Japan and Indonesia have built a close relationship over many years as the foundations of our enduring friendship. This is particularly true of our economic relationship. There are over 1,000 Japanese enterprises in Indonesia at present and the number of Japanese residents in Indonesia has been over 14,000. Last year, the number of direct investments made by Japan to Indonesia was a record high for the second consecutive year. It increased by more than 2,000 investments that year.

Japan is also a crucial trading partner for Indonesia. In the second-largest export destination and third-largest import source in 2012. Indonesia will no doubt continue to be an important partner for Japan due to its vast potential to develop in the future. The two countries’ economic complementarity will surely contribute to the growth of the global economy.

Our cooperation is paving the way for Indonesia to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. Indonesia is striving to become a global player: in terms of economic development and education, it is hard to imagine a country doing what it does today and achieving the goals set years ago.

For Japan and Indonesia, it is possible to harmonize their national interests and to contribute to the world’s future.

The long-term relationship between Japan and Indonesia is based on two great countries and their people. The challenge is to ensure harmonious, lasting presence in the dynamic economic and social environments. Where Japan’s political and economic position is concerned, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been dominant in the country since 1955. As the political party that controlled the LDP very closely, the conservative Diet is at the center of the ruling party. Now, the relationship for LDP is to be transformed and harmonious with the "new" Indonesia of multiparty politics, with no single ruling party. Indonesia’s current government is influenced by this multiparty coalition. The administration, weak, highly privatized and greatly influenced by young and dynamic political parties, has enormous political and economic influence. Indonesia is in a strong financial position globally. It has experienced economic growth for many years, and, in the midst of the recent global financial crisis, it has demonstrated resilience and stability.

Japan is an important buying country for Indonesia. In 2011, Indonesia's exports to Japan were valued at $24.7 billion. Indonesia is the 9th largest export market for Japan, after China, Korea, Singapore, the US, Germany, Taiwan, Indonesia and Italy. In terms of Japanese products, automobiles, electronics, and machinery are popular categories.