

**Statement from H.E. Primo Alui Joelianto  
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia  
at the General Debate**

**Meeting of the Council of Ministers  
of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation  
Tehran, 4 May 2008**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to use this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Your Excellency and to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the most generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Tehran.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to H.E Manoucheher Mottaki for hosting this meeting. I do believe that under your able fosterage, our session today will produce fruitful result in strengthening cooperation among IOR-ARC members.

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

In this 11<sup>th</sup> Year of IOR-ARC we have noted that IOR-ARC Programs are various. However, we should focus on and intensify our implementation to the projects that we have agreed upon. Therefore, I would like to re-emphasize that future projects should be doable, practical, focused, have great multiplier effects, and involve a broad level of participation. Noting that IOR-ARC needs to show concrete progress in its cooperation, I believe that we should come up with projects that are well planed, visible, with details that are also well informed to all members and thus could produce maximum outcomes. The projects should also be in the area that the IOR-ARC members from three different continents with different economic systems could enjoy the benefit of the cooperation.

As we are all aware, trade cooperation is an important area that can be a significant factor in accelerating economic growth and has an ample of opportunities that can be further developed in this region. In this case we should therefore at the same time enhance the cooperation in the area of trade facilitation to reduce trade barriers and increase trade flow, which includes among others cooperation in financial sector.

Indonesia is also of the view that cooperation in the area of sharing best practice among member countries should become a focus of this cooperation. As we are all aware, most of member countries participated in this organization are developing countries with most of the people are still under poor economic condition. Having microfinance in our banking system for empowering our economic would be of benefit to be implemented in our countries. As Indonesia

has been regarded to be one of many countries who has succeeded in implementing microfinance to move the economic engine, especially in coping the financial problem which hit Indonesia since 1997, it is our privilege to share our experiences on the practice of microfinance by sending our experts in a proposed workshop to be held at the IOR-ARC Secretariat in Mauritius later this year.

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

We are now facing the world with rapid changes as an effect of globalization. There are some challenges that we should faced outside. Cooperation in the field of economic and politics are not sufficient. As we came from different economic and political system, I believe that cooperation in the area of socio-culture should also be taking into account to strengthen our togetherness and to feel a sense of us and thus we could understand and help each other in facing those challenges. Having known each other cultures would make us feel as brothers. Therefore, cooperation in the field of Tourism and Education are among others would be areas that can be developed in our cooperation. Indonesia, on this regard, is pleased to support the cooperation in this area. We have Developing Countries Partnership Scholarship and Dharmasiswa Scholarship to be offered as tools to enhance relations and networking among us as well as creating generations that are ready to face this globalize world.

While we are streamlining and focusing our programs and work, we should also support the development of the IOR-ARC Secretariat as well as the tools which support IOR-ARC work programs. We are of the view that having a strong secretariat would help the development of projects that are ample and help the members to achieve the outcomes. As we know that the Secretariat has been our facilitator who coordinates all activities within IOR-ARC; and the IORNET.com has been a tool in our cooperation which could be a portal to commence dialogues and exchange information in a committed manner leading to an enhancement and deepening of cooperation among the IOR-ARC member countries. We should in this case, support the idea of strengthening our secretariat and make the best use of IORNET to facilitate our communication.

Above all, it is the members' task to support IOR-ARC's continuing efforts at developing capacity building measures and capabilities in all areas where IOR-ARC can add value. As a member of IOR-ARC, we should commit ourselves to create policies which are supportive to issues such as trade and investment facilitation, capacity building programs, transparency and behind-the-border regulations and administrative procedures.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman