



सत्यमेव जयते

**EMBASSY OF INDIA
JAKARTA**

PRESS RELEASE

Independence Day Reception

A national day reception was hosted by the Embassy of India in Jakarta on 15th August 2016 to mark the 69th Anniversary of Independence of India. The event was attended by a large gathering of over 800 people. The attendees included Ministers and senior dignitaries of the Republic of Indonesia; representatives of political parties; senior officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departments of the Republic of Indonesia; Ambassadors and members of diplomatic corps; media personnel; prominent Indian nationals and Indian Diaspora residing in Indonesia.

His Excellency Mr. Budi Karya Sumadi, Minister of Transportation of Indonesia, was Chief Guest on the occasion and represented the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. Prominent among those present were His Excellency Mr. Airlangga Hartarto, Minister of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Mr. Fadli Zon, Deputy Chairman of DPR (House of Representatives); His Excellency Mr. A. M. Fachir, Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Mr. Harry Azhar Azis, Chairman of Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia; Her Excellency Ms. Esti Andayani, Director General for Public Diplomacy and Information in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; and His Excellency Mr. Desra Percaya, Director General for Asia Pacific and Africa Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

Speaking at the function, Ms. Nengcha Lhouvum, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste said that India and Indonesia resemble a lot politically, socially and economically. She remarked that the friendship between two nations today is result of extraordinary close friendship and collaboration that existed between the founding fathers of India and Indonesia. They did not limit their struggle against colonialism to their own countries but widened their efforts for independence of all oppressed nations. The Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in March 1947 and Bandung Summit in April 1955 are testimony of their broad vision, idealism and wisdom. The full text of her speech is reproduced below.

A photo-exhibition “60 years of India-Indonesia Friendship” that portrayed brief history of post-independence bilateral relations between India and Indonesia was exhibited on the occasion. Documentaries titled ‘70th Year of Independence - 70 Initiatives by the Modi Government for people's welfare’; ‘The Spirit Of India’; ‘India: The Spirit Of Freedom’; ‘Mapping New Frontiers - Two Years of Path-breaking Diplomacy’; and ‘Second International Day of Yoga Celebrations’ were also shown on the occasion.

***Jakarta
16 August 2016***

**Full Text of Remarks by
H.E. Ms. Nengcha Lhouvum, Ambassador of India
To Indonesia and Timor Leste
At the Reception held to commemorate 69th anniversary of Independence of India**

Good evening Ladies and gentlemen.

HE Mr Budi Karya Sumadi, Minister of Transportation, representing the Govt of the Republic of Indonesia,

HE Mr Airlangga Hartarto, Minister of Industry,

HE Mr Fadli Zon, Deputy Chairman of DPR,

Her Excellency Mr. Harry Azhar Azis, Chairman of Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia,

Excellencies Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps,

Esteemed members of the Indian community in Indonesia,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you all to the celebration of the 69th anniversary of India's independence. Tomorrow India will begin its journey into the 70th year.

The day after that, on 17 August, Indonesia will celebrate the 71st anniversary of its independence.

The fact that the two Independence Days are so close together is not a co-incidence. It is a living reminder of the extraordinarily close friendship and collaboration between the leaders of the two countries in their struggle for independence. I would like to mention the names of some of them – Soekarno, Mohammad Hatta, Sutan Syahrir on the Indonesian side; Jawaharlal Nehru, Biju Patnaik and Mohammad Yunus on the Indian side. I deliberately avoided using honorifics before their names because their collaboration began long before they came to office. Some of these future Asian Leaders met as students in Europe and deliberated together on the fate of their nations and of Asia in the emerging post-world War I situation.

Back in their homelands, they led the freedom struggle in their respective countries, during which they shared ideas and strategies, resources and experiences, and drew inspiration from each other's struggle, so much so that the course of events in one movement often impacted profoundly on the other.

Another extraordinary feature was that these leaders were fighting not only for Indonesia and India; their struggle was for all oppressed peoples in all parts of the globe. The Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in March 1947, months before India became free, was an early assertion of Asian identity. The Bandung Conference of 1955 which brought together 29 newly-independent countries from Asia and Africa, was to promote Afro-Asian solidarity in opposition to colonialism and neo-colonialism.

It is due to the courage and idealism, vision and wisdom of our Founding Fathers that we are standing here today:

- two countries united in their diversity; that celebrate their multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual heritage every day;
- two of the world's largest democracies;
- two strategic partners and maritime neighbours working together to keep the sea lanes of communication peaceful and secure,
- two countries providing a bulwark against radicalism and intolerance,
- two large economies with the depth and weight to influence the course of the global economy;

- two forward-looking nations driven by the aspirations and hopes of their young population, the generation of dreamers and innovators,
- In short, two nations still in step after seven decades of independence!

It is a fact of contemporary history that the close partnership and collaboration between Indonesia and India in their freedom struggle contributed significantly to the breaking down of the old order, to the end of colonization and to the Asian Awakening.

Today, as both nations celebrate the 69th and 71st anniversary of their independence, Indonesia and India can and must reach deep into the legacy inherited from their First Generation Leaders. We can and must once again join forces and collaborate, innovate and advance together as we reach into the future, for the realization of our national goals – of growth and development by harnessing technology and resources; and our international goal of ensuring a peaceful and stable environment that will allow full play of our national aspirations.

Let me end by wishing - Happy Independence Day Indonesia! And Happy Independence Day India!

Thank you



