Supplementary Issue

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, MUMBAI, INDIA

INDONESIAN CONSULATE GENERAL, MUMBAI ATTENDING 3RD YOUTH FESTIVAL FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS AND GATHERING WITH INDONESIAN COMMUNITY AT HYDERABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH - 8TH MARCH 2014: Osmania University (OI), Hyderabad was holding a yearly cultural event with theme of "the 3rd Youth Festival for Foreign Students" at Tagore University on Saturday, 8 March 2014 and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI) Mumbai attended the said event as Guest of Honour to support and appreciate the Indonesian students from the Indonesian Students Union/ Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia (PPI). The members of PPI Hyderabad proudly presented the traditional dances "Tarian Nusantar/ Bumi Pertiwi" such as Tari Piring, Tari Saman and Tari Zapin. At the same day, KJRI Mumbai has organized an informal gathering and meeting with Indonesian community at the Golkonda Hotel, Hyderabad. In this event, we have received a very warm-welcome from 32 Indonesian citizens from the student community and expatriates/ professional together with their family (i.e. aircraft technicians, badminton coach, researcher and businessman). This gathering is held for maintaining communication, interactive, sharing information about the latest news in Indonesia and introduction for the new officer, Mrs. Pratiwi Amperawati (Consul for Socio-Cultural).

KUALANMU AIRPORT INAUGURATED: Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono officially inaugurated the brand new Kualanamu Airport of Medan, capital city of North Sumatra which replaced the old Polonia Airport, nearer the city. Kualanamu, located some 38 km from Medan has been operational since 25 July 2013. Medan is Sumatra’s largest business city and gateway to magnificent Lake Toba and other tourist attractions like Berastagi and Nias. The new airport is planned to become a domestic and international hub for flights in the region. Already today Garuda Indonesia, Indonesia Air Asia, Lion Air, Srivijaya Air and others have made Kualanamu one of their main hubs. Kualanamu airport is today touted as the best airport in Indonesia, and is built to receive 8 million passengers per year. It has the latest Integrated baggage handling system (IBHSS) which places priority to safety and security. Kualanamu is also the first Indonesian airport to be connected by rail direct from Medan. It has a 3,750 x 60 m runway capable of receiving wide body aircraft including Airbus A380. It has space for 33 aircrafts and has a large parking bay for buses and private cars. Other new airports and renovation and extensions projects inaugurated at the same time by the President are: the city of Jambi's Muara Bungo airport, West Lampung Pekon Serai Airport, Palembang’s Pagar Alam airport, Pekanbaru’s Sultan Syarif Kasim II, and Tanjung Pinang on Bintan’
National Geopark. In his remarks, Ambassador Djauhari Oratmangun acknowledged that the award was also due to the unceasing promotion of Bali by all those in Indonesia and Russia to potential tourists in Russia. He added that the Indonesian Embassy in Moscow also continues to promote Indonesia’s diverse tourist attractions including Bali to the Russian public. “The award proves that Bali has managed to give to Russian tourists the Five S, which are; Sun, Sea, Sand, Smile, and Service, as well as Satisfaction upon their return home” added Ambassador Djauhari. Sitting in the top spot, Bali outranked some of the most popular island destinations in the world including Phuket, Maldives, Mauritius, and others. Next to Bali being crowned the Most Beautiful Island in the World, a hotel in Bali, the Hotel Mulia Bali, was also voted by the Readers’ Choice as Best Hotel for the Family. Bali was also the Reader’s Choice Best Island in 2012. The magazine frequently featured a number of tourist destinations in Indonesia, where in its summer 2013 edition it specially featured the trip of renowned Russian Tennis athlete Maria Sharapova to Yogyakarta. The article was also published in Conde Nast Traveller Russia, Spain, and China. Launched in 2011, the Russian edition of Conde Nast Traveller is the only independent monthly travel magazine in Russia which gives insight to the best destinations and hotels, as well as personal travel advice from experts and celebrities. It is a part of the Conde Nast International Publication centered in New York, USA. The magazine was established on a simple yet revolutionary principle: “Truth in Travel.” With the goal of experiencing the world exactly as their readers do, its correspondents travel anonymously and pay their own way. This guiding principle allows for honest, fair reporting on all aspects of the industry. (Source: Indonesia.travel March 18, 2014)

