The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mumbai held a gathering with Indonesian community in Bangalore on 15 December 2012 and in Chennai on 16 December 2012 with the agenda of realization of duties and responsibilities from the consular functions. On that occasion, the Consul General held an interactive dialogue with Indonesian citizen also to encourage them to be more aware to register their presence who are based in Bangalore and Chennai. In Bangalore as the third biggest city in India and one of the central city for IT (Information and Technology) was attended by 26 (twenty six) Indonesian citizen and was held at the Grand Inn Hotel. While in Chennai as the fourth biggest city in India for the central of economic and business, the event was attended by 50 (fifty) Indonesian citizen and was held at the Raintree Hotel. They are from business community such as professional/ expatriate, students and Indonesian citizen who are married with foreigners.

INDONESIA TO TARGET 9 MILLION ARRIVALS IN 2013: The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy will focus on targeting special interest tourists as well as step up its collaboration with the private sector and usage of social media in order to meet its goal of nine million arrivals in 2013. Esthy Reko Astuty, the ministry’s new director general of tourism marketing stated. It is quite a challenge to increase arrivals by 12.5 per cent while the marketing budget remains the same as last year’s (around US$63 million). Therefore, the ministry is going to increase the social media activities and form more partnerships with the private sector. Besides that, they will continue to target niche communities and special interest tourists. The country is likely to achieve its targeted eight million arrivals for 2012, with figures for January-November showing a 5.1 per cent year-on-year increase to reach 7.3 million. Astuty predicted that 2013’s calendar of high-profile events such as the APEC Summit, Miss World pageant and sporting highlights such as Tour de Singkarak and the Musi Triboatton would help the country meet its target. Other events expected to draw visitors include international rafting along the Alas River, Tour de Aceh, a surfing festival and numerous regional cultural festivals. Furthermore, Indonesia is also the official partner country at ITB Berlin this year. Being a partner country, Indonesia get the opportunity to promote more (before and during) the event. Apart from the big news opportunity, ministry expect participants will get inbound business to Indonesia, which means increased arrivals. Astuty was appointed director general of tourism marketing last December, she was formerly director of Indonesia tourism branding.

RI TO BREAK TOURISM RECORD WITH EIGHT MILLION ARRIVALS: Indonesia’s Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy is optimistic that international tourist arrivals to the country in 2012 would exceed the target of eight million, as arrival figures for the January-November period rose 5.1 per cent year-on-year to reach 7.3 million. Deputy minister of tourism and creative economy, Sapta Nirwandar, stated. With the exception of July 2012, month-on-month arrivals have been increasing. The ministry expect the December performance whose result will only be available at the end of this month, to also increase. Even if the number (for December 2012) is similar to December 2011, which was around 725,000, the target is already achieved. Indonesia would set new records with eight million arrivals and US$9 billion in revenue from tourism in 2012, Nirwandar pointed out. The country recorded 7.6 million tourist arrivals and a total revenue of US$8.5 billion in 2011. For 2013, the ministry has set a goal of nine million arrivals. Meanwhile, total tourist arrivals to Bali in 2012 have surpassed the targeted 2.8 million to reach 2.9 million, led by visitors from Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea, according to Bali Regional Tourism Office director Ida Bagus Kade Subhiksu in a report by Indonesian news agency Antara. The regional government is expecting arrivals to Bali to increase to 3.1 million in 2013, based on the average arrival growth of between 10 and 12 per cent to the island in the last five years.
RI TURN ON HEALING POWER: Indonesia stands a good chance of becoming an international health destination because of its abundant natural beauty, which is a potentially huge draw for tourists also looking for low-cost health and medical care. Indonesia’s potential to become a health tourism destination is big because Indonesia has many attractive places, stated Mari Elka Pangestu, the minister of tourism and creative economy. Mari cited figures putting the global health tourism market at around $10 billion annually. Mari cited Indonesia’s geographical proximity to many wealthy countries, such as Australia and China. She added that from a cultural standpoint, the archipelago also abounds with local and traditional wisdom on healing all measure of ailments. Indonesia has been named as the best spa destination in the world. Health Minister Nafsiah Mboi voiced her agreement with Mari’s assessment of Indonesia’s medical tourism potential. Indonesia will immediately set up working groups and an action plan. The government had identified four hot spots in which to begin developing health tourism: Bali, Jakarta, Makassar and Manado. The four areas were chosen not only because the health facilities there are already advanced but also because there are many things to see there. Nafsiah said that aside from spas, Indonesia also has potential in the medical sector. The country boasts many specialist doctors with good international reputations, but many people are not aware of that due to a lack of promotion. Mari said that to lure patients from overseas, the government will have to collaborate with travel agents and increase cooperation between hospitals, clinics and spas. While waiting for more Indonesian hospitals to get international accreditation from the Joint Committee International Accreditation, the government can build a level of cooperation with insurance companies.

