



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

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Press Release

on

**Indonesian Foreign Minister's visit at
Indian Council of World Affairs**

Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, delivered a fascinating and extensive speech on the theme of 'Indonesian View of the World' at the Indian Council of World Affairs on 27 July, 2012. The ICWA lecture hall was full to the brim, and the audience's rapport with the speaker was complete.

In his opening statement, Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Director General of ICWA, extended a warm welcome to the minister, recalling his intellectual, diplomatic and political achievements. Ambassador Bhatia referred to Rabindranath Tagore who had described the India-Indonesia relationship as 'the journey of companion souls'. Bilateral relations were progressing very well, but Mr. Bhatia added: A view persists among foreign policy intellectuals that the two countries are capable to attain much more through closer cooperation and candid dialogue, particularly at the Track-II level.

Minister Natalegawa, in a detailed presentation, covered three themes, namely : India-Indonesia relations; Indonesian assessment of the main trends in Asia-Pacific region; and the evolving security and political architecture in East Asia. On bilateral relations, he observed that they were 'robust and strong' and they were 'on the right trajectory' , but he agreed with Ambassador Bhatia that there was considerable scope for their further expansion. While analyzing the second subject, the Minister devoted considerable time to the complex issues relating to South China Sea. He stressed that the potential for conflict existed which necessitated pro-active diplomatic action by all concerned. The need for nations putting forward 'overlapping claims' was to adhere to the guidelines of the Code of Conduct (COC), already agreed. ASEAN, he said, was ready to discuss the elements of COC with China. On

the third theme, the minister explained the rationale of bringing countries like India, Australia and New Zealand as well as China, Japan and South Korea into the East Asia Summit, adding that, with the later induction of US and Russia, a suitable 'equation', was now in place in the region.

The address was followed by a lively interactive session with a distinguished audience. The conference was chaired by Mr. Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) in Ministry of External Affairs.
