

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF BANGLADESH-INDONESIA RELATIONSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

In 1972, the diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Indonesia was started. This year, 2022, marks the golden jubilee of Bangladesh-Indonesia relationship or their 50 years of being allies. In terms of Muslim countries, Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, while Bangladesh is the fourth largest Muslim nation. The two countries are partners in the United Nations and different multilateral organizations, especially in international peacekeeping, the Developing 8 Countries, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the World Trade Organization. The Bangladeshi embassy is in Jakarta, while the Indonesian embassy is in Dhaka. After Indonesia recognized Bangladesh's independence in 1972, official diplomatic relations were established. Even though the two countries are more or less 4000 kilometers apart, these countries have a lot of similarities, from geography and history to religion and culture.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Both countries are located in Asia.

Indonesia is located in Southeast Asia. It has a total land area of 1,913,580 km². Of Indonesia's total area, 1,811,569 square kilometers is land and 93,000 square kilometers is inland seas. About 14.01 percent of the country is good for agriculture. The major food crops, ranked by area harvested, are rice, corn, cassava, soybeans and peanuts. Indonesia is also one of the world's largest producers and exporters of tree crops such as rubber, copra, palm kernels, palm oil, coffee, cocoa and spices

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is located in South Asia. It has a total area of 148,460 km². This country is densely populated with a large river delta and a huge mangrove forest, as well as being very lush and green with a lot of water around. Of the total area of Bangladesh, the majority of its area is land (130,170 square kilometers) and the rest of the area is water (18,290 square kilometers). About 59 percent of Bangladesh's nonurban land is arable. Permanent crops cover only 6.5 percent of the country. Bangladesh produces large quantities of quality timber, bamboo, and sugarcane. Bamboo grows in almost all areas, but high-quality timber grows mostly in the highland valleys.

Religion:

The major religion in both countries is Islam.

- **Indonesia** - 87.2% of the population of Indonesia are Muslims.
- **Bangladesh** - 89.5% of the population of Indonesia are Muslims.

Founding Fathers:

- **Indonesia** - Soekarno

Soekarno was born and named as "Koesno" in Surabaya on June 6, 1901. Because he was often sick, Koesno's name was later changed to Sukarno. Sukarno, who later became famous with the name Bung Karno, spent his childhood in Tulung Agung, East Java with his grandfather. Bung Karno later moved to Mojokerto to live with his parents, he was sent to Europeesche Lagere School (ELS) to be easily accepted into the Hogere Burgerschool (HBS). After graduating in 1915, Sukarno continued his education at HBS or high school level in Surabaya, East Java. In Surabaya, Sukarno met many leaders from Sarekat Islam, an

organization that was then led by HOS Tjokroaminoto, who also gave a room in his house for Sukarno to stay in when he was staying in Surabaya. In Surabaya, Sukarno's nationalism was increasingly vibrant. He actively participated in the youth wing of Boedi Oetomo organization, Tri Koro Darmo, which in 1918 was renamed Jong Java (Javanese Youth). In 1929, Sukarno was arrested by the Dutch and incarcerated in Banceuy Prison for his activities at the PNI (Indonesian National Party). In 1930 he was transferred to Sukamiskin Prison; in this prison Soekarno made a phenomenal defense for himself at the court entitled Indonesia Sues. Sukarno was released in 1931 and joined the Indonesian Party (Partindo) which was a fraction of the PNI. In 1933, Sukarno was again arrested and exiled to Flores. Sukarno's spirit did not break. From 1938 until 1942 Sukarno was exiled to Bengkulu. Sukarno was only truly free after the Japanese occupation in 1942. At the beginning of its occupation, Japan did not pay much attention to the figures of the Indonesian independence movement, until finally around 1943 when the Japanese realized how important these figures were. Japan began to use Indonesian independence movement figures, one of whom was Sukarno, to create a more favorable attitude towards Japanese propaganda among the Indonesian population. Sukarno began to actively prepare for Indonesian independence, together with the Preparatory Board for Indonesian Independence (BPUPKI), including formulating Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, and the foundations of the Indonesian government. In August 1945, Sukarno was invited by Marshal Terauchi, leader of the Japanese Army of the Southeast Asian region to Dalat, Vietnam. Marshal Terauchi stated that it was time for Indonesia to be free and all matters of Indonesian independence were the responsibility of the Indonesian people themselves. After meeting Marshal Terauchi in Dalat, Vietnam, the Rengasdengklok Event took place on August 16, 1945. The youth leaders from PETA demanded that Soekarno and Hatta immediately proclaim the independence of the Republic of Indonesia because at that confused time, following the surrender of Japan, a power vacuum was forming in the Indies. Sukarno, along with other national figures, began to prepare themselves for what was to come. Based on a meeting held by the Investigation Agency for the Preparation of Indonesian Independence (BPUPKI) a small committee for the proclamation of independence, consisting of eight people, was officially established. Sukarno became Chairman of the Indonesian Independence Preparatory Committee (PPKI) and Hatta became his deputy. Other PPKI members were Prof. Mr. Dr. Soepomo, KRT Radjiman Wedyodiningrat, R. P. Soeroso, Soetardjo Kartohadikoesoemo, Kiai Abdoel Wachid Hasjim, Ki Bagus Hadikusumo. In the morning of August 17, 1945 at Pegangsaan Timur 56, Jakarta, on behalf of the Indonesian people, Ir. Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta proclaimed the independence of Indonesia.

