PARTICIPATION IN OBEROI MELTING POT 2013 - OCTOBER 20, 2013: The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia (KJRI), Mumbai has participated in Oberoi Melting Pot 2013 that was held in Trident Hotel Mumbai on 20 October 2013. We are participating in this yearly event, it's held by Group of Hotel Oberoi Rotary Club and Consulate Corps in Mumbai. The purpose of participating in Oberoi Melting Pot is to promote and introduce Indonesian cultures through traditional and authentic cuisine, such as chicken satay (grilled chicken with peanut sauce), sweets fingerfoods (klepon/ made by glutinous rice flour filled with melted brown sugar, pancake roll with pandan leaves for colour & aroma filled with grated coconut & brown sugar, onde-onde/ glutinous rice flour filled with mashed green beans & coated with sesame seeds, steam layer cake made from rice flour) and fruit cocktails. In this event, had participated 24 (twenty four) consulates: Argentine, Brazil, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Italy, South Africa, United Kingdom, Russia, Poland, Malaysia, China, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Korea, France, Israel, Australia, Japan, Maldives, Ireland, India (Represented by Indian Merchants' Chamber) and Representative of NGO (Habitat for Humanity, Apnalaya, and Mumbai Mobile Crèches). This event was successfully held this year and attended by more than 200 (two hundred) participants and guests.

RI TO DEVELOP ECOTOURISM POTENTIALS: The government says it is pushing for more private sector investment in Indonesia's frontier islands to develop their ecotourism potential, including maritime tourism. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries says it has surveyed all 92 frontier islands and has identified economic potential on each island to be presented in an expo it plans to hold in October 2013. Together with the Office of the Coordinating Economic Minister and the Ministry of Tourism & Creative Economy, it has set up an "acceleration team" to better coordination between government (ministries) and local administrations in speeding up development for those frontier islands, according to Asrul, an official for the investment and promotion of small islands at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. "There are 92 frontier islands that are waiting to be developed, such as Brass Island which has underwater wreckage from World War II and would be a great tourist attraction, there's also countless diving spots with a vast variety of marine species. Benggala or Batutigabelas is another example where there are all kinds of fish and coral" he said of the future exhibition of the new Indonesian Tourism Industry Association (GIPI) that is expected to welcome domestic as well as international investors. Indonesia is home to about 25% of fish species on the planet with various types such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs and marine plants of every size. The government had only named 13,466 out of 17,000 plus islands in Indonesia of which 92 were known as "frontier islands", frontier islands that were located at the edge of Indonesia's territorial boundaries. GIPI Chairman, DidiJunaedy said it should be natural for Indonesia to develop itself into a hub for maritime tourism given its status as the largest archipelago in the world. However, a number of challenges still needed the government's attention, he explained, "the application for clearance approval for Indonesian territory (CAIT) needs to be streamlined to attract more yachts and cruises". He also urged the government to raise budget allocations for its tourism ministry, mainly to increase funds for advertising, "the government has to bear in mind that the tourism industry contributes generously to the state's revenues". Chairman of the Maritime Tourism Business Association/ Gahawisri, Ms.NunungHasan, which is grouped under GIPI - said Indonesia always had the potential, but not much was developed. Indonesians should explore their own country, thereby increasing domestic demand for marine tourism, which would be an anchor for frontier island development. According to US-based NGO, World Resources Institute, the world's dive tourism grows at a rate of 7% per year. Meanwhile, the number of tourist arrivals in Indonesia stood at 4.87 million as of July, a 6% increase from 4.58
RI'S PRESTIGIOUS CIPTA AWARD 2013 FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MANAGEMENT AWARDED TO 9 ATTRACTIONS: After careful selection of 144 tourist attractions in 27 among Indonesia's 34 provinces, nine attractions were finally presented with the prestigious Citra Pesona Wisata or the Cipta Award 2013 for Sustainable Tourism Management from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy. Director General for Destinations Development of the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Firmansyah Rahim stated that the Cipta Award is based not solely on the attractiveness of the destination but emphasizes on its sustainable management. By placing high consideration on management, it is expected that Indonesia's destinations and attractions are capable of conducting sustainable growth and management. "Cipta Award is a form of appreciation on the management of a destination, with the hope that in the future Indonesia's attractions can be placed among top world class destinations", added Firmansyah at the Awards night that was held on 27th September 2013. Yuana Marjuka, one of the judging panelists explained that there were 14 parameters used on sustainability pertaining to the environment, the economy, and culture which were used to evaluate winning destinations. She further added that over the years, awareness of and the need for sustainable development is consistently increasing. From the 144 attractions submitted by 27 provinces, 41 destinations were nominated for judging by the panel. The panel sessions resulted in 27 destinations chosen for field evaluation. The 27 destinations were evaluated based on 9 categories, differentiated by type of tourist attractions and types of management. From each category, 3 final nominees were selected before winners were finally decided. Final Winners announced who received the Cipta Award 2013 were the following: "The Ulun Danu Bratan Temple in Bali in the category of Natural Attraction managed by the National Government, Regional Government, State owned Enterprise or Regional Government Owned Enterprises "The Lagoi Mangrove Forest Agro-tourism on Bintan in the Riau Islands Natural Attraction managed by Private Sector category" Kakaban Island, Derawan Archipelago, in East Kalimantan Natural Attraction managed by Non-Government Organization, general public, or individual "Fort Vredenburg in Yogyakarta Cultural Attraction category managed by National Government, Regional Government, State owned Enterprise or Regional Government Owned Enterprise" The Blanco Renaissance Museum in Bali Cultural Attraction managed by the Private Sector" Penglipuran Tourism Village in Bali Cultural Attraction managed by Non-Government Organization, general public, or individual "Owabong in Central Java Man-made attraction managed by National Government, Regional Government, State owned Enterprise or Regional Government Owned Enterprise" Sampireun Village in West Java Man-made attraction managed by small scale private sector" Jamit Park 1 in the town of Batu, East Java Man-made attraction managed by large scale private sector. (Source: www.indonesia.travel October 29, 2013)