RI TARGETS 8% RISE IN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN 2014: The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy targets an increase of 8% in international tourist arrivals in 2014 with infrastructure and tourist destinations continuously being developed. In the month of January 2014, the number of tourist arrivals surged by 22.59%, year on year, giving a promising start to reaching this yearly target. “The target in 2014 for international tourists to visit Indonesia is between 9.3 to 9.5 million, an increase of between 6% - 8% compared to 2013” stated Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Mari Elka Pangestu, in Surabaya, Wednesday, 12th March 2014, reported detik.com. Minister
Mari added that currently 16 priority destinations are the focus of development and promotion, that - apart from Bali - include among others Lombok, Lake Toba, Old Batavia, Tana Toraja, Borobudur Temple, Bromo-Tengger-Semeru National Park, Raja Ampat, Lake Batur, Watokabri, Flores-Komodo and more. These destinations will be expanded to 88 destinations by 2025, as specified in the National Tourism Master Plan. "Indonesia is so diverse that the country has a lot more destinations to offer, the fact, however, being that some have remained untouched, while others are firmly established, and a number still need revitalization or restoration" said Minister Mari. Many destinations still need to be developed especially in their infrastructure and facilities, so that our vision to develop sustainable tourism destinations can be attained, thereby creating benefits at a national scale. "What needs to be truly underscored is that local communities must benefit from the development of tourism in their respective areas. Thus, the focus of human resources and local economy becomes even more significant" added Mari. To increase the quality of human resources, programs have been undertaken by the national government to improve the competence of 64,000 tourism workers from 32 different professions. Mari also urged all tourism stakeholders including from the private sector and regional governments to increase efforts to raise the quality of human resources in Tourism. Meanwhile, data from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy revealed that the number of domestic tourists in Indonesia made 248 million trips in 2013 growing at the rate of 1.1%, and spending a total of IDR176.3 trillion. The number of international tourists to Indonesia in 2013 is recorded at 8,802 million making a total spent of IDR12.66 trillion.

(Source : Indonesia.travel March 15, 2014)

TOMOHON INTERNATIONAL FLOWER FESTIVAL 2014:

The town of Tomohon in North Sulawesi will spring into full bloom with flowers of every color, shape, and size from 8th to 12th August 2014 as the hill town stages the Tomohon International Flower Festival 2014. As in previous editions, the Tomohon International Flower Festival (TIFF) 2014 will be highlighted with a number of fascinating attractions including the Flower Queen Beauty pageant; Tourism, Trade and Florikultura Exhibitions, and Art and Culture Festivals. This year, there will also be an international Gate Ball Competition. Resembling the Pasadena Flower Festival in the United States, the main feature of the festival is the Decorated Float Parade which will also be participated by representatives from neighboring countries, regions in the Association of Governments Authorities (APEKSI), representatives from Cities and Regencies all across Indonesia, State Owned Enterprises, Private companies, and more. The Tomohon International Flower Festival is a Biannual event which has its beginnings in 2008. In its inaugural year, the festival successfully attracted participants from 46 cities in Indonesia and was attended by over 20,000 people. In 2010, some 82 floats took part including those from Malaysia, Vietnam, North Korea, India, and Russia. In this second Event the Festival was seen by 25,000 spectators. Facing two active volcanoes, the Lokon and the Mahewu, the cool hill resort of Tomohon lies 24 km south of Manado, capital city of North Sulawesi, on the way to the pleasant Lake Tondano. Because of its constant cool climate and fertile soil, Tomohon has grown into North Sulawesi's main producer of vegetables and flowers. When flowers are in bloom, the town of Tomohon displays her pretty face where almost every house presents colorful fresh flowers. The city is also known for a number of seminars, religious schools, and other Christian icons. Most famous among its landmarks is the "Bukit Inpirasi" or "Inspiration Hill", where communities congregate to seek inspiration for solutions amidst life's personal and global problems.

