

Speech by Tommy Koh, on receiving the Adinata Award from the Embassy of Indonesia, in Singapore on 17 August 2024

Salutation

1. Ambassador Tommy Suryo Pratomo, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to thank Ambassador Suryo Pratomo and the Selection Committee for choosing me as the recipient of the Adinata Award in 2024. I am very grateful for the honour. This will motivate me to work even harder to enhance friendship and mutual understanding between our two countries. I am very happy that our bilateral relationship is in excellent order.

Indonesia's 79th Birthday

2. Today is Indonesia's 79th birthday. Since this is a birthday party, I want to make 3 wishes for Indonesia.

Wish no 1

3. My first wish for Indonesia to continue to rise economically. The rise of Asia is the most important development of this century. The dramatic rise of China is being followed by the rise of India and, now, by the rise of Indonesia and ASEAN. Singapore welcomes and will continue to support Indonesia's growth. President Joko Widodo has predicted that Indonesia will be the world's 4th largest economy by 2045. May President Jokowi's prediction come true.

Wish no 2

4. Indonesia is one of the most diverse countries in the world. It is a country of many ethnic groups, languages, cultures and religions. This explains the fact that your national moto is Unity in Diversity. My second wish is for Indonesia to continue to enjoy domestic peace and for harmony to prevail between Indonesians of different ethnicity,

language, culture and religion. Let Indonesia be a shining example to the world that diversity can be an asset and unity in diversity can be a lived experience.

Wish no 3

5. My third wish concerns Indonesia and ASEAN. ASEAN is important to Indonesia because it has helped to maintain peace in Southeast Asia. ASEAN has also integrated our ten economies into a single economy which is one of the biggest in the world. ASEAN has a convening power which no single country can achieve. If Indonesia needs ASEAN, ASEAN also needs Indonesia. Indonesia is the largest member and natural leader of ASEAN. My third wish is for Indonesia to remain committed to ASEAN and will continue to play a leadership role in ASEAN.

6. Terima Kasih.

.