

INDONESIA DIGEST

Indonesia's complex Issues in a Nutshell

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We wish all our Muslim readers a Blessed Ramadan

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MAIN FEATURE

TOURISM, AIRLINES AND WOMEN SPEAK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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For Indonesia Digest

TOURISM, AIRLINES AND WOMEN SPEAK UP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has called Climate Change the 'defining issue of our era.' With this in mind, Moon invited world leaders to attend a special one-day event on Monday, 24 September at the UN Headquarters in New York to help map out how the world can move forward to address climate change and support progress at the Climate Change Conference in Bali which in December. The New York conference, which was called by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, kicks off what many experts and officials say will be the high week of a turning-point year in the global political response to the challenge of a warming planet.

At the Bali Countries, to be held from 3-14 December, UN member countries are expected to thrash out a commonly agreed roadmap beyond the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012, to drastically reduce global carbon dioxide emission, reduce global warming, and thereby hopefully mitigate catastrophic consequences of climate change if carbon emissions are left unchecked.

Summit Meetings in advance of the Bali Conference

Coinciding with the UN General Assembly this week in New York, back to back high profile meetings are being held in the US. On Monday, UN Secretary General convenes a meeting of 88 countries on Climate Change in New York. President Bush is, however, not scheduled to attend this meeting but will be represented by Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice.

Later in the week US President Bush has called his own international meeting on climate change in Washington with the same stated goal, a reduction in the emissions blamed for climate change, but a fundamentally different idea of how to achieve it, writes Climate Crisis Coalition in its Daily News from the US.

Mr. Bush's aides say that the parallel meeting does not compete against the United Nations' process — hijacking it, as his critics charge. They say that Mr. Bush hopes to persuade the nations that produce 90 percent of the world's emissions to come to a consensus that would allow each, including the United States, to set its own policies rather than having limits imposed by binding international treaty. The Washington meeting to be held over two days, involves 15 countries, or major economies as the White House calls them, as well as the United Nations and the European Union. The 15 countries are the major emitters of greenhouse gases.

In addition [to the U.N. and Bush summits], the Clinton Global Initiative will host a forum in New York Wednesday, drawing business and international political leaders to promote grass-roots responses to global warming." Writes Climate Crisis Coalition Daily News.

Indonesia leads initiative on Sustainable Forest Management

Meanwhile, Indonesia's President Yudhoyono arrived in New York Monday (Indonesia time) morning where he will deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly and attend the Summit meeting on Climate Change called by Secretary General Ban Ki Moon

Additionally, together with Poland, Denmark and Kenya, Indonesia will lead a side event on global climate change, writes the Jakarta Post. Indonesia says it will form a coalition with 10 other developing countries to press wealthy nations to pour money into offsetting the impacts of global warming.

The 10 countries are Brazil, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Columbia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Peru. All 10 and Indonesia are home to extensive tropical forests.

State Minister for the Environment Rachmat Witoelar said the coalition would be officially launched on September 24, during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

“A declaration on sustainable forest management is expected to be released after the meeting,” Rachmat told reporters. According to the Minister Witoelar, the coalition will promote the concept of “avoided deforestation”.

Tourism must play its role in mitigating Climate Change

Most of us in the Tourism and Transportation Industries are not aware that initiatives have been made in Tourism as well as in Transportation to galvanize global efforts to reduce emission of green house gases. It is a little known fact that Tourism contributes 3% to carbon emissions.

In April 2003 the UN World Tourism Organization, convened a meeting on Tourism and Climate Change in Djerba, Tunisia, which gathered government and private sector representatives, tourism companies, academic institutions, NGOs and experts, and listened to presentations of among others the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, and the World Meteorological Organization, mentions UNWTO web.

At the close of the meeting, 11 September 2003, the Djerba Declaration on Tourism and Climate Change was announced, where participants agreed to the following:

1. To urge all governments concerned with the contribution of tourism to sustainable development, to subscribe to all relevant intergovernmental and multilateral agreements, especially the Kyoto Protocol.....that prevent the impacts of this phenomenon from spreading further or acceleration;
2. To encourage international organizations to further the study and research of the reciprocal implications between tourism and climate change, including in the case of cultural and archaeological sites, in cooperation with public authorities...encourage the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to pay special attention to tourism in cooperation with WTO....
3. To call upon UN, international, financial and bilateral agencies to support the governments of developing, and in particular of least developed countries, for which tourism represents a key economic sector, in their efforts to address and to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and to formulate appropriate action plans;
4. to request international organizations, governments, NGOs and academic institutions to support local governments and destination management organizations in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures that respond to the specific climate change impacts at local destinations;

5. To encourage the tourism industry, including transport companies, hoteliers, tour operators, travel agents and tourist guides, to adjust their activities, using more energy-efficient and cleaner technologies and logistics, in order to minimize as much as possible their contribution to climate change;
6. To call upon governments, bilateral and multilateral institutions to conceive and implement sustainable management policies for water resources, for the conservation of wetlands other freshwater ecosystems.
7. To call upon governments to encourage the use of renewable energy sources in tourism and transport companies and activities, by facilitating technical assistance and using fiscal and other incentives.
8. To encourage consumer associations, tourism companies and the media to raise consumers' awareness at destinations and in generating markets, in order to change consumption behaviour and make more climate friendly tourism choices;
9. To invite public, private and Non-governmental stakeholders and other institutions to inform WTO about the results of any research study relevant to climate change and tourism, in order for WTO to act as a clearing house and to create a database on the subject and disseminate know-how international; and
10. To consider this Declaration as a framework for international, regional and government agencies for the monitoring of their activities and of the above mentioned action plans in this field.

