



**Report on Luncheon Session with H.E. Lt Gen (Retd.) Andi M Ghalib,
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi on Saturday,
May 22, 2010**

Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) organized an Interactive Session with H.E. Lt. Gen (Retd.) Andi M Ghalib, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Mr. Imbang Listiyadi, Trade Counsellor and Mr. Leonard F. Hutabarat, First Secretary, Indonesian Embassy were also present on the occasion.

Welcoming the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia and the delegates, Mr. K R Girish, President, BCIC said that bilateral relations between India and Indonesia dates back to 1955 when the then Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indonesian President Mr. Sukarno along with three others founded the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). He said that in order to boost the economy, both India and Indonesia has signed several agreements including a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) on September 15, 2009 which would help both the economies to tap immense business potential that exists. He also requested the Ambassador to look into the Indian economy for huge investments in the area of Infrastructure projects as well as Mining, Oil, Healthcare and Tourism. Similarly, Indonesia should take advantage in exploring business opportunities in the areas of IT, Education, Healthcare. He requested the Indonesian Ambassador to start "Air Garuda" the official Indonesian carrier to commence its operations from India.

H.E. Lt. Gen (Retd.) Andi M Ghalib, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in his address, thanked the President and the Chamber for giving an opportunity to interact with the members and further added that both Indonesia and India has a strong cultural relationship. He also said that in the year 2005, India and Indonesia signed a new strategy of partnership which encompasses all aspects including Economy, Defence and Security. Bi-lateral trade between India and Indonesia which was around \$ US 4 billion in 2005 has crossed \$ US 10 billion in 2010. He acknowledged the presence of some of the major industrial Indian companies such as TATA, TVS, ESSAR, BAJAJ in Indonesia.

He also mentioned that several business delegations from the apex Chambers like FICCI, CII, ICC have been visiting Indonesia to enhance bilateral trade relationships and he requested the President to mount a business delegation from BCIC to Indonesia soon. He echoed the views of the President and said that India with huge population offer enormous business opportunities and Indonesia would be keen to join hands with India in promoting trade relations with other ASEAN countries.

He then appealed to Indian citizens to visit Indonesia especially Java, Sumatra, Bali and other islands which offer huge tourism prospects. He said that Indonesia is

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looking for more scientific and technical collaborations in the area of Space Research and Textiles – particularly Silk, IT & ITeS, Automobiles and Automotive parts.

Following the brief observations of the Ambassador, following queries were raised by the participants at the Interactive Session and were duly answered by the Ambassador and his team :

- a) Cooperation in the area of Aerospace
- b) Issue of Free Land Holding in Indonesia
- c) Subsidies and concessions for setting Hotel Industries in Indonesia
- d) Licensing for Coal Mines development in Indonesia
- e) Issue on Minimum Wages, Power Tariff, Pollution Control Norms in Indonesia

The Interactive Session was well attended by more than 50 representatives from the Industry.

Proposing the Vote of Thanks, Mr. V Thiagarajan, Member, General Committee, BCIC and Director, Vee Technologies Pvt. Ltd. thanked the delegates from the Embassy of Indonesia for addressing members of BCIC and hoped that this visit of the Ambassador will further strengthen the trade relationships between the two countries.



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