



Remarks by the Chargé d 'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy, mr. Fikry Cassidy

Former Minister Dr. Bernard Bot,

Mr. Leendert de Lange, Mayor of Wassenaar,

Former Minister Dr. Willem van Eekelen, Chair of INS Trustees,

Mrs. Joty ter Kulve – van Os

Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to thank Mrs. Joty ter Kulve – van Os for her admiring initiative on “the Three Freedom Trees” as part of the “Commemoration of 75 Years of Freedom”. I also thank the Gemeente Wassenaar, Indonesia Nederland Society and The Borneo Initiative for arranging this event

Today, we celebrate the 75 years of freedom. We mark this celebration by planting freedom trees on the Estate De Paauw to guide us a way forward, towards a better future.

Planting a freedom tree on the part of Indonesia seems symbolic but holds true on the basis of her existence. As a democratic country born from the ashes of World War II, Indonesia has remained resilient against the tides of change in the course of her history and turned to what has become today as a vibrant economy and contributing nation to the world. Just like a full – grown tree, making connections and working together with the surrounding nature. Today, we join hand in hand in peace and unity for the sake of our society, our people and the whole world.

There is a simple saying that if two strangers can act as good neighbour, we too can form a community. Netherlands is not only a neighbor, but also a partner. It is thus an honour for us to plant a tree side - by – side with the Netherlands and symbolically form an eco-community to shelter our two peoples and cover themselves through mutual beneficial relations. It is our firm belief that we can do more when we are united.

As we become environmentally conscious, we also would like to seize this distinct opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to the Borneo Initiative for bringing a platform for cooperation in the promotion of sustainable forest management. We need partners like the Borneo Initiative and we also like to educate our young ones for the awareness of a sustained future as we enter critical environmental challenges.

In this end, we highly appreciate the creation of a curriculum for Netherlands’ primary schools in promoting sustainability such as “Forests for our Children” through the Borneo Initiative as well as her donation of a tree in Kalimantan in pursuit of environmental awareness..

And speaking about our young generation, I took note and highly appreciate the collaboration between Herenwegschool Wassenaar and Sekolah Indonesian Wassenaar. This would provide an ample opportunity to get our people closer even in our simple means and help build a culture of peace.

I also took pleasure to note and express my sincere thanks to the students who will be performing an Indonesian culture of angklung. It may be something new but the songs that will be played is also a call to unity towards a better tomorrow.

Finally, allow me to quote a Sanskrit proverb: Yesterday is but a dream, tomorrow but a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me once again reiterate my warm appreciation to all of you in organizing such meaningful event, as today we all nurture peace, earth and humanity. Through our modest means of today, we can always look forward of a better tomorrow, with our confidence and renewed hopes held high.

Thank you.