NEW LOOK OF WWW.INDONESIA.TRAVEL: At the official launch of the new look www.indonesia.travel netizens and communities expressed their praise of the new look of Indonesia’s Official Tourism Website. Detik.com reported that information in indonesia.travel has become more complete, its appearance neater and more attractive, altogether more comprehensive in promoting the many and diverse destinations of Indonesia. It has a modern feel, dominated by brighter colors, while the lay-out of its pages are like in a magazine, greatly facilitating the search for information on Indonesia's tourism. Director General for Tourism Development, Firmansyah Rahim, who officiated the launch told the press that a recent survey has shown that today social media and internet exert wider influence on tourism decisions compared to newspapers, magazines or even television. For this reason, an attractive and effective website, covering Indonesia's large and varied tourist destinations will attract and facilitate more visitors to travel and enjoy Indonesia. While Ratna Suranti, Deputy Director for Electronic and Digital Communications Media of the Directorate General for Tourism Marketing, explained that www.indonesia.travel today contains a wealth of articles on destinations, activities, events and news on Indonesian tourism. Travellers can also directly access hotels, travel agents and restaurants to souvenir shops in the intended destination, so that they can book rooms or package tours directly to local and even remote locations. According to web statistics, last year in 2011, www.indonesia.travel was seen by one million persons per day, while in 2012 this number increased significantly to 6,000 each day, where each visitor read between 3-4 pages for around 4 minutes, said Ratna Suranti. At the present moment, the web is covered mainly in two languages, namely bahasa Indonesia aimed at the Indonesian market, and English for the international market, both are market oriented. Next year in 2013 the Ministry aims to start a third main language, namely Mandarin, to cater to the large Chinese market in China and South East Asia. Also plans are to add virtual 360 degrees photographs to complete the information of the destinations. On their part, communities like travel troopers, kaskus, keleri, liburanlokal, and forum komunikasi in their testimonials found www.indonesia.travel now very helpful and reliable in the information provided, and it will also help foreign travellers to find their way in the destinations. Most, however, reminded the Ministry that as travellers today don’t carry their laptop, but the new smaller and easier mobile gadgets, they request that the information can also be easily accessed on smartphones. They also said asked for more detailed information on transportation, and more photographs. In this context, communities will be very happy to contribute both photos, information and articles to the website. Many communities said: “we are proud of this website on Indonesia”, it is attractive, more interactive, and inspires travel communities to join, write and travel for the world to see more of Wonderful Indonesia. The event was closed with a communal session learning to play the ‘angklung” bamboo musical instrument brought by the Saung Angklung Udjo of West Java, promoting participation, togetherness and unity among the audience. The Angklung is recognized UNESCO World Heritage.

NINE MEGA EVENTS TO PROMOTE INDONESIAN TOURISM: Nine events have been set to promote Indonesian tourism in 2013, both at home and abroad, according to deputy minister for Tourism and Creative Economy Sapta Nirwandar. The Ministry have prepared nine mega events to promote Indonesian tourism next year. Of these events, three will be conducted abroad, and one of these events will focus on Indonesia being a “country partner” during the world’s largest tourism exchange in Berlin, Germany from March 6-10, 2013. Two other events to be conducted abroad are Cruise Shipping Miami in the United States in March 2013 and International Meeting Exhibition in Frankfurt, Germany, in May, 2013. While the six tourism events at home will include Misi Tributoare II in Palembang, South Sumatra, in November 2013; Semarang Marathon in Central Java in June 2013; Pilgrim Tourism in Surabaya, East Java, in June 2013; Tour de Singkarak V in West Sumatra in June; Sabang International Regatta II in Sabang, Aceh, in September 2013; and Festival Timoresia II in Ambon, Maluku in October 2013. Nirwandar said funding for these nine events will be provided by Marketing Directorate General of the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy. The cost is expected to be some Rp 667,700 billion for tourism promotion programs, improvements of Indonesia’s image, and market and information development on Indonesia. The state budget has allocated Rp2,052 trillion for the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy in 2013.