The second UNWTO International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism will be held in Davos, Switzerland from 1-3 October.

The Airline Industry Carbon Emission Free by 2050

In the Airline Industry, IATA Director General and CEO, Giovanni Bisignani , at the 63th. IATA annual Meeting in June in Vancouver, Canada, promised that the global airline industry will be carbon emission free by 2050, reports Bisnis Indonesia.

To reach this target the Industry will apply three main measures, these are: invest in environment-friendly technology, operate more effective aircrafts and make airports and their infrastructure more efficient.

In the past years global airlines have reduced noise pollution by 75% and increased efficiency in the use of fuel by 70%. Furthermore, with billions of dollars investments in new aircrafts, the industry plans to improve fuel efficiency by 25% by 2020.

In so doing, demand for air travel can continue to increase even with caps in the emission of carbon dioxide, says IATA CEO Bisignani

For this purpose, IATA urges all governments and traffic regulators to increase efficiency to 12%, by improving traffic management worldwide. By cutting traffic inefficiencies by half, this will reduce CO2 emissions with some 35 million tons. Airlines must also use alternative environment friendly fuel. IATA members plan that the use of alternative energy will reach 10% within the next 10 years.

Women and the Poor are worst victims in Climate Change Disasters

Meantime, Haider Rizvi reporting for Inter Press Service wrote (Thursday, 20/09) that the United Nations has called for increased participation of women in policy-making decisions as world leaders prepare to attend an international meeting on climate change to be held at U.N. headquarters this week.

Most governments have largely failed to consider the gender aspects of climate change, women leaders representing numerous civil society groups told reporters at a news conference Thursday.

"This business as usual is not acceptable," said Rebecca Pearl of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), "because women are suffering more than men in all the calamities."

In an attempt to influence the outcome of the meeting called by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Pearl's group has organized a similar event, billed as "the first ever global gathering of high-level government, U.N. and civil society organizations" on the problem of climate change.

The roundtable talks scheduled for Friday are to be led by former Irish president Mary Robinson and ex-Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. Both are highly admired by the international community for their relentless efforts to advance the global agenda on human rights and the environment.

"The purpose of the roundtable is to ensure that the impacts of climate change on women and their roles in curbing it are reflected in the outcome of the secretary-general's event," said June Zeitlin, executive director of WEDO, an international network of hundreds of women's groups worldwide that works closely with the world body.

"It is part of our campaign to ensure that national and global response to climate change consider women's perspectives and concerns," she added in a statement.

Numerous studies show that when natural disasters and weather changes take place, they affect men and women differently because, in most cases, their roles and responsibilities are based on inequalities.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which consists of more than 1,000 leading scientists, the impact of climate change "will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor persons within all countries."

"But who are the poorest among those poor persons?" asked Ulla Strom, the Swedish envoy to the U.N., at the news conference. **"The women."**

It would be wrong to assume that women in poor countries are the only ones who are disproportionately affected by swift environmental changes, said Zeitlin.

"This is even true in industrialized countries," she added. "In the U.S., Hurricane Katrina entrenched poor African American women, already the most impoverished group in the nation, in deeper levels of poverty."

A study by researchers at the London School of Economics last year analyzing disasters in 141 countries provided evidence that gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights. In other words, gender inequalities are magnified in disaster situations.

In Zeitlin's view, poor women living in developing countries face even greater obstacles. And despite numerous international agreements calling for equal participation of women, they remain excluded from decision-making in many countries.

"The participation of women is almost absent," said the World Conservation Union's Lorena Aguilar, who has published several books on gender and environment and public policy involving equality issues.

Citing a recent U.N. survey of environmental ministries, Pearl said that there are only four or five countries engaged in climate change activities that incorporate gender perspectives and concerns.

In December, the U.N. will hold a summit on climate change in Bali, Indonesia. According to U.N. officials, the reason the secretary-general has convened Monday's summit is to build momentum for a successful outcome at Bali, with a more comprehensive agreement on deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions beyond the year 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol treaty expires.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requires member countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 2012 to an average of 5 percent below 1990 levels.

Last month, the U.N. held another international meeting on climate change in Vienna, which failed to produce any concrete agreement as many of the world's most industrialized countries shied away from fixing strict guidelines for greenhouse gases cuts.

At the meeting, a draft text dropped a demand that developed nations should be "guided" by a need for deep cuts in greenhouse gases of 25 to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 in the long-term efforts to combat global warming.

Many developing countries, such as India and China, want industrial countries to use the stringent 25-40 percent range to guide future negotiations, leading to less dependence on fossil fuels, which are considered largely responsible for global warming.

