

## **EMBASSY OF INDIA, JAKARTA**



### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Jakarta administration recommends Holiday on Deepawali**

Deepawali, the festival of lights, is celebrated with fervor and joy by Indian community around the world. The day also marks the beginning of New Year as per the traditional Hindu calendar. To mark the occasion, the Ambassador of India to Indonesia Mr. Gurjit Singh organized a 'Deepawali Function' in the India House. Senior Indonesian dignitaries, members of diplomatic corps, businessmen, professionals and media personnel were invited to the function.

H.E. Mr. Irman Gusman & Mrs. Liestyana Gusman, Chairman of Regional House of Representatives; and H.E. Mr. Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, Acting Governor of Jakarta graced the occasion. Other senior Indonesian dignitaries included H.E. Mr. H.S. Dillon, Presidential Special Envoy for Poverty Alleviation; Mr. Suryo Bambang Sulisto, Chairman of Kadin; Mrs. Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, Vice Chairman for Environment & Climate Change of Kadin Indonesia; Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, former Vice Foreign Minister of Indonesia; and Mr. Fadli Zon, Vice Chairman of Gerindra Party. The Ambassadors of New Zealand, Singapore, Brunei, Mexico and Germany also attended the function.

Ambassador of India to Indonesia Mr. Gurjit Singh and Madam Neeru Singh lighted the lamp to mark the beginning of the function. In his brief speech, Ambassador welcomed the guests and greeted them on the occasion of Deepawali. Ambassador explained in detail the importance of Deepawali in Indian tradition. Referring to recent swearing in of President Joko Widodo and inauguration of the two Houses of Parliament of Republic of Indonesia, Ambassador said that the festival of Deepawali represents onset of happiness and good governance and he wished that Indonesia will have better days ahead.

There was a short cultural program which included violin performance and two dance numbers by teachers and students of JNICC. Thereafter sparklers were lit which is essential part of Deepawali. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the colourful evening and traditional food and wished Happy Deepawali to each other.

Aware of the importance of the festival for the Indian community, the Jakarta Manpower and Transmigration Agency has urged all employers of Indian nationals and Indonesians of Indian descent to allow them to celebrate Diwali on October 22, 2014 by granting them a day off.

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014