

REMARKS

**H.E. JOKO WIDODO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA**

AT THE

**Opening of
IORA Summit**

JAKARTA, 07 MARCH 2017

1. ***Your Excellency, [President of South Africa], [Mr. Jacob Zuma]***
2. ***Your Excellency, [President of Mozambique], [Mr. Filipe Nyusi]***
3. ***Your Excellency, [President of Sri Lanka], [Mr. Maithripala Sirisena]***
4. ***Your Excellency, [Prime Minister of Australia], [Mr. Malcolm Turnbull]***
5. ***Your Excellency, [Prime Minister of Malaysia], [Dato' Najib Tun Abdul Razak]***
6. ***Your Excellency,***
7. ***Honorable Ambassadors,***
8. ***Honorable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,***
 - Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh...
 - Greetings and Salutations... Good morning...
9. A very warm welcome... to the **20th [twentieth] Summit** of the ***Indian Ocean Rim Association...***
 - This summit, marking two decades of the IORA... comes at a **critical time** for the world economy... and ***possibly***, for **humanity**...
10. It seems increasingly, that the world is now in a **global revolution**...
 - A **technology** revolution... that is **relentless**, in its ***penetration***, and its ***forward movement***...
 - And a **political** revolution... that may signal the beginning, of an ***era of populism***...
 - And when these two revolutions **come together**... it is like ***two explosive chemicals*** flowing into each other...
 - [If in ancient times, we talk about “the Face that launched a thousand ships”... now, we talk about “the Tweet that launched a thousand likes”...

11. In Indonesia, we believe... that the Indian Ocean is emerging as a **key global axis** in world affairs...
- For centuries, the ***Atlantic*** Ocean dominated world affairs...
 - Then, in the last thirty years, the **rise of East Asia**, has led many to call for a Century of the ***Pacific***...
 - Yet, we believe... that the Indian Ocean is poised to **rise also**, alongside the ***great societies*** and the ***increasingly important economies***... of **East Africa**, the **Middle East**, **South Asia**, **Southeast Asia** and **Australia**...
12. The IORA community is **unique**... The IORA community covers a **vast area**...
- An area at once **rich**... yet with many **large pockets of *poverty***...
 - An area rich in **traditions**... yet in many ways, in need of ***modernization***...
13. In recent years, IORA has facilitated **important work**... in a **wide range** of areas...
- IORA has facilitated regional progress in **maritime affairs**... Marked most recently in the “IORA Maritime Cooperation Declaration” in the Indonesian city of **Padang** in 2015 [two thousand fifteen]...
 - The Indian Ocean Rim faces periodic risk of natural disaster... IORA has facilitated concrete progress in **disaster response** and **disaster relief**...
 - Last year, on the Indonesian ***island paradise*** of **Bali**... our Foreign Ministers released the “IORA Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment”...

14. Ladies and Gentlemen... experience around the world **proves**... that one of the ***easiest, cheapest*** ways to boost an economy... is to **empower the women**...
- We would do well to **remember the truth**... that behind every great man, there is a great woman...
 - Please **help me** on this issue... Because ***tonight***, after I come home... my **wife**... my **daughter**... and my **daughter-in-law**... will ask me, about this...
15. The **environment**, is another issue that requires ***urgent attention***...
- Since I took office in 2014 [two thousand fourteen]... my government has implemented a severe crack-down on **illegal fishing**...
 - ...and taken serious steps, to limit devastating **forest fires**... to be more exact, peatland fires... that every year cover much of Southeast Asia in haze and smoke...
16. Yet the issue is becoming only **more urgent**...
- The common practice, of our people **burning garbage** in open fires... creates **air-pollution** that does serious damage to our people's health...
 - **Plastic** is entering our oceans in **huge** and ever-increasing amounts...
17. I would like to express my appreciation, that the various forums of the IORA... have been focused on **practical solutions** to such **practical challenges**...
- I encourage our Ministers, Senior Officials and Delegates... to continue to do so...

18. Yes - we are all, **rightly** and **understandably**, trying to fight for our national interests...

- Yet, as the founder of the Republic of Indonesia, **President Sukarno**... **wisely observed**, more than half a century ago...
- He said, that “**internationalism** cannot be fertile, unless it is **rooted in the soil** of **nationalism**... **but**, we must also acknowledge, that nationalism also **cannot flower**, **unless** it **grows in the garden** of internationalism...”

19. Because of **Technology**, Globalization **cannot be turned back**...

- And it is **precisely because** globalization cannot be turned back, that we have a **greater need than ever**, for internationalism...
- We **need** internationalism to **solve the challenges** of globalization...
- But we **must ensure**... that, as President Sukarno said, our internationalism is **grounded** in the soil of nationalism...
- A **healthy** nationalism... a **wise** nationalism... that **tells the truth** to our people...
- A **sincere** nationalism... that does what is **right** for the **long-term prosperity** of our people... not for the **emotional heat** of the moment...

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20. Ladies and Gentlemen... **in conclusion**... on behalf of the IORA Community, I would like to express **appreciation**, for **your attendance in Jakarta** this week...

- We all face ***domestic political pressures***... that can make it **difficult**, to attend international summits such as this...
- But your attendance, helps ***water the gardens of internationalism*** that President Sukarno described...
- I hereby wish all of us a productive conference, as we work towards the “JAKARTA Concord” and the “IORA Action Plan”...
- Thank you very much...