

Independence Day of Indonesia

PUBLICITY

Commemorating 65 years of Indonesia-Japan bonds

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The year 2023 holds special significance for Indonesia and Japan, not only in terms of bilateral ties but also in the broader context of regional cooperation and cultural affinity. This year, While Japan holds the presidency of the G7, Indonesia assumes the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which shares a momentous 50-year bond with Japan. Furthermore, 2023 marks the 78th anniversary of Indonesia's independence, a testament to the nation's enduring spirit. This year, both countries celebrate the 65th anniversary of bilateral ties.

For the past 65 years, Indonesia and Japan have cultivated a deep friendship that not only honors diplomatic ties but also represents both citizens' heartwarming closeness. The partnership not only recognizes diplomatic anniversaries but also embraces the similarities that make both nations distinct yet inextricably linked.

A recent picturesque moment was the visit of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress to Indonesia from June 17 to 23 this year. This historic visit showed the depth of both nations' friendship and the intimacy of people-to-people interactions. This visit served as a reminder that there are links between citizens of Indonesia and Japan, and the genuine gestures that characterize our long-standing collaboration strengthen diplomatic relations.

This visit served as a symbol of both parties' dedication to each other's progress and prosperity. It emphasized shared objectives for regional stability, cultural preservation, and economic development. Such visits are more than just ceremonies, they are crucial reminders that a robust bilateral relationship is built upon strong people-to-people relationships.

Shared cultural resonance

Despite the geographical distance, Indonesia and Japan share amazing cultural commonalities that have established the framework for a deep understanding between the two countries. Both countries have a rich past rooted in tradition and honor, which has weaved a shared thread of mutual respect.

The spirit of "Omotenashi" in Japan, which reflects a profound sense of hospitality, is similar to Indonesia's treasured value of "Gotong Royong," which emphasizes communal care, cooperation and togetherness.

During the tsunami that struck

Aceh, Indonesia, in 2004, Japan emerged as a vital partner in delivering critical supplies and assistance. Japan's response was distinguished by its prompt and considerable contributions to relief and recovery operations.

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, Indonesia played a vital role in giving help and solidarity to Japan in its time of great need. The Indonesian government and people sent financial aid, relief materials, and disaster recovery teams to aid in rescue and recovery efforts.

The cultural affinity between Indonesia and Japan may be seen in many facets of daily life, emphasizing their shared traditional values. In the domain of traditional performing arts, for example, both countries share striking similarities. Kyogen is a classic kind of theatrical performance in Japan that continues to this day. Kyogen uses light-hearted and whimsical speech to represent the ordinary aspects of daily life in a hilarious way. This is similar to Ludruk from East Java, one of Indonesia's comedic traditional performing arts.

In the realm of daily life, the Japanese people consistently demonstrate respect by bowing to others, reflecting their cultural etiquette. Likewise, in Indonesia, a similar form of respect is conveyed through handshakes among peers or by touching the hand of an elder to a younger person's forehead.

These shared cultural elements highlight the intrinsic connections between Indonesia and Japan, transcending geographical distances and bridging cultural boundaries. The recognition of these cultural parallels not only deepens our understanding of each other but also emphasizes the enduring strength of our people-to-people relations.

The cultural ties between Indonesia and Japan have blossomed into a dynamic exchange that reflects the shared interests and mutual affection of our people. One notable example is the influence of Japanese pop culture, particularly anime, on Indonesian society. Indonesian youths have grown up with a deep appreciation for Japanese animation, forming a bridge that connects our nations. Likewise, the phenomenon of idol culture, represented by groups like AKB48 and its Indonesian sister group JKT48, showcases a convergence of entertainment preferences. This cultural exchange highlights the closeness between our societies, where the vibrancy of Japanese pop culture resonates strongly among Indonesian youth.