RI AND AUSTRALIA TO RENEW BILATERAL AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT: The governments of Indonesia and Australia are set to renew a bilateral air service agreement in February 2013, allowing carriers from both nations to increase the frequency of connections between the two countries. The Transportation Ministry’s air transportation director general, Gerry Bhakti Gumsal, said the agreement would provide an additional 25,000 seats per week for flights between Indonesian and Australian destinations starting next year. This agreement is going to have a huge impact for both Indonesia and Australia in the future, not only in the aviation industry, but also in tourism and trade sectors as we provide more slots for airlines, Gerry stated at the ceremony held to mark the signing of the Indonesia–Australia memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the transport sector. This additional service is an 80 percent increase from our existing capacity, giving a lot of room for airlines [from Indonesia and Australia] to tap into the opportunity. Currently, air slots between the two countries stood at 31,250 seats per week, and were mostly used by national flag carrier Garuda Indonesia, Australian Qantas Airways, Jetstar and Pacific Blue, in addition to several chartered carriers. He predicted that tourism was going to be the sector that enjoyed the largest benefits from the new agreement. Australians love exotic destinations like Bali and East Nusa Tenggara. Next year, they are going to host Sari Komodo, and I do believe the privatization of the destinations are going to visit our country for that event. According to recent data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), 752,959 tourists from Down Under visited Indonesia in the first 10 months of 2012, up from 739,044 in the same period last year.
Trade era. Cost of participation is US$500 which includes the sustainability and labor issues on the eve of the ASEAN Free Indonesian economy, approaches to funding hotel projects, Mari Elka Pangestu and feature experts discussing trends in the opened by the Minister of Tourism and the Creative Economy, H.E. the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association (PHRI) and the Indonesian Hotel Investment Conference will be held on Friday, Investment Conference in Bali – February 1, 2013: Remember to Register for the 1st Indonesia Hotel.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO INDONESIA REACHED 6.5 MILLION IN FIRST 10 MONTHS OF THE YEAR: The number of foreign visitors to Indonesia reached 6.5 million in the first 10 months of the year. The number was 5 percent higher year-on-year, Tourism and Creative Economic Minister Mari Elka Pangestu stated. The number recorded up to October this year would add to optimism that the target of 8 million visitors this year would be met, Mari said. The record also showed that the marketing strategy adopted in the past three months has been effective. The tourism marketing has been focused on year-end festival program in six countries - Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, China, Japan and South Korea. The result has been recorded with an increase in the number of visitors from those countries excepting South Korea. The number of visitors from South Korea was negative in October. The number of visitors from Singapore, Japan, China rose significantly by 10.2 percent, 15.48 percent and 45.98 percent respectively. Increase has also been recorded in the number of visitors from the United Arab Emirates, up 82.68 percent, Bahrain 59.09 percent, Saudi Arabia 50.98 percent, and Russia 44.41 percent.

PALEMBANG’S FLOATING HOUSES TO ATTRACT TOURISTS: The floating houses (along the bank of Musi River) will attract tourists to Palembang, South Sumatra, according to a regional administration official. They hope to increase tourism in this region by promoting the activities of the locals, said Aris Munandar, head of the Palembang Development Planning Board’s strategy and layout division. Floating houses are unique hence, tourism will increase significantly. Musi River has many unique features that cannot be found in other regions. Munandar said the locals live in floating houses. However, these houses will be developed into production houses, where special crafts related to the Musi River will be displayed. Souvenirs and food items will be a part of the floating house tourism. In the future, tourists can stay in floating houses if they enjoy staying in houses built above water bodies.

