

DAY 2: OUR OCEAN LEADERSHIP 15:45-17:15
OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE – MALTA 2017
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Your Majesties, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

All of you would know where Indonesia is. But not very many understand the scale, the diversity and the complexity of Indonesia. Let me show you.

Our vast waters mean vast challenges that require comprehensive responses.

We recently launched our first Ocean Policy covering over 77 strategic programs ranging from responsibly managing resources and environment, firm law enforcement, robust maritime infrastructure, active maritime diplomacy and well-rooted maritime culture.

Addressing overfishing, marine plastic debris, expanding marine protected areas, and climate change adaptation is part of this Ocean Policy.

Overfishing can only be truly addressed in three layers simultaneously. First, fisheries management to tackle IUUF at national, regional and global level, second, fighting crimes in fisheries sectors, and third, ending fisheries subsidies that create unsustainable fishing practices. Indonesia is committed to maintain its strong anti-IUUF campaign, is committed to establish regional cooperation to fight crimes in fisheries whereby global markets, such as the EU, the US and Japan are invited to be part of this initiative, is committed to work in WTO to end destructive fisheries subsidies.

We have put in place a robust National Plan of Action on Marine Plastic Debris as the road map to reduce marine plastic litter by 70% in 2025.

Indonesia works with the World Bank in developing national strategies, implementation plan as well early studies to understand better the magnitude of the problem.

The National Plan of Action also supports initiatives on river and beach clean up, development of bio-plastic, tax for single-use plastic bag, developing tests for plastic-tar road, waste to energy, strengthening waste banks initiatives, and grass roots and youth movement.

We plan to provide one billion USD to finance this Action Plan, but this is not enough.

We see the critical importance of bringing civil societies and private investment into the picture. Under this thinking, Indonesia initiated the creation of Alliance for Marine Plastic Solutions (AMPS).

This Alliance is a platform for Indonesian government, central and locals, to exchange information on investible projects, to create network between Indonesian private sectors and civil societies with foreign investors, and to establish an enabling environment for impact investors to enter Indonesian solid waste management sectors.

Indonesia is home to the most diverse coral reef in the world. Currently there are 2.5 million hectares of coral reef across the country. Our 2017 research shows that majority of our coral reef is either in excellent state or in good condition, yet, there are areas of unhealthy coral reefs. This is one of many considerations that have led Indonesia to commit to expand its marine protected areas to 20 million hectares by 2020.

Indonesia lost nearly 30,000 hectares of coastal land due to rising sea level. Thus, although Indonesia is the largest archipelagic state in the world, the challenges of climate change such as rising of sea level is fundamentally similar with small island states. We believe that closer exchanges of experiences between archipelagic and island states regardless of their size, large or very small, or economic development, advanced or less-developed, are ideas worth exploring.

In this context, Indonesia is committed to establish a forum whereby archipelagic and island states can meet on regular basis and to work on practical cooperation such as multi-hazard early warning system, tsunami early warning, and disaster relief management. Indonesia will host the prep-com of such collaboration this coming November.

Indonesia will keep its obligations to Paris Agreement. It is however intriguing to see that Paris Agreement mentions “oceans” just once, and it is not in operative paragraphs. And ocean is mentioned with an s: in plural form. This is a different approach as we in the international ocean community views ocean in **singularity** as demonstrated by Our Ocean Conference as well as the Ocean Conference of the United Nations. It appears that our tasks to mainstream ocean agenda into global climate change instrument have just started.

Next year, Indonesia will host Our Ocean Conference in Bali on 29 – 31 October 2018. The theme would be Our Ocean, Our Legacy. We hope to invite more developing countries as well civil societies and private sectors from emerging economies in Asia.

We will focus on areas of climate change adaptation, marine environment, sustainable fisheries, and blue economy in order to help strengthen the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 14.

We look forward to welcome you in Bali next year, and let me close by presenting this following short video.

I thank you.