**Press Release**

**India-Indonesia-ASEAN: Prospects for Economic Integration**

Indian Mission to ASEAN and Embassy of India in collaboration with Ministry of Trade of the government of Indonesia organized a conference on the subject of India-Indonesia-ASEAN: Prospects for Economic Integration at Four Seasons Hotel Jakarta on 30th August, 2017. The event was graced by H.E. Enggartiasto Lukita, Minister of Trade of Indonesia, H.E. Iman Pambagyo, Director General of International Trade Cooperation of Indonesia, H.E. Suresh K. Reddy, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN and Dr. Anand Prakash, Charge d’ Affairs of Embassy of India. About 150 CEO’s, eminent persons, diplomatic corps and other stake holders participated in the conference. The conference was interactive and a number of questions were asked by concerned stake holders, including from the media.

Speaking at the conference, the Minister of Trade traced the historical trade and people-to-people relations that exist between India and Indonesia. The Ambassador of India to ASEAN spoke on the trade linkages between India and ASEAN, the ASEAN economic community and the ASEAN-India free trade agreement, including the negotiations being conducted on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The Charge d’ Affairs informed about the recent VVIP and other high level visits between India and Indonesia, the details of bilateral commodity trade and balance of payments, and raised various issues on trade facilitation which would help the Indian businessmen in Indonesia to increase the bilateral trade. The Director General, in his lucid presentation detailed the current state of negotiations under the RCEP.

The panelists answered a number of questions put up by businessmen and media on issues of improving physical, digital and air connectivity between India and Indonesia, steps to further improve trade and people-to-people relations between India and Indonesia, the potential of ASEAN-India trade, and trade facilitation etc.

The event was organized in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue relations and 50th anniversary of the foundation of ASEAN, in 2017. It symbolized the closeness of ASEAN-India-Indonesia economic and trade relations and was a step towards enhancing B2B connectivity between countries of south east Asia and India. The conference provided important insights in to the working of ASEAN Economic Community, the national stands and issues involved in RCEP negotiations and the problems faced by foreign businessmen including their resolution.

Jakarta

31st August, 2017