

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ASIA PACIFIC AND AFRICA AD INTERIM
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 3rd INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE**

Padang, 13 April 2016

- Your Excellency Ambassador Salman Alfarisi, The Head of the Policy Analysis and Development Agency ad Interim of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia;
- Ms. Rahima Abdulrahim, The Executive Director of the Habibie Center;
- Mr. Firdaus Dahlan, The Director of IORA Secretariat;
- Excellencies; Distinguished delegates; Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very good morning,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to extend a warm welcome to you all to Padang, West Sumatra, for the 3rd Indian Ocean Dialogue organized by the Directorate General of Asia Pacific and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in cooperation with the Habibie Center.

This dialogue is held in conjunction with the 2nd Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo (2nd MNEK), the 16th Western Pacific Naval Symposium and the 2nd International Fleet Review hosted by the Indonesian Navy. As you are aware, the Komodo 2016 was officially opened yesterday by the President of Indonesia.

Without doubt, the Indian Ocean Dialogue is earning itself a unique place in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), one that is aimed to gather stakeholders of track 1.5 to discuss key strategic issues in the Indian Ocean.

I would therefore like to commend India's initiative for organizing the 1st Indian Ocean Dialogue in 2014, and Australia for its continuous commitment for the 2nd dialogue in 2015. We may not be uniform in our approaches, but we are united in our spirit to promote and strengthen regional architecture in our region.

As you know, the theme of the present dialogue is "Addressing Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean through Enhanced Regionalism". On this basis, during the two days meeting all delegates will conduct interactive dialogue and exchange of views to address challenges and issues such as strengthening rules-based regionalism; piracy and armed robbery, illicit trafficking and maritime terrorism; regional cooperation on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; the role of naval powers in enhancing security; and the energy issues in the Indian Ocean. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the presence of important speakers with enormous experiences, knowledge and competencies.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The 3rd dialogue brings together government officials, diplomats, military officials, and representatives from think tank, researchers as well as scholars. We are very pleased to have the attendance of 81 participants to the dialogue. 65 delegates represent 19 member states of IORA. We have been informed that Oman, and Yemen are unable to join us today. In addition to the participation of IORA members states, allow me to inform you that there are 13 delegates representing 6 countries of dialogue partners namely from People's Republic of China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, and the United States of America. One dialogue partner, the United Kingdom, has conveyed its regret for not attending this dialogue. Among us, we have also one delegate from an interested country, Poland; as well as two delegates from the IORA Secretariat.

Before I conclude, allow me to take this opportunity to give a special mention to the Habibie Center for its substantive contribution and pleasant cooperation, as well as the continuous support from the IORA Secretariat to make this important dialogue, a successful one.

Finally, after the remarks of the Habibie Center and the IORA Secretariat, I would like to kindly invite Ambassador Salman Alfarisi, Head of the Policy Analysis and Development Agency ad Interim of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey his remarks and officially open the 3rd Indian Ocean Dialogue.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish you have a fruitful dialogue and most rewarding and fulfilling time in Padang.