- **Bangladesh - Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born in Tungipara village (now Upazila) under the then Gopalganj subdivision (now District) of greater Faridpur district on March 17, 1920. At the age of seven, he began his schooling at Gimadanga Primary School. At nine, he was admitted to Gopalganj Missionary School. Before becoming active in student movements and politics, he had an affinity toward sports like any other teenager. In 1932, he married his wife, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa. They had two daughters and three sons. In 1942, he passed the Matriculation examination from Gopalganj Mission School. In the same year, he got himself admitted into the Islamia College (currently Maulana Azad College) in Kolkata. From there, he completed his graduation in 1947. In 1943, he was elected councilor of Bengal Provincial Muslim League and continued to serve admirably in this position until the partition of India. Then, he was elected uncontested as the General Secretary of Islamia College Students Union. During the communal riots known as 'Calcutta Killing' on August 16, 1946, he engaged himself in maintaining peace and communal harmony, saving lives of many members of both Hindu and Muslim communities. He joined the movement for a United Independent Bengal as a third free state along with India and Pakistan. Even though the move was aborted, it became the foundation of his vision for an independent Bangladesh. He then took admission in the Department of Law at the University of Dhaka and founded the East Pakistan Muslim Students' League. On March 11, 1948, he was arrested while they were demonstrating in observance of the 'State Language Bangla Day' but soon forced to release. On April 19, 1949, while preparing for a rally in favor of the fourth class employees, he got arrested again and while he was in jail, he became the Joint Secretary of the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League (currently Awami League). In 1952, he visited China to attend a peace conference and delivered a resounding speech in Bangla. In 1953, he was elected as a General Secretary of the Awami League and continued to gain prominence as a Bengali leader. In 1958, Pakistan imposed martial law, banned all political activities, and arrested him. He was released from jail after the high court declared his detention unlawful. He set up an underground network called Revolutionary Council for Independent Bengal comprising leading student leaders in order to work for the independence of Bangladesh. In the early hours of March 26, 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence

of Bangladesh. He was announced as the President on April 10, 1971 as the first Government of Bangladesh was formed.

The Celebration of Bangladesh-Indonesia 50th Anniversary and Moving Forward

During a bilateral meeting with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdul Momen, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi agreed to work towards the conclusion of a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). Similarly to Indonesian Foreign Minister Marsudi's remarks, Minister Momen noted that the economic conditions and relations between Indonesia and Bangladesh have been well for the past 50 years, and that there are some new potential opportunities for the two countries. Indonesian and Bangladeshi foreign ministers also agreed to extend bilateral energy cooperation.

CONCLUSIONS

In a nutshell, there are many national characteristics and a number of regional and international issues of interest are shared by Indonesia and Bangladesh, including the environment, women's health and empowerment, food and energy security, poverty and disaster management, and global security and peace. Additionally, it is important to understand democracy, terrorism, transnational crime (human trafficking, money laundering), corruption, and good governance. Ongoing and future cooperation between the two countries will be based on enhanced bilateral commitments in the areas of economic cooperation, trade, investment, tourism, education, and technical cooperation.