RI-SWISS SIGN MOU TO DEVELOP TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING IN 4 MAIN DESTINATIONS: Indonesia's Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy, Mari Elka Pangestu, on Monday 28 October, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Jakarta with Swiss Minister for the Economy, Schneider-Amman, to further develop four of Indonesia's main tourism destinations, in particular in the field of tourism capacity building. The four destinations are: the island of Flores, hopping off point to the Komodo National Park, but itself a destination rich in culture and natural scenery to visit in the East Nusatenggara Province; Tanjung Puting in Central Kalimantan, conservation rainforests for the endangered Borneo orangutans, popular river tours and ecotours; Wakatobi archipelago in South East Sulawesi, already a favorite destination for diving and conservation area for marine life; and the Toraja highlands in the northern mountains of South Sulawesi, long known for its unique culture, traditions, white water rafting, trekking and ecotours. This MoU concerns the second phase of Destination development in Indonesia supported by the Secretariat for Economic Affair of the Swiss Confederation, explained Minister Mari Pangestu, and is a continuation of the first phase that covered development on the island of Flores from 2010 to 2015. During the first phase, development of Flores and the Komodo islands as a major tourist destination saw a significant increase in visitors compared to 2009, namely a rise of 18% to 50,000 in international visitors and 85% in domestic tourists reaching 35,000 visitors in 2012. Foreign currency
income for Flores in 2012 reached US$ 31.5 million, a surge of 48% compared to 2009. During Phase I, the Swiss government provided a grant of 5 million Swiss Francs, while for the second phase the grant for the 4 destinations amounted to 8.97 million Swiss Francs. On his side, Swiss Economic Minister, Schneider-Amman said that cooperation between Indonesia and Switzerland goes back a long way to 1980, when the Swiss Government provided technical assistance to the Bandung Tourism Academy at the time. In the second phase, implementation will be undertaken together with local governments, the respective Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), local human resources, and educational tourism institutes. The program is implemented by Swisscontact, who has been involved in the original tourism development of Labuan Bajo and West Manggarai as a tourist destination, that in its initial stage was supported by AUSAID. (Source : www.indonesia.travel October 28, 2013)

