

2nd Turkey - Indonesia Round Table Meeting

2nd Turkey – Indonesia Round Table Meeting was held in Istanbul those theme of “New Era Turkey – Indonesia Relations: Opportunities and Risks” among the delegations of **TASAM (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies) and Republic of Indonesia Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

Indonesian Delegations participated the meeting was held in the date of 22 October 2015, Thursday, under the head of Mr. Leonard Felix Hutabarat, Head of USA and Europe P2K2 from Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Indonesia Republic. There were also delegations from Turkey under Mr. Suleyman Şensoy, Chairman of TASAM, accompanied with him to the meeting where held in TASAM Istanbul Office.

Mr. Süleyman Şensoy, Chairman of TASAM, made his own opening speech by presenting the delegations and gave some informations of TASAM’s event and activity agenda. He mentioned that Turkey and Indonesia has potential capacity and also added his expression by introducing TASAM’s “Turkey Strategical Vision 2023” and also “Turkey 2053” Project also shaped by TASAM. In the meeting, both delegations were also giving common studies experiement alike and also mentiones 7th International Turkish – Asia Congress in theme of “Trans-Pacific Trade and Investment Partnership” and Istanbul Security Conference as prominent projects will organized by TASAM.

Mr. Leonard Felix Hutabarat, Head of the USA and Europe P2K2 from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Indonesia Republic, was also stated that current Turkey – Indonesia relations have included strong and deep potency even if those relations were not enough powerful. He had also expressed that current Turkey – Indonesia Relations start to become so powerful with signing the “Indonesia-Turkey: Towards an Enhanced Partnership in a New World Setting” agreement among two countries. He also emphasized that Turkey and Indonesia are two important countries with their own big populations, free trade economies and their membership of G-20.

He expressed the priorities of Turkey regarding Indonesian Republic. Having said that Turkey could have a stronger place with his industries such as construction/infrastructure, food security, health, local governments, agriculture, fishery, logistics, defense in Indonesia, chairman Sensoy added that Turkey has advanced in defense industry and infrastructure and it will lead to a sustainable road map which will take the country ahead.

During the interactively held meeting, the sectors that need to be mentioned in respect to Turkish – Indonesian relations and regional and international issues have been dealt with. It has been expressed that for Indonesian business people who so far cooperated with US, Japan and China, Turkey could be an option as a result of the ever increasing “mutual potential awareness”

Suggestions of Chairman Sensory to Indonesia Republic in for improvement of the two countries’ relations are as follows:

- Mutual cultural events and activities, declaration of country years reciprocally (beneficial for cultural exchange).
- Exchange programs for student and academics, more international students from both countries. Higher quota for Indonesian students in the Turkish international scholarship programs.
- Airing of more Turkish TV shows and feature films in Indonesia.
- Deeper cooperation and more investment in health sector, food security, defense industry, information and communication technologies
- Cooperation in branding in textile industry.
- More investment in energy sector although the both countries have no border.
- Use of local currencies in a portion of the trade and investment between the two countries.

- Deeper cooperation in banking and finance.
- Increase in flights in terms of both frequency and destination.
- Cooperation in shipbuilding industry

Afterwards, Indonesian delegation addressed their questions at TASAM delegation. EU accession negotiations of Turkey, Syria and migration crisis, Kurdish question, the upcoming elections in Turkey and its impact on foreign policy were among the topics discussed. Additionally, priorities of Turkey in G-20, emphasis on power and Justice on the agenda, priorities of Indonesia towards Turkey have been dealt with.

With the inspiration of the Chinese proverb “Every journey begins with a historical step” the meeting closed with the emphasis on the necessity to advance the relations by making use of emerging opportunities.