



सत्यमेव जयते

**Embassy of India
Jakarta**

PRESS RELEASE

Vice President attends IORA Leaders' Summit at Jakarta

H.E. Mr. M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, represented India in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Leaders' Summit held in Jakarta from on 7 March 2017. This is the first Summit since the organization, consisting of 21 coastal countries bordering the Indian Ocean, was established 20 years ago. On arrival Vice President was received at the airport by H.E. Ryamizard Ryacudu, Defence Minister of Indonesia.

Speaking at the Leaders' Summit, H.E. Mr. M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India appreciated the visionary leadership of Indonesia and said that India shares the vision of peaceful region and sea around that. He called upon the IORA member states to ensure that the freedom of navigation and over-flight in the Indian Ocean is respected by all, as an expression of our commitment to UNCLOS. Vice President announced India's willingness to set up an IORA Centre of Excellence for strengthening Maritime Domain Awareness in one of the coastal cities of India. Vice President Ansari also stressed that IORA must show zero tolerance for state sponsored terrorism. In order to rekindle the cultural linkages that existed between countries adjoining Indian ocean, India has launched initiatives like Project Mausam.

On the sidelines of Summit, Vice President held bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka; H.E. Mr. Abdrahbu Mansour Hadi, President of Yemen; H.E. Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia; and H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran.

While Gen. (Retd.) V. K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs represented India in IORA Council of Ministers Meeting held on 6 March 2017, Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER) led Indian official delegation in Senior Officials Meeting held on 5 March 2017. The two meetings finalized the text of three outcome documents viz. IORA Concord; IORA Action Plan and IORA Declaration on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism which were later adopted by the IORA Leaders' Summit.

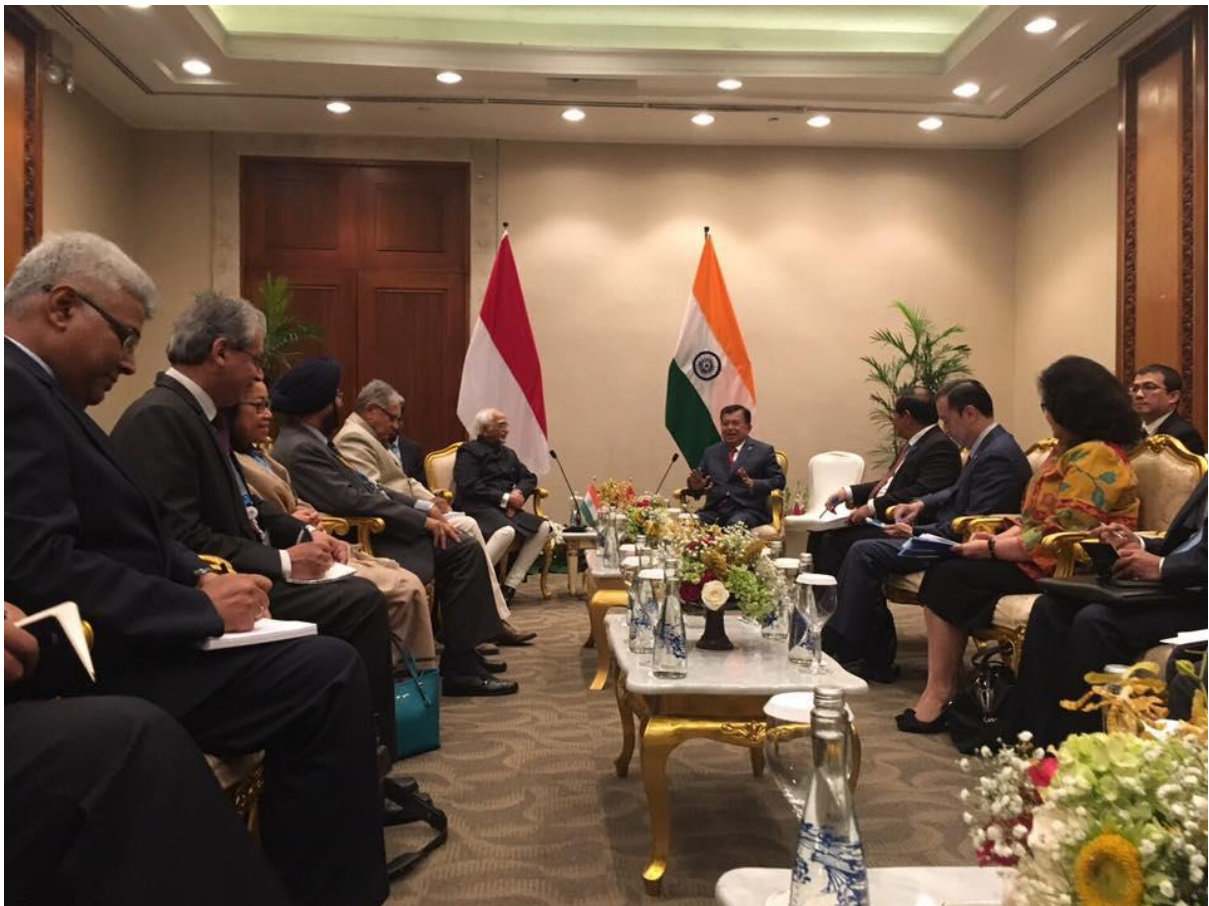
IORA Business Summit was held on 6 March 2017 in which 34-member delegation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI) participated. The delegation comprised of CEOs and Senior representatives of Indian companies in the sectors of infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, chemicals, food processing, textiles, agriculture, logistics, FMCG, paints, lubricants, automobiles, water treatment, energy and IT. Two of the delegates participated in the panel discussions of the Business Summit and spoke about the opportunities for trade and investment within IORA especially in SMEs, tourism and connectivity and the complementarities that India can tap with IORA. The IORA Business Summit prepared a 'Joint Declaration to Build Partnership for a Sustainable and Equitable Economic Growth' which was later adopted by the IORA Leaders' Summit.

The IORA Leaders' Summit was attended by 16 world leaders comprising the President, Prime Minister, Vice President, and Deputy Prime Ministers of the 21 IORA member states, 7 dialogue partners, and a number of international organizations and guest countries that have a strong bond with the Indian Ocean.

H.E. Mr. M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, was seen off at the Jakarta's Halim Airport on 7 March 2017 by H.E. Yasonna Laoly, Minister of Law and Human Rights.

India is committed to working with other member states of IORA to realize the region's untapped potential and to ensure that the Indian Ocean becomes a zone of prosperity and harmony.





Jakarta: 8 March 2017