SEPTEMBER - INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS TO INDONESIA UP SIGNIFICANT 12.7 PERCENT : Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics announced that tourist arrivals to Indonesia in September increased by a significant 12.7%, due to the large number of international events and conventions held in the country, including the Miss World pageant, meetings of APEC in Bali, Sail Komodo and more. Major markets remained consistent, topped by Singapore (15.11% share), followed by Malaysia (13.86%), Australia (11.42%), China (9.85%) and Japan (5.78% share). While total tourist arrivals to the country during January - September 2013 increased by 8.8% year on year to a total of 6.41 million visitors, which compares to 5.9 million the previous year. This means that by September, Indonesia has attained 75% of total target for 2013, being 8.6 million international visitors to the country in 2013. Largest climb in the number of tourists were experienced at the Lombok International Airport, increasing a hefty 109.5%; arrivals to the Adi Sucipto airport in Yogyakarta increased 47.42%, and to Makassar in South Sulawesi up 33.61%. But top direct arrivals to Indonesia were still to the island of Bali, achieving 2.38 million, followed by Jakarta at 1.66 million during the 9 months period in 2013. Meanwhile, domestic airlines passengers during the first 9 months of the year reached 41 million, a growth of 1.92% compared to 2012, which reached 40.22 million. This growth is, nonetheless, slower than last year when domestic passengers grew by 5.16%, noted the Statistics Bureau.Busiest airports were the airports of Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, Makassar and Medan, that together contributed 69% or 28.34 million passengers of total passengers. Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta international airport handled 14.83 million passengers, followed by Surabaya's Juanda Airport at 5.35 million, Bali's Ngurah Rai handled 3.1 million and the Sullitan Hasanuddin Airport in Makassar handled 2.46 passengers during January-September. (Source : www.indonesia.travel November 2, 2013)

INDONESIAN ANDREA HIRATA'S NOVEL: THE RAINBOW TROOPS WON IN THE NEW YORK BOOK FESTIVAL: The Novel that brought the spotlight of the world on the enchanting island of Belitung in Sumatra, entitled "Laskar Pelangi" or the "The Rainbow Troops" made yet another remarkable achievement as it won the General Fiction category in the prestigious New York Book Festival 2013. Written by Belitung born Andrea Hirata, which was later turned into a movie by director Mira Lesmana, the novel outranked some 20 other novels in the category, including US' s Sam Finlay's "Breakfast With The Dirt Cult". Andrea himself is currently in Italy to launch the Italian version of The Rainbow Troops, entitled La Scuola Ai Confini Del Mondo published by Rizzoli. “Thankfully, the novel now is available in Italian, German, Portuguese, and Japanese, and are available in those countries” said Andrea who is also attending the Frankfurt Book Fair 2013. The novel is also scheduled to be launched next month in the French and Bulgarian editions to be published by Mercure de France and Hermes. “My old dreams to have my novel published by renowned publishers of the world such as Hanser Berlin, Rizzoli, and Mercure de France are finally coming true. It feels wonderful to see my novel on display in bookstores across Europe. I hope young Indonesian writers will be inspired and challenged to reach readers all across the globe” added Andrea as reported by Kompas.com. (Source : www.indonesia.travel October 22, 2013)

RI’S B2B TRAVEL SHOW TIME WILL ROTATE EVERY YEAR TO ANOTHER PROVINCE : Indonesia B2B travel show TIME Pasar Wisata hosted its 19th edition in Padang, West Sumatra for the first time. An opportunity to showcase the region, four years after a devastating earthquake, and also to reaffirm TIME positioning as a show dedicated only to the trade. It might disappoint an outsider looking only at numbers. The 19th edition of TIME welcomed 83 buyers from 27 countries who met 81 sellers. A small turn-around then? Not to Meity Robot, Chairperson of TIME 2013 who has been following the show since its beginning and witnessed all the changes over the year. “We identified a couple of years ago a niche for a very professional, exclusive B2B format show. And it works. Our buyers are serious to sell Indonesia and come to learn about new products. We welcome buyers from many new countries this year such as Bangladesh, Croatia or Slovenia. And we expect that total transactions will surpass last year by 10% to 15% to reach close to US$ 17 million”, says Meity Robot. In fact, Indonesian provinces are recognizing the value of hosting TIME. “We had eight bidding provinces to host the next TIME. We then discuss with Sapta Nirwandar, Indonesia Vice Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy, who then thought that provinces would have a fairer chance to host the show in a shorter time period if it would rotate every year to a new venue. We then spoke with West Sumatra authorities if it would be okay to eventually move the show to Pekanbaru in the Riau Province next year. We will finalize the decision in a couple of months”, adds Meity Robot. “It could be a disappointment for West Sumatra. But we are here to promote Indonesia first. And West Sumatra will continue to be present in the future in Pekanbaru or any other venue hosting TIME Pasar
in the wilds of Sumatra to the magnificent Borobudur. Eight such Unesco sites. These range from natural beauty why people travel to faraway lands. Indonesia is home to heritage sites of special significance. In 2012, with almost have passed since Unesco first listed cultural and natural Compound (1991) : This temple is one of the largest stories to Indonesian specialists. "We will not be the main venue for tourism next year. However, we are certain to bid again in the future and play host for TIME..." concludes Maulana Yusran, the Head of the IHRA. (Source : www.travelindonesia.com October 16, 2013)

