295 5855
FAX »
+65 6295 5866
E-MAIL »
mms786@mustafa.com.sg

MOHAMED MUSTAFA & SAMSUDDIN CO. PTE LTD

log on to // www.mustafa.com.sg



www.pnatrade.com

PERTAMINA ENERGY TRADING LIMITED

44/F, Office Tower, Convention Plaza, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel +852 2866 7712, Fax +852 2528 0040, Telex 75699 PERTA HX, Cable: HK PERTOIL

PERTAMINA ENERGY SERVICES PTE LTD

391A Orchard Road #10-04, Ngee Ann City Tower A, Singapore 238873
Tel +65 6736 1977, Fax +65 6736 1487, +65 6736 4070, Telex RS39246 POSL

Wholly owned Subsidiary of PT Pertamina (Persero)