A remarkable journey

The year 2023 marks a key milestone in Indonesia and Japan's diplomatic journey, as both nations commemorate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic ties. This long-lasting collaboration has thrived due to



Courtesy of Indonesian Presidential Palace
The Emperor and Empress with Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his wife during their visit to Indonesia in June

mutual respect, cooperation, and a shared commitment to progress. To mark the anniversary, the Indonesian Embassy is hosting the Indonesia Japan Friendship Day (IJFD) 2023, a celebration of our shared cultural legacy, economic engagement, and future goals.

The IJFD 2023 is an extraordinary showcase of people-to-people collaboration, uniting not only the Indonesian embassy and local government agencies but also the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Association and the Indonesian and Japanese communities living in Japan. This integrated promotion of culture, trade, tourism, and investment across 13 major cities in Japan exemplifies the depth of our engagement and our shared desire to strengthen bilateral ties in every sphere of life.

This series of events serves as a reminder that while diplomatic relations are crucial, it is the interactions and closeness between our citizens that truly cement the bonds of friendship.

Cultural and educational exchanges are also essential components of Indonesia and Japan's strong people-to-people interactions. These interactions, which range from student exchange programs to collaborative research projects, serve as pillars of mutual understanding. Japan has launched a number of initiatives, such as the Nihongo Partner and Genesys programs, as well as various scholarships aimed at strengthening Indonesian youth. Indonesia provides Scholarships of the Arts and Culture, the Darmasiswa scholarship, as well as a variety of other people-to-people programs that consistently strengthen links between the two countries.

Kokoro Hitotsu Ni - Satu Hati

The 65th anniversary theme, "Satu Hati" in Bahasa Indonesia

"Satu Hati" reflect a message of unity and togetherness. They evoke a sense of shared identity and purpose, transcending national boundaries and differences. As we stand united, side by side, the red and white colors symbolize the colors of our flags.

The theme "Satu Hati" reinforces the message that our hearts beat as one, transcending borders and celebrating the unity that defines our special relationship.

The heartwarming story of Hiroaki Kato, a Japanese singer, marrying Indonesian singer Erina Epiphania, goes beyond romantic love. It is a real-life example of friendship and camaraderie between both citizens. It is not an exaggeration to call them Indonesian and Japanese friendship icons.

Celebrating shared future

As we celebrate the 65th anniversary, we also commemorate the 78th year of Indonesia's independence. "Continuously Advancing for an Advanced Indonesia" is this year's tagline for Indonesia's independence day. This tagline symbolizes the Indonesian people's unshakable determination to push forward, leading the country toward progress and prosperity.

Looking ahead, it is pertinent that Indonesia and Japan continue to nurture the special bond between both nations. Our nations are not only partners in progress but also beacons of regional growth and stability. By embracing our shared values, celebrating our cultural ties, and nurturing the friendships between our citizens, we can collectively propel our nations to new heights.

Through initiatives like the Indo-

nesia Japan Friendship Day, joint cultural programs, educational exchanges, and collaborative research projects, we can strengthen the people-to-people connections that have been the bedrock of our diplomatic ties. Undeniably it is our shared responsibility that we need to maintain this strong people-to-people bond for generations to come.

To showcase the festivity of the commemorations, the Embassy of Indonesia in Japan, together with groups of Indonesian-Japanese businesses and communities, will work hand in hand to organize the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Festival on Oct. 14 and 15 at Yoyogi Park Event Plaza in Shibuya Ward, Tokyo, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Japan.

To conclude, the remarkable journey of Indonesia and Japan over the past 65 years is a testament to the strength of people-to-people relations that have flourished alongside diplomatic ties. As we celebrate this historic occasion, let us recognize the immense potential that lies within our partnership. Through collaboration, understanding, and a commitment to shared values, we can ensure that the friendship of Indonesia and Japan continues to flourish, serving as a torchbearer of hope, growth, and unity for the region and beyond. The 65th anniversary of our diplomatic relations not only celebrates the past but also sets the stage for a future where our nations stand together as pillars of strength, progress, and mutual respect with the spirit of One Heart, Kokoro Hitotsu-Ni.


Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Indonesia
on the 78th Anniversary
of their Independence



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