

**OPENING SPEECH
BY
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT
THE 9TH CO-OPERATION FORUM**

Yogyakarta, 26 September 2016

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Mr. Dato' Rossid bin Musa,
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Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada, Representative of International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Admiral Dr. Marsetio,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very Good morning!

First of all, let us praise and thank God the Almighty for His blessing and mercy that we could gather here today in this important occasion of the 9th Cooperation Forum and related series of meeting.

In his remarks, HE. Sri Sultan Hamengkubowono X represented by Mr. Ir. Gatot Saptadi, has welcome you to this city of thousand temples, Yogyakarta. Allow me also to take this opportunity, on behalf of Ministry of Transportation, to extend

to you all a very warm welcome to Yogyakarta and particularly to this event of the 9th Cooperation Forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new Government of Indonesia has shown a commitment to accelerate and realize the vision under the leadership of the President of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo, to be the 'Global Maritime Fulcrum'. This vision, which is stated as one of the priority agenda of the President, is to strengthen national identity as a maritime nation considering its geographical conditions in the most strategic shipping route and gateway for the global economy.

To that goal, many efforts have to be carried out. One of them is to revitalize the role of existing mechanism that enables the shipping industry using the Straits of Malacca and Singapore may be beneficial for Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and neighboring countries, which is so-called the Cooperative Mechanism for safety of navigation and environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

The Cooperative Mechanism was endorsed in 2007 and has three pillars. One pillar, named the Cooperation Forum, serves as launchpad that provide an avenue to discuss and exchange views on issues of common interests in the Straits among the littoral States, user States, users and other stakeholders. It also provides opportunity to identify and prioritize projects for safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Straits for the other two pillars then play their respective roles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may have known that the Straits of Malacca and Singapore is one of the world's most strategic and important shipping lanes. It is a vital artery linking the region's economy with the rest of the world. In 2007, during the inception of the Co-operative Mechanism, more than 62,000 vessels passing through the Straits and in 2020, it was forecasted that the number would go up to 140,000.

Hence, the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits are of utmost concern. I believe that our act of coming together here proves that we recognize the need to keep the Straits safe, open and clean to international shipping. We are all aware that what happens in the Straits impact not only the littoral States but also the region's trade and further the global economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to note that since it was launched up to now, the Cooperative Mechanism has made concrete progress. Some projects have come into completion. Some others, such as issues on wreck removal, preparedness and response to Hazardous and Noxious Substances, ship traffic management system are yet to complete.

I also note that there is an issue regarding voluntary pilotage services in SOMS that came to deadlock. I do encourage the littoral States to review this issue further, particularly the possibility to conduct joint pilotage in SOMS among the three littoral States in order to gain more credibility from related international communities, taking into account the result of Intersessional meeting of Working Group on VPS in Bogor, July 2013 and discussions followed.

All the progress made has been possible with the support of contributors. In this opportunity too, I would like to thank all contributors for your continuous support to the Cooperative Mechanism, to user States that I cannot mention one by one, to organizations such as: Malacca Strait Council (MSC), International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and particularly to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for your involvement in the creation of the Cooperative Mechanism since very beginning up to now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my sincere hope that through this Forum we can achieve stronger cooperation in enhancing the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, as to provide international shipping a safe, open and clean passage.

Finally, I declare the 9th Co-operation Forum is officially open. I wish all participants have a fruitful and beneficial meeting. May God bless our efforts. Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL

SUGIHARDJO