

Advises to Upgrade the Cooperation in The New Strategic Partnership

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It is an honor for me to opine on the RoK-Indonesia relations. To begin with, RoK has already had a good name in the Indonesian public, and we can adhere to the following developments.

- (a) In the area of investment, we hardly hear problems related to human rights and remuneration on Indonesian workers working in Korean companies.
- (b) Korea has a lot of Sister City and Sister Province Programs with Indonesia, which help the local governments and their public to better interact with their counterparts, and directly appreciate Korean development.
- (c) The readiness of Shin Tae-Yong to train the Indonesian national soccer team, vis a vis the team's ups and downs at various tournaments, helped the Indonesian public to witness the true character of the Korean coach which represent the Korean society.
- (d) A long telephone conversation between the two countries' top leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic in April this year, which was ended with President Moon statement of 'Ringan sama dijinjing, berat sama dipikul' helped me to better understand the true meaning of 'Sahabat Sejati', a famous phrase circulated among the Korean communities here in Indonesia.

When it comes to economic relations, the bilateral relations can be considered as promising, and also well-constructed. In this regard, the two governments agreed in Bogor on November 2017 to boost mutual cooperation in the areas of economy, transportation, industrialization, and defence through the special strategic partnership agreement.

More specifically, they agreed to chart a bilateral trade volume of USD 30 Billion in year 2022 (Sheany, 'Indonesia, South Korea Upgrade Strategic Partnership', Jakarta Globe, 10 November 2017).

- (a) Considering the facts of the above-mentioned bilateralism, I find that there is a big challenge on the Indonesian side, to prove itself to be at the same par with the Korean establishment. Because, using various standards issued by World Bank (WB) and World Economic Forum (WEF) as well as United Nations Development Program (UND), Korea is a higher plane in relations to Indonesia.
- (b) As a result, it is necessary for the Indonesian establishment to firstly answer the following questions. Firstly, how do we Indonesians perceive ourselves in the current era of massive globalization? Secondly, what are the Indonesian national interests towards South Korea at the



bilateral, regional, and international levels? Thirdly, what indicators can be applied to ensure a cordial relation? Fourthly, have we in Indonesia identified all state and non-state actors capable of furthering bilateralism at various political, economic, social cultural and security levels? Finally, do we have a specific target and time frame in fulfilling our mutual interests?

(c) Once we have detailed answers on the above-mentioned philosophical questions, then we Indonesians could bridge all gaps in the ongoing bilateral relations. For example, how and when to convince the Korean side on the necessity to renegotiate the KFX Jet Fighter under the banner of Indonesian Minimum Essential Force?

How soon can we invite Korean industries to help establishing infrastructures in the Indonesian remote islands? How soon can we collaborate with Korean education in empowering the Indonesian Small and Medium Enterprises? What are the necessary requirements to involve Korean 5G Technology in fixing the Indonesian economies? As a consequence, it is necessary for the two establishments to openly discuss their mutual interests.

Korean strong support towards ASEAN also happened during a video links with Southeast Asian countries on 12 November 2020, at a South Korea-Asean Summit. At this event, President Moon Jae-in introduced a policy called ‘The New Southern Policy Plus, aimed to strengthening ties with all countries inside ASEAN.

Highlighting the spirit of ‘people centred community of peace and prosperity’, Korea encouraged a comprehensive health care cooperation, and prepared to support ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, based on ‘solidarity and cooperation’ (Moon Joins Summit with ASEAN members, declares ‘New Southern Policy Plus’. Yonhap News Agency, 12 November 2020).

(a) considering the status of Indonesia as the bearer in managing the ASEAN health cooperation in the 2020-2021 period, it is about time for Indonesia to utilize its influence inside ASEAN to response positively towards the above-mentioned Korean proposal.

(b) Even though Indonesia reluctantly call itself the primus-inter-pares in ASEAN, it is necessary for Indonesia to utilizing the already recognized principles of consultation leading to consensus. As a consequence, more working groups and massive socialization are needed to inform the public inside ASEAN, on the need to support such NSP.

In ending this presentation, please allow me to encourage the Korean state and non-state actors to better socialize the ideas coming from NSP into the ASEAN society, utilizing forums such as universities, research institutions, as well as various kind of media communication. This dialogue, happening during this pandemic period will receive positive attention from inside ASEAN. []