

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Nurul Aulia
Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs

At the General Debate
IOR-ARC Council of Ministers
Sana'a, 5 August 2010

Your Excellency Dr. Abu Baker Al Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, and Chair of this Meeting,

Excellencies Ministers,
Distinguished Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing the Indonesian delegation's gratitude to you, Chair, to the Government and the people of Yemen for the generous hospitality accorded to us and excellent organisation of this meeting.

I am confident that under your stewardship, our meeting will be fruitful and will strengthen our cooperation in the IOR-ARC.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

During its 13 years of existence, IOR-ARC has launched projects and programmes in various fields. These are still to be fully implemented.

Thus our Association is facing challenges. But its strategic value is beyond doubt and the benefits that it can bring to its members could be tremendous. For, this is a region endowed with immense human and natural resources.

Bearing in mind of its economic potential that the IOR-ARC can become a very dynamic region if we can achieve higher levels of economic cooperation and enlarge our cultural interaction.

Hence, the latest meeting of the Council of Ministers in Sana'a 2009, noted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Senior Officials that was tasked to review and propose amendments to the IOR-ARC Charter and its related documents.

Indonesia welcomes these recommendations aimed at revitalizing our Association. We agree with the proposal that we in the IOR-ARC take a sectoral approach to our cooperation. And that our cooperation in the maritime transport, fisheries, science and technology sectors be strengthened, as these are our common concerns as littoral states.

We are pleased that the recommendations took into account the principles of non-interference in domestic policy and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of the member states. We are reassured that the practice of decision making based on consensus be maintained in the revised charter. Thus we strike a balance between change and continuity in our cooperation.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

In regard of our cooperation in fisheries, sharing of best practices should be given the highest priority. As littoral states, we are also endowed with a wealth of marine and coastal resources. We should therefore not only tap the potential of these resources but also ensure their sustainability.

We welcome and support the initiative to establish a Maritime Transport Council to comprehensively improve management of maritime transportation in our region.

Over the Indian Ocean, moves the highest tonnage of goods in the world. Almost 100,000 ships, many of them carrying vital energy products, cross its expanse annually. This Council should therefore work towards improving our cooperation in maritime transport.

We share a common interest in the security and safety of the means of our sea transport. We welcome the initiative of the Republic of Yemen to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden, as well as the naval operations of a number of countries in the high seas off the Horn of Africa. We recognize relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and emphasize the

importance of respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member states, as well as international law, including in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. We fervently hope that the conflicts in Somalia would be resolved soon and therefore remove a condition that has nurtured acts of piracy and armed robbery in the area.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the same time, we must consider that in today's world of rapid change, new challenges and opportunities are emerging. To deal with these realities, we must broaden our capabilities.

Hence, cooperation in the economic and political fields is no longer sufficient. It must be complemented by cooperation in the socio-cultural field to enhance our mutual understanding and boost our solidarity in facing challenges and seizing opportunities.

In reference to H.E Zainal Abidin Rashid, Senior Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, for your information, we from Indonesia, just in the middle of last month, have materialized your idea where a number of artists and performers from Indonesia staged performances in Tarim, around 1.100 km east of Sana'a, and then perform in Seiyun. We proceeded to Mukalla the next day about 5 hours drive from Seiyun. Our last performances were 3 days in the capital of Yemen participating in Sana'a Summer Festival. We were delightful by the response and reception of the people from these towns and cities.

Mr. Chairman,

We must strengthen our people-to-people interaction. Exchanges between our respective students, journalists, academicians, artists and educational institutions will bolster relations among nations and communities in our region.

That is the basic idea behind the Developing Countries Partnership Scholarship (DCPS) and the *Darmasiswa* (non-degree) Scholarship programmes offered by Indonesia. Last year alone, 61 students from IOR-ARC members attended these programmes.

Moreover, we are now developing an Indian Ocean Study Centre at Andalas University in Padang, West Sumatra. We hope that this Centre will be able to dynamically engage with its counterparts in our region and boost our cooperation in the academic sector.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia welcomes the nomination of Australia as the next Vice-chair of IOR-ARC. We hope that India and Australia as the next leaders of our Association will build on the achievements of their predecessors in advancing our cooperation. Indonesia assures its full support and cooperation with the next chair and vice-chair.

Similarly, Indonesia endorses the nomination of Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG) to become IOR-ARC observer. Indonesia is looking forward to actively cooperate with the IORG in future relevant studies in the region.

Let us all work hard together to bring forward the important undertakings that we have begun. We must do all what we can to complete the implementation of our programmes and projects.

Thus we can effectively deal with the challenges and seize the opportunities of our time. And by our untiring continuous efforts, we can bring prosperity to our peoples and contribute to the making of a more secure, more stable and more prosperous Indian Ocean region.

I thank you.