(Source : Indonesia.travel March 5, 2014)

NUSA PENDIA FESTIVAL: Rare Cultural Performances and Superb Diving: Unveiling the wonders of the small islands of Nusa Lembongan, Nusa Ceningan, and Nusa Penida, off the eastern coast of Bali, the Nusa Penida Festival will be held on 2nd to 5th June 2014. Presented by the Regency of Klungkung through its Tourism and Culture Office, the festival will be centered at the Nusa Lembongan Island and will involve all the villages of the district. Scheduled to be held for four consecutive days, the festival will feature all the distinct cultural attractions and handicrafts of the islands which are usually presented to public. Among these are the art of Sanghyang Gerodog which is an authentic performance of Nusa Lembongan. The art of Sanghyang Gerodog was thought to have been lost for over 32 years before it was revived about two years ago. Sanghyang Gerodog was originally performed for a full month period featuring 100 types of Sanghyang including Sanghyang dedari, Sanghyang Penyalin, and Sanghyang Wiyang. With other performances presented to public, there will also be a performance of Rejang Renteng, a traditional dance from Nusa Penida. The festival will also feature the traditional hand-woven fabric of Nusa Penida called Cepuk and the traditional culinary delight of Ledok which can only be found on the island. Other highlights of the festival are the ‘Jukung’ traditional boat competition, tours to various villages of the islands, and more. Separated by the Badung Strait some 15Km off the southeastern coast of Sanur on Bali, the enchanting trio islands of Nusa Lembongan, Nusa Ceningan, and Nusa Penida are where one will find pristine beauty of unspoilt white sandy beaches, exhilarating waves, crystal clear waters, stunning natural rugged beauty, and picturesque sceneries away from the vibrant sounds and vivacious atmosphere of Bali’s southern coast. Fusing the three islands into one fascination is the splendor that lies beyond the crystal clear blue waters that surround them. The seas here are known to be among the world’s best diving destinations, with its prima donna the rare giant ocean sunfish: the Mola Mola. But beware, these waters have strong undercurrents that can suddenly pull divers out to the open Indian Ocean. Even experienced divers should, therefore, best be accompanied by local divemasters who are familiar with these dive sites. The
only way to reach the islands from Bali is by boat with approximate crossing time between 30 to 40 minutes from Sanur. There are several options according to budget and speed. It is straightforward to reach Nusa Lembongan, and visitors to Nusa Penida usually come via Nusa Lembongan, although direct services from Bali are available. Other services run from Benoa Harbour, and there are local public boat services to and from Padang Bai and Kubamba in East Bali. (Source : Indonesia.travel March 6, 2014)

BENOA VISITED BY 41 CRUISE SHIPS WITH AN ESTIMATED 39,105 FOREIGN TOURISTS ON BOARD. This was a significant increase from the 27,253 tourists who visited Benoa on a cruise ship in 2012. Benoa is now Bali’s main cruise port, easily outpacing Padang Bai, Tanah Amp and Celukan Bawang. Benoa won the award for “Best Port Welcome” for the cultural welcome afforded visiting ships that generally include traditional Balinese dancers and a live gamelan orchestra. (Source : Tourismindonesia.com March 25, 2014)

