

**Yuddy CHRISNANDI,**  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Republic of Indonesia to Ukraine*

## **FUTURE OF INDONESIAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS**

To begin with, I would like to express sincere gratitude to every, who has joined the celebration of the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of independence of the Republic of Indonesia in Ukraine, which among other things was followed by exhibition of goods having high chances to enter the Ukrainian market.

Such celebrations and festive events are organized in my homeland and in many parts of the world with the participation of the Indonesian community representatives. From my perspective, this holiday gives a great opportunity to mark considerable achievements Indonesia has made both on the global scene and in the context of bilateral cooperation with Ukraine over the last year.

First and foremost, I am pleased to inform you that Indonesia has been elected non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2019–2020. This decision testifies to the trust the international community puts in the progress reached by Indonesia in recent years as well as the recognition of our country's ever active role in contributing to the global peace and security. I would like also to take this opportunity to convey my highest appreciation to the governments of Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia for their assistance, since these are the countries where I concurrently represent Indonesia.

As soon as I was appointed Ambassador, I made a commitment to intensify our economic and sociocultural cooperation. As I assumed my post in April 2017, the number of visits by Indonesian high-level officials has increased. So far, Ukraine has witnessed over 20 official visits of Indonesian delegations from various government institutions, representing executive and legislative branches, local government and business people active in IT and pharmaceutical sectors, food industry, etc.

To enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of economy and technical cooperation, in February 2018, we have finally succeeded in organising joint meeting of the Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Republic of Indonesia and Ukraine after 9 years of lull. At the meeting, varied opportunities for future cooperation were outlined and ways to overcome challenges both countries face were determined. I would like to express special thanks to Mr. Maksym Nefiodov for his cooperation and guidance in making the meeting possible.

Today, the Embassy team puts its effort to appoint an honorary consul in Kharkiv who will be tasked to explore cooperation opportunities in various areas. We also consider to appoint an honorary consul in Lviv.



*Юдді Кріснанді, Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол Республіки Індонезія в Україні, з дружиною Веллі Елвірою*

*Yuddy Chrisnandi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Ukraine, with his wife Velly Elvira*

I make it a priority to leave the legacy of friendship and cultural understanding. In this regard, the Embassy has completed construction of the Indonesian pavilion and garden in Hryshko Botanical Garden and provided to “Ukraine in Miniature” park miniatures of six famous Indonesian landmarks, which I invite all of you to observe. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of facilitating the transportation of more than one hundred species of animals from Indonesia to Kharkiv to be displayed at local “Ecopark” zoo. We expect to deliver there as many as 26 species in the near future.

Every year, we celebrate the International Day of Peace in Kremenchuk. This event is of great importance for Indonesia, all the more we presented to the city the World Peace Gong that is now the local highlight. During this year’s celebration, there has been organised a range of workshops for students interested in Indonesian cuisine, dances, and language.

In autumn of 2018, the restaurant “17804: Indonesian Social Kitchen” was opened for all Indonesian food lovers. It is the first restaurant of Indonesian cuisine in Ukraine, where authentic Indonesian dishes prepared by Indonesian chef are served. I highly recommend this gastronomic destination to those wishing to taste unique high quality food in a cozy and warm environment.

Moreover, we keep strengthening our people-to-people contacts through Indonesia Language Undergraduate Program at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and granting Ukrainian students scholarships for studying in Indonesia according to Darmasiswa Program, which so far have been awarded to 166 Ukrainian students.

In addition, within the context of strengthening contacts and cultural cooperation between nations, I have actively exploring various cooperation opportunities, especially as to introducing sister cities in Indonesia and Ukraine. In this context, I had meetings with mayors and governors of largest Ukrainian cities and regions in order intensify regional cooperation in various fields.

This year, the celebration of the Independence Day of Indonesia held in the Column Hall of the Kyiv City State Administration was joined by two special guests – Mr. Mario Iroth and Ms. Lilis Handayani. They are Indonesian motorcycle adventurers, who over the last year have travelled 41,000 km by motorcycle from Indonesia to Ukraine to be present on this very day in Kyiv and get involved in the holiday. Their presence is another proof of deep appreciation we have for Ukraine and increasingly strong ties between the two peoples.

All the activities and events mentioned are just several examples of our intensive diplomatic activity during the last year. However, they are a good indicator of the vast cooperation potential that both countries are capable to unleash. Therefore, I would like to thank representatives of Ukrainian central and regional authorities, business sector and civil society as whole for the warm welcome of all our team's initiatives. In years to come, I am looking forward to expand cooperation in the areas of governance and tourism, as I am pleased to notice more and more Ukrainians visiting Indonesia. The number of Ukrainian tourists in the last two years has increased significantly due to visa free facilities that are in effect since 2016. I hope citizens of Indonesia willing to visit Ukraine will be granted the same visa free treatment. In my opinion, your country may attract many Indonesian tourists, because unconventional tourist destinations are always sought after. With the beauty of its nature and rich history, Ukraine has every reason to fascinate more than 257 million of middle-class Indonesians.

To summarize, there are plenty more work to do and we sincerely believe in our joint success.