

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE
OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
ON
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDONESIA-JAPAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia, I have the honour to extend my heartfelt greetings and sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and the Government of Japan as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Indonesia-Japan diplomatic relations.

Sixty years is indeed a ripe age marking a significant milestone in the journey of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The 60th anniversary of Indonesia-Japan diplomatic relations is a strategic momentum for the two countries to reflect what we have achieved together in this journey toward closer ties and vibrant partnership in the future.

Since 1958, Indonesia and Japan have enjoyed outstanding and multi-spectrum cooperation, whether in politics, economic as well as people-to-people relations. Both countries are also actively engaged in various cooperation at regional and international fora, and will continue to cooperate in strengthening peace and stability in the region.

The close friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Japan is well reflected in the “*benang merah*” (red string of fate) or “*akai ito*” philosophy that symbolizes heart-to-heart relationship based on mutual trust and respect, to work and cooperate together as equal partners.

Our economic cooperation during this six decades is also exceptionally significant. Currently, Japan is the second biggest investor to Indonesia and one of the main trade partners. People-to-people relations between the two countries are also flourishing over the years, channeled through many areas.

For the 60th anniversary, I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency and the Government of Japan as we embark our journey to further strengthen and deepen our close friendship and cooperation. On that note, it is also my fervent hope that our important momentum in 2018 will deliver concrete results as monumental gifts for the people of Indonesia and Japan.

The “*akai ito*” or the red string of fate that connects the two countries, may be stretched or tangled in times, but it will never break. It is my utmost belief that Indonesia and Japan are destined friends who will work and walk together towards our common future.

Finally, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to extend my profound regard and sincere wish for Your Excellency’s good health and success. I look forward to commemorating the important milestone of year 2018 together with the Government and people of Japan.

Jakarta, 20 January 2018

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,
JOKO WIDODO**