SAIL RAJA AMPAT TO PROMOTE MARINE TOURISM : Indonesia’s international marine event Sail Raja Ampat, to be officially kicked off by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Raja Ampat, West Papua on June 21, is expected to help boost the countries tourism. The event was particularly expected to promote tourism in West Papua and accelerate the tourism development in the province, Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Sharif Cicip Sutardjo commented in a statement here on Friday. Raja Ampat has one of the most beautiful marine panoramas in the world that could attract many foreign tourists, he explained. The government will organize Sail Raja Ampat 2014 with the aim to accelerate the development and improve the welfare of the people in West Papua. "The international sail event has become a model for the development acceleration program on islands and in remote areas," he elaborated. The minister believed that Sail Raja Ampat will become an effective way to promote Papua and surrounding areas as a favorite destination for domestic and international tourists. The theme of Sail Raja Ampat is "Developing Marine, Taking Raja Ampat to World Tourism Fora." Coordinating Minister for Peoples Welfare Agung Laksono stated the objective of organizing Sail Raja Ampat is to accelerate the regional development, improve infrastructure, and stimulate investment in the host region. "In Raja Ampat, there is a geo park which is more beautiful than the one in Halong Bay Vietnam," Minister Agung Laksono pointed out. Sail Raja Ampat is to be organized on June 21, almost coinciding with Sentani Festival, which is held annually in Papua on June 19. Since 2009, Indonesia has organized the annual SAIL Indonesia five times - SAIL Bunaken 2009, SAIL Banda 2010, SAIL Wakatobi-Bellitong 2011, SAIL Morotai 2012 and SAIL Komodo 2013. Sail Raja Ampat is expected to have participation from, among other places, Malaysia, Australia, the Netherlands, Thailand, The Philippines, and the United States. (Source : Tourism indonesia, March 31, 2014)

DANAU SINGARAK TRAIN RIDE IN WEST SUMATRA: April to June is one of the best, if not the very best, times to explore Indonesia. When the sky is clear, the peak season is early and, as such, is the perfect time to explore the little-beaten path. Train journeys are nothing new in the world of traveling, but 2014 could see the revival of this popular getaway. While Russia has its Trans Siberia line, Indonesia also has expanses of scenic railway to explore, called kereta wisata. And it is not only available in Java; there are also options in West Sumatra. The Danau Singkarak train, for example, runs every Sunday from Padang Panjang, Batu Tebal, Solok, Muaro Kalaban and ending in Sawah Lunto. The train departs from Padang Panjang in the morning at 8:30 a.m. and departs from Sawah Lunto for the return trip at 2:30 p.m. The tickets are quite affordable at Rp 10,000 (less than US$1) to Rp 25,000 for economy class and Rp 20,000 to Rp 50,000 for air-conditioned executive class. Already widely known as a tourist magnet, Padang Panjang is surrounded by three spectacular mountains: Merapi, Singgalang and Tandikek, and offers the breathtaking hilly landscape of Bukit Barisan. Another train, the Dang Tuanku, runs from Padang, Tabing, Lubuk Alung and ends in Pariaman. It operates on Saturdays, Sundays and during national holidays. With tickets ranging from Rp 20,000 for economy class and Rp 30,000 for executive class, it departs Padang at 8:47 a.m. and heads back from Pariaman at 13:50 p.m. When you arrive in Pariaman, take a walk from the train station to Gandaria Beach, which is located right in front of the terminal. Riding a train from Padang to Pariaman also allows tourists to see beautiful coastal scenery with the Indian Ocean stretching out in the distance. How to get there There are daily flights available from Jakarta to Padang in West Sumatra. Major airlines such as Garuda Indonesia, Citilink, Lion Air and Sriwijaya Airlines serve this route daily. To reach Padang Panjang from Padang city, you can opt for a 90-minute ride on a public bus or around a 60-minute drive by rental car. While in Padang Panjang, you can get around town using a microlet (public minivan) or bendi (horse-drawn wagon). Where to stay As West Sumatra’s capital city, Padang offers various accommodation options. The Diniya Suasso Design Hotel & Restaurant is a stylish mid-budget establishment with prices starting from $34. For a more luxurious stay, head to the Grand Inna Muara Padang Hotel or the Rumah Nenek Hotel & Restaurant, whose prices start from $40, or the four-star Mercure Padang Hotel with room rates ranging from $48. (Source : Tourismindonesia.com March 23, 2014)