

<Provisional Translation>

Message from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Commemorate 60th Anniversary of Japan-Indonesia Diplomatic Relations

To the Honorable Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia,
and all the people of the Republic of Indonesia,

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Indonesia, and on behalf of the people and government of Japan, I am delighted to be able to share the joy of celebrating this memorable moment with President Joko Widodo and the people of Indonesia.

Ever since Japan and Indonesia established diplomatic relations 60 years ago in 1958, Japan has extended support for the development of Indonesia as its heart-to-heart partner. Today, Japan is one of the largest investors for Indonesia. In addition, we are seeing active exchanges occurring between our students and at the grassroots level.

When faced with major natural disasters such as the Earthquake off the Coast of Sumatra and the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have always offered a helping hand to each other in the spirit of mutual assistance. Even to date, we still remember the great encouragement that was given to the Japanese people by the Indonesian student theater group ENJUKU through the song “Sakura Yo” when Japan was suffering in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Indonesia is a Strategic Partner for Japan that shares universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, working together in tackling regional and international issues as fellow maritime countries surrounded by vast oceans. I attach great importance to the relationship with Indonesia, which led me to select Indonesia as the first foreign country to visit after the formation of my second administration. As we mark the milestone of 60 years of diplomatic ties this year, I have high hopes for further strengthening the cooperative bond between Japan and Indonesia.

When I had the honor of meeting with President Joko Widodo on the occasion of the East Asia Summit last year in November, we announced the logo symbolizing the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Indonesia diplomatic relations. The design was created by an Indonesian high school student. The young generation such as him will shoulder the future of our friendship. I have always valued youth exchanges such as those through the JENESYS Program, and I am very pleased to see enhanced people-to-people exchanges occurring between the two countries, including those of young people. I hope that the ties between our countries will be further strengthened through the contribution of the younger generation.

Finally, I would like to renew my heartfelt congratulations for the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Indonesia, and extend my very best wishes for the prosperity and well-being of President Joko Widodo and the people of the Republic of Indonesia.

January 1, 2018

Shinzo Abe

Prime Minister of Japan