Many environmental groups criticised the Vienna meeting for its failure to produce tangible results and called it a "disaster for humanity's future".

For their part, women activists see the ongoing negotiations on climate change as more narrowly focused negotiations on emission reductions, rather than social concerns and community well-being.

"Ban Ki-moon should send a strong message that gender equality is to be integrated in Bali," representatives of WEDO, the Council of Women World Leaders and the Heinrich Boll Foundation said in a joint declaration.

"Women's knowledge and contribution has been critical to the survival of entire communities in disaster situation," they said, urging governments to implement all international agreements relating gender equality and climate change.

(Sources: UNWTO, Bisnis Indonesia, Jakarta Post, Inter Press, Climate Crisis Coalition)

NEWS AND BACKGROUND:

1. Tourism and Transportation:

- **Bali's tourism Up and Rearing**

Balidiscovery.com reports that at 166,633 foreign tourist arrivals to Bali during August 2007, the Island's record-breaking arrivals pattern is continuing apace, exceeding arrivals registered in August 2006 (118,104) by +41.09%.

On a year-to-date basis through the end of August 2007, arrivals have passed the 1 million mark hitting 1,077,200, a full +35.9% ahead of the first 8 months of 2006 (792,665). Arrivals thus far for 2007 also exceeded the "previous best" first 8 months of any year in the Island's history, beating by +7.2% the previous high of January-August 2005 of 1,004,656.

If the current trend of improvement in arrivals is sustained through the end of the year without any untoward incident, balidiscovery.com's trend-line analysis indicates Bali is on course to recording a historically impressive 1.7 million foreign arrival total for the current year.

- **Indonesian Carriers Take Action on Pilot Shortage**

Aiming to avoid lost opportunities and ensure flight safety, the country's major airlines are investing in pilot training, reports Indonesia's Trade and Investment News published by the Coordinating Ministry for the Economy.

National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia is planning to establish an aviation school expected to open next year, a Garuda official said.

"We now have about 530 pilots. Most of them are highly experienced. The strong overseas demand for our pilots is partly because they are top quality," Garuda spokesman Pudjobroto told *The Jakarta Post*.

The country's only aviation school, the Indonesian Aviation Institute (STPI), can produce 45 pilots per year, much less than the current demand for its graduates. The Transportation Department reported that as of the end of June alone, demand for pilots, including from abroad, had reached 535.

"Right now, we are still awaiting a license to establish the Garuda aviation school, which we expect to be up and running early next year," Pudjobroto said.

Mandala Airlines president director Diono Nurjadin also said pilot shortages had created new opportunities for investment in pilot education. "There are opportunities for investing in pilot training as the demand is growing rapidly. Surely there are plenty of investors who will be interested," he said.

Adam Air is also moving to invest in a training center. "We will open our own training center next year, where we plan to provide four flight simulators. We will install a Boeing 737-400 simulator, and we may also consider an Airbus A320 simulator," Adam Air president director Adam Suherman told the *Post*.

- **Garuda's Business in Italy Steady**

The Indonesia Trade and Investments News further reports that the European Union's (EU) ban on Indonesian airlines flying to member countries has had a very limited impact on Garuda Indonesia's business in Rome, an envoy said.

"Though we (haven't) had any Garuda flights to Rome since 2005, the national flag carrier still operates a sales office in the city. According to Garuda, (the ban) has had a very limited impact on sales in Italy," the Indonesian embassy's chargé d'affaires Djafar Husein told *The Jakarta Post* on Monday (10/9/07).

Husein said Garuda's office in Rome sells domestic air tickets to Italians wanting to fly between cities in Indonesia. "At first, according to Garuda, there was a slight decrease in sales, but business is picking up," he said.

Indonesia recently sent a second delegation to the EU headquarters in Brussels, which was attended by a number of EU representatives to ask officials to lift the ban imposed in July. However, EU insists that the organization must still convene a meeting of all members in order to lift the ban, which will take place in October.

In recent months, Indonesian officials have been working in partnerships with organizations including the peak ICAO to improve air safety in the country.

For Indonesia, the 27-member EU represents an important tourism market. Every year approximately 600,000 EU tourists visit Indonesia, most of whom holiday in Bali.

In the latest developments, Indonesia has urged ICAO to standardize procedures and mechanisms of airline flight bans.

2. The Economy, Trade and Industry

- **Government Seeks Level Playing Field in Retail Sector**

The government is planning legislation aimed at ensuring fair competition in the retail sector where large operators, including foreign companies, have been squeezing smaller, local companies, Trade Minister Mari Pangestu said Wednesday, 12/9/07.

Pangestu said the regulation will shortly be signed by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and is likely to be issued next month, reports Indonesia Trade and Investment News.

"The basic principle of the regulation is how to allow modern retailers (like supermarkets and hypermarkets) to grow while at the same time help create a level playing field for traditional markets?" she said.

There has been a lot of discussion in recent years about whether the government should restrict the expansion of big retailers or even stop providing them with new licenses.

"The government's position is not to restrict them. The issue here is where they should be located. So the local government must have proper zone planning," she said. The decree will also tackle possible partnerships between large and small retailers.

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