

**Remarks By
Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath, Secretary-General, IORA
Indian Ocean Dialogue, Padang, Indonesia
12-14 April, 2016**

- Excellency, Ambassador Salman Al-Farisi, Acting Head of Policy Analysis and Development Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia
- Acting Director General of Asia Pacific and Africa Affairs, MOFA Indonesia
- Executive Director, the Habibie Center
- Ambassadors, speakers,
- Distinguished delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Selamat pagi,

A very good morning,

First of all, allow me to take this opportunity to convey the apology of the Secretary-General of IORA Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath. Due to unavoidable circumstances, he regrets having not been able to be with us this morning. He has asked me to convey his best wishes to all participants and wish you success with your deliberations and read remarks on his behalf.

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The momentum of the third Indian Ocean Dialogue that we have today in Padang is of paramount importance for IORA development. I should congratulate the Government of Indonesia, the Chair of IORA for organizing this event under the theme "*Addressing Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean through Enhanced Regionalism*". Indeed, this theme is not only relevant to the current IORA progress, but also will contribute positively to the future development of IORA.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Indonesia for the hospitalities and warm welcome accorded to us since we arrived in this beautiful city of Padang. Our special thanks also go to the Habibie Centre as co-host and bringing together officials and experts from diverse backgrounds to attend the event.

Yesterday, we had the 2nd Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo 2016, International Fleet Review 2016 and 15th Western Pacific Naval Symposium which focused on maritime peace-keeping operations and we saw the participation of many countries, gathered together in an effort to enhance cooperation. I would also like to thank the Government of Indonesia for inviting IORA delegates to attend this event which was graced with the presence of the Honourable Joko Widodo, the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

We may recall that, Padang was also the venue for the 15th COM Meeting held in October last year where the Chair launched the theme for its chairmanship: "*Strengthening Maritime Cooperation in a Peaceful and Stable Indian Ocean*". The COM adopted the Declaration on Maritime Cooperation in the

Indian Ocean. One of the important messages in the Declaration is to address non-traditional maritime threats in the Indian Ocean region which are increasingly very real concerns.

Undoubtedly, the third Dialogue Meeting will contribute in strengthening regional linkages and addressing Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean through multilateral cooperation which will serve as a role model in international and regional cooperation.

Together, we can create informal and formal networks for information sharing and trust building between governments, navies and coastguards, and experts to cope with these challenges. We could also develop a roadmap that leverages our respective efforts to improve the security architecture and strengthen regional dialogues.

Our cooperation with dialogue partners should be strengthened through capacity building and other kind of mutual cooperation. Today, we notice that six of dialogue partners are present in this dialogue which is a sign of growing interests of dialogue partners in IORA cooperation. We are of the view that there is the need to enhance interaction between IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners through a new mechanism to discuss issues of mutual interests.

I am confident that today's dialogue would be able to strengthen our mutual trust, understanding and cooperation in addressing maritime security challenges in the region through enhanced cooperation of all stakeholders including with Dialogue Partners.

I wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you very much.