RI RANKED THIRD FOR HOTEL INVESTMENT IN ASIA : Indonesia is ranked third in Asia in terms of hotel development and investment, said Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy Mari Elka Pangestu. "This shows that Indonesia is an attractive destination for hotel investment," added the minister on Friday. Indonesia is now one of the favorite destinations for hotel and restaurant investments, she said. Data published by the ministry shows that domestic and foreign investments in the country’s hotel and restaurant sector more than doubled to US$869.8 million last year compared to two years back. "The figure rose significantly by 210 percent from 2011," she said. The minister added that the management of hotels in the country must be environmentally friendly. "Ideally, it (the environment-oriented principle) must be applied from the construction to the operation stage," she said. Any investor planning to build a hotel in Indonesia must apply the green hotel concept, which calls for optimum usage of resources (energy, water and materials) and the management of hotel rooms, which meets convenience and health requirements, she said. "There must be convenience and health guarantee for employees and guests, including tourists," she pointed out. (Source : www.tourismindonesia.com October 4, 2013)

INDONESIAN HERITAGE SITES : More than three decades have passed since Unesco first listed cultural and natural heritage sites of special significance. In 2012, with almost 1,000 places on the list, it has become one of the reasons why people travel to faraway lands. Indonesia is home to eight such Unesco sites. These range from natural beauty in the wilds of Sumatra to the magnificent Borobudur temple on Java. Here’s our guide to all eight: Borobudur Compound (1991) : This temple is one of the largest Buddhist monuments in the world. With more than two million blocks of carved volcanic stone and a beautiful line of five active volcanoes, the serenity and history make it a truly memorable place to visit. Prambanan Compound (1991) : Adorned with lavish and suggestive decorations, this Hindu monument - a complex of 240 temples and was built in the eighth century, during the heyday of the powerful Sailendra dynasty in Java - is said to be the largest outside India. The compound has an open-air theater in which more than 200 dancers perform the great Hindu epic "Ramayana" every other night. The performance, set against the starry sky and a great bonfire with Prambanan as the backdrop, is definitely spell-binding. Komodo National Park (1991) : More than five thousand giant lizards, whose appearance and aggressive behavior have led us to call them Komodo dragons, live in Padar, Komodo and Rinca, the three big islands that make up the Komodo National Park. The living fossils might be the main attraction here, but the national park has more to offer. The dry hillsides of the savannah and pockets of green vegetation offer great vistas, while the white and pink sandy beaches and natural corals will take your breath away. Ujung Kulon National Park (1991) : Home to Krakatau - famous for a catastrophic eruption in 1883 - the Ujung Kulon National Park's beauty remains preserved. Located on the south-western tip of Java, the park boasts several offshore islands with unspoiled beaches, stretched towards the Indian Ocean. Sangiran Excavation Site (1996) : Outside the charming city of Solo in Central Java lies one of the most important sites in the history of human evolution. Excavations at this site, led by German archeologist G.H.R. von Königswald from 1936 to 1941, uncovered the first known hominid fossils. In the following years, excavations discovered fossil believed to belong to the first human ancestors, Pithecanthropus erectus ("Java Man.") Lorentz National Park (1999) : Slightly smaller than the US state of Oregon, Lorentz National Park is located at the eastern tip of the archipelago. From the eternal snow on of the world's seven highest summits to exceptional tropical marine environments to extensive lowland wetlands, the park offers striking contrasts that are perfect for adventurers. Distinctive, indigenous cultures such as the Amungme, West Dani and Komorohave have their roots in the region. Tropical Rainforest of Sumatra (2004) : Sumatran tigers, Sumatran elephants and Sumatran orangutans are among the many inhabitants of this site, which comprises three national parks: Gunung Leuser, Kerinci Seblat and Bukit Barisan Selatan, which together are home to an estimated 10,000 species of plants, more than 200 species of mammals, and some 600 species of birds, of which 465 are resident and 21 are endemic. The Subak System: Cultural Landscape of Bali (2012) : Recently named a world cultural heritage site, the Subak reflects the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana, which brings together the realms of spirit, human and nature. A water temple sits at the center of the site, and a priest is in charge of dividing the water. The democratic farming practices here have enabled the Balinese to become the most effective rice growers in the archipelago. (Source : www.tourismindonesia.com October 11, 2013)