JAKARTA MONORAIL TO OPERATE IN 2015: Jakarta’s first monorail transportation system is expected to be operational in 2015, with ticket prices set at Rp9,000, according to PT Jakarta Monorail (JM) spokesman Bovananto. Bovananto stated that the PT Monorail’s new consortium consisted of 90 percent new investors and 10 percent old ones. The monorail transportation system is an old project the implementation of which was interrupted for several years. The new investors in the consortium are national private companies. Thirty percent of the project’s financing will be borne by the consortium and the remaining 70 percent will be taken care of by the banking sector. Bovananto said the construction of the Jakarta monorail project would require a total investment of Rp6.9 trillion. Some Rp2.3 trillion will be funded by the consortium and the rest Rp4.6 trillion will be borrowed from banks. Therefore, Bovananto added, the project would be financed entirely by the private sector. He said the Green Lane phase of the project was expected to be completed in 2015 while the Blue Lane would be ready in 2016. One of the latest members of the consortium is PT Adhi Karya, which was also a member of the old consortium. It was reported earlier that the Jakarta government would revive the monorail project, which was stalled several years ago. The pillars of the monorail system have already been installed in some areas of the city. They pillars would be used for the construction of three monorail tracks, which will serve as many routes: Tanah Abang-Palmerah-Mega Kuningan-Senayan; Cawang Atas-Senen-Ancol; and Cawang Atas-Grogol-National Monument. Meanwhile, Adhi Karya president director Kiawodarmawan said his company would form a consortium with state-owned companies and regional government-owned companies to implement the project in two phases.
at various points there are well holes for visitors to scoop the various pools and bathing areas that have been set up. However, being totally immersed is simply impossible. The hot water pours almost scorching hot and thus any thought of jumping in and or medicinal purposes. In other parts of the park, the water is likely to be submerging themselves in the waters for therapeutic plunge and fully immerse themselves in the water. The adults, plastic inflated rings in these areas. The larger pools seem to be slightly cooler than it is at other places in the park, and so the water. The joyful screams of the children at play provide the sense of countryside serenity and openness. Gentle breezes caress palm trees as local farmers quietly go about tending their crops and herding their cattle among the rice fields set in the rolling hills. Life here seems undisturbed by the marching of time and the chaotic intensity of big city life. The roads wind through scenery that is both tropical and soothing. For people living in these parts in need of recreation and relaxation, Batu Kuwung is the perfect solution. Driving along the winding country road this place could easily be missed — it sits literally in the shadow of a hill. Passing through the entrance, there is further suggestion as to the nature of what lies beyond and an immediate feeling of warmth. Although it could be classified as a water park, it is not the type with spiraling slides and fountains spewing chlorinated water — it is a hot spring, wafting up from the various pools that have been created to take advantage of the naturally steamy water. The joyful screams of the children at play provide the soundtrack for the two largest pools. The water is warm, but slightly cooler than it is at other places in the park, and so the children joyously jump in and splash around, or swim and float on plastic inflated rings in these areas. The larger pools seem to be almost entirely the domain of children, who are happy to take the plunge and fully immerse themselves in the water. The adults, though, are a little less committed and energetic and are more likely to be submerging themselves in the waters for therapeutic or medicinal purposes. In other parts of the park, the water is almost scorching hot and thus any thought of jumping in and being totally immersed is simply impossible. The hot water pours into this area and is pooled in large tanks to be distributed to the various pools and bathing areas that have been set up. However, at various points there are well holes for visitors to scoop the water out and use as they see fit.

