



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

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PRESS RELEASE

DUTCH CITIZENS RECEIVE MEDAL OF HONOUR FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA.

On August 9th 2009, the President of the Republic of Indonesia has taken the decision to award the medal of honour "*Bintang Mahaputera Utama*" to three Dutch citizens, in recognition of their outstanding merits towards Indonesia and the Indonesian people. The three Dutch citizens are: (1) Dr. Bernard Rudolf Bot – Former Minister for Foreign Affairs; (2) Hans van Baalen – Member of the EU Parliament and member of VVD party; and (3) Jacques Zeno Brijl – President of Horizon Holland.

The three awardees of *Bintang Mahaputera Utama* have shown outstanding merits in their field as well as in strengthening bilateral relations of Indonesia-Netherlands, namely:

Dr. Bernard Rudolf Bot: While fulfilling his role as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands during the period 2003--2007, Dr. Bot has succeeded in establishing a strong base in bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the Netherlands, mainly in striding for moral and political recognition by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands towards the Proclamation of independence on August 17th, 1945.

Hans van Baalen: As a Dutch parliament member of the VVD party, and now a member of EU Parliament, Hans van Baalen has continuously maintained the consistence support from the Dutch Parliament towards the issue of the integration of the Republic of Indonesia. He also has played an important role in developing bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Jacques Zeno Brijl: Jacques Zeno Brijl is continuously doing his utmost to enhance the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the Netherlands, especially cooperation between the respective civil-society. For almost 50 years Horizon Holland has operated in Indonesia principally in social sector (health sector). Horizon Holland also collaborates with a number of Indonesian institutes, including the Department of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, among other by giving funds for several medical supplies.

The awarding of the Medal of honour was conducted by the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda on Friday, Oktober 9th 2009 at the Indonesian Ambassador Residence in Wassenaar.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, H.E. Maxime Verhagen, other VIPs and relatives and friends from the awardees.

In his speech, Minister Wirajuda emphasized that the awardees are true friends of Indonesia who have played important role in strengthening friendship and advancing bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. He noted that a friendship is precious when it

is found in a former adversary. It is priceless when it heals old wounds and moves the relation on to a future of splendid possibilities

Minister Verhagen stressed the important role Indonesia has played in the world stage in the past recent years. He also extended his hope that the Comprehensive Partnership Agreement, the framework for policy dialogue and cooperation for Indonesia and the Netherlands at many levels and in many fields, will be signed by President Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Balkenende in the near future. Minister Verhagen also reaffirmed the Netherlands' commitment to assist Indonesia in meeting the initial needs of the people hit by West Sumatera disaster with the amount of €500,000.