

**Joint Statement by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and
Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende,
Jakarta, 8 April 2006**

Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands: on intensified bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and the Netherlands

At the invitation of His Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende of the Kingdom of Netherlands visited Indonesia from 7–8 April 2006. The two leaders held wide range of discussions on various matters in which both countries shared common concern. They touched upon bilateral relations, as well as international issues with a direct bearing on the peace and security of the region.

They welcome the growing strengths of the relationship between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia, most notably the attendance of Foreign Minister Bernard Bot during the celebration of the 60th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on 17th August 2005, a landmark in the already excellent relations between the two countries. They pledged to work together to further deepen and intensify cooperation in a variety of fields. The main goal of this cooperation is to benefit both countries by strengthening the bilateral relations and by promoting a conducive environment in the political, security and investment sector in Indonesia. The intensification of the bilateral relations will take place in close cooperation by governments and officials, in the existing bilateral frameworks.

Both leaders agreed that the main instrument for intensifying relationship is an open and constructive dialogue in which both sides can discuss mutual problems and opportunities. Future mutual visits of members of governments; parliaments and civil society will further strengthen the dialogue and relationship. The fields that are prioritized under the closer cooperation are political cooperation, trade and investment, education, culture and science, stability and security, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development and water management and consular affairs.

The first fruitful product of this renewed cooperation were discussed by our senior officials last March and are an exponent of our current and future relationship and demonstrate the wide range of areas of our relationship.

The Netherlands will support the reconstruction of Aceh and Nias by committing \$ 100 million to the Multi Donor Fund for Aceh and Nias. In addition to that the Netherlands will contribute to reconstructing the port of Malahayati, contributing Dutch expertise to develop a coastal and flood protection strategy for Aceh and Nias, and reconstructing and improving water supply and sanitation systems with the assistance of the Dutch water sector.

The leaders had an exchange of views on the question of regional cooperation. Both Indonesia and the Netherlands agreed to deepen cooperation and strengthen the dialogue between ASEAN and the EU.

The President and Prime Minister agreed on the importance of education in development. They were pleased to note the exchange programme for a large number of Indonesian diplomats to the Netherlands, and the plan for the participation of Dutch young diplomats to Indonesia in the framework of their training. In the field

of education and science, the Netherlands will intensify its support to basic education till 2009 and to technical and vocational education and training. Technical support and collaboration between Indonesian and Dutch Universities will intensify during the coming years. Special attention will be given to enhance participation of Islamic Institutes of Higher Education. The Stuned fellowship programme will be continued.

The two leaders attached the importance of the contribution of the two countries in promoting interfaith dialogues aimed at further deepening the mutual understanding between different cultures and faiths. They also acknowledged the success of the seminar on Peaceful Coexistence and Interfaith Cooperation held at Indonesian Embassy in The Hague on 28 February – 1 March 2006.

Indonesia and the Netherlands will increase opportunities to work together to strengthen the investment climate, increase trade and investment flows, and improve market access to the Netherlands as a gateway to Europe and to Indonesia as a gateway to Asia.

Indonesia and the Netherlands welcome the proposed renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Higher and Vocational Education, Research, Science, and Technology.

Prime Minister Balkenende reiterated Netherlands support for Indonesia's national unity and territorial integrity, and supports President Susilo Bambang Yudhyono programme for social and economic development of Papua through the implementation of the Special Autonomy Law and through development programmes in close cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme.

Indonesia and the Netherlands agreed to further strengthen cooperation to counterterrorism. The Netherlands will continue to support the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement and the bilateral police cooperation.

Concerning the health sector, the Netherlands will assist Indonesia in the fight against avian flu and support the capacity of Indonesia in this respect.

In the field of water management, the Netherlands will provide expertise to support policy development, institutional issues and capacity building. The Netherlands specifically offered to finance the development of an integrated strategy for the water management problems in Greater Jakarta and Semarang.

The Indonesian and Netherlands government agreed to jointly develop a programme to support the judicial sector in Indonesia. The Netherlands support will focus on institutional strengthening of the judiciary and the customs, as well as assist Indonesian policy to eradicate corruption.

Both leaders hope that their meeting today will further lead to more rewarding relationship that will benefit future generations of Indonesian and Dutch citizens.

Prime Minister Balkenende reiterated his invitation to president Yudhyono to visit the Netherlands at a mutually convenient time, to further strengthen the excellent relations.