PACKAGE AT ALILA VILLAS ULUWATU BALI : The package features the entire Alila experience, from accommodation in lavish residences, to tailor-made activities of culinary Delight, Conscious Living and Leisure Concierge. It will definitely be an escape to remember; valid from 06 January 2013 – 31 March 2014. Alila Villas Uluwatu is where paradise resides, but nowhere more so than in the resort’s Three-bedroom Cliffside and Hill-side Pool Villas. Discover unparalleled heights of comfort, space and privacy with a stay in one of these luxurious retreats, right at the cliff’s edge, or high on the hillside framed by a glorious panorama of ocean and sky. Re-discover the joy of pure relaxation, with a personal Butler to take care of your every whim. Indulge all your senses – in the culinary delights of the resort’s signature fine-dining and traditional warung-style restaurants, the spectacular cliff-top pool and bar, or in the sanctuary of Spa Alila. Surrender yourself to the enchantment of Bali’s beauty and serenity, surrounded by the most breathtaking views imaginable. Escape for a few days, or linger longer and make one of these three-bedroom villas your dream holiday home at these special Live the Dream package rates.

LOMBOK AND SUMBAWA AIM TWO MILLION TOURISTS BY 2015 : The West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) regional government aims to score two million tourists yearly to Lombok and Sumbawa by 2015, following the success of the Visit Lombok-Sumbawa 2012 campaign, which saw one million domestic and international visitors arrive for the first 11 months of this year. NTB tourism and culture director, Lalita Gita Ariyadi said that the domestic market holds the biggest potential for Lombok, and they expect it to contribute 65 per cent of arrivals, with the rest from the international market. International tourists comprised 25 per cent of arrivals this year. To grab the international market, the NTB government and the regional tourism promotion board will organise sales missions to Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia next year. Two events commemorating the 200th anniversary of Mount Tambora’s eruption will be held in Sumbawa in 2015. Ariyadi said MICE has been an important market in achieving the one-million mark, and we will continue to boost it. A number of investors have shown their interest in developing a convention centre in Lombok and we are in the process of selection now. The regional government needed the support of airlines as well, and expressed hope that Garuda Indonesia, which recently began Makassar-Lombok services, would operate more direct flights to the destination. On regional and international routes, Ariyadi said the authorities were dangling funding to airlines that implemented services to Lombok. AirAsia, which began Kuala Lumpur-Lombok flights in October, was the first carrier to receive Rp500 million (US$52,148) for promotions. The NTB government was talking to airlines such as Tiger Airways Australia, to run services between Australia and Lombok, especially from Perth.

PAPUA’S NOKEN UNIQUE ORCHID FIBER BAG LISTED UNSECO WORLD HERITAGE : Unesco has placed noken, a traditional multifunctional woven bag from Papua, on its “List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding”. The listing was made official during a Unesco session in Paris, the UN body said in a statement published on its website. Noken is a knotted net or woven bag handmade from wood fiber or leaves, by people in the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua. Men and women use it for carrying produce, fish, firewood, babies or small animals, as well as for shopping and storing things in the home. Noken may also be worn, often for traditional festivities, or given as peace offerings. The number of people making and using noken is diminishing, however,Unesco said. The inclusion of noken on the list, Unesco says, is expected to help mobilize international cooperation and assistance for stakeholders to undertake appropriate safeguarding measures. Indonesian Deputy Education and Culture Minister Wiendu Nuryanti, who attended the Paris session, said Indonesia first submitted the proposal to put noken on Unesco’s World Heritage list four years ago, and it was revised several times since then.

SPENDING BY DOMESTIC TOURISTS UP 9.31 PERCENT : Spending by domestic tourists rose 9.31 percent to Rp171.5 trillion in 2012 from Rp156.89 trillion last year. There were around 245 million Indonesians traveling around the country in 2012 spending an average of Rp700,000 each per trip, up from Rp662,680 in 2011, Tourism Promotion Director at the Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry M. Faried stated. The average spending by each domestic traveler is much smaller than spending by a foreign visitor. However, the total spending by domestic travelers is much larger. The length of stay of domestic travelers declined from 4.34 days per visit on the average in 2011 to 4.27 days. The domestic tourists are still the largest contributors compared to foreign tourists to earning of hotel, restaurant, transport and tourist object operators. In addition, the growing number of domestic tourists serve to strengthen the national unity. Every year, peak seasons for domestic travelers include school holidays including semester holidays and end of academic year holidays, general holidays before and after Idul Fitri and ahead of year-end and new year holidays. Another peak traveling days is every weekend totaling around 100 days per year. There are still 14 days of official annual leave for salaried people. All the holidays encourage people to travel or spend days out of homes.