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PRESS RELEASE

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR U.S-INDONESIA COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP

On April 15, 2009 the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Washington, D.C. will hold a one-day Roundtable Discussion on United States-Indonesia Relations with the objective to build a comprehensive partnership between the two countries.

The Roundtable Discussion will be attended by senior officials from various agencies, think tanks, prominent scholars and researchers from both countries. It is a follow up activity to the visit of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to the United States on 14-16 November 2008. In that visit President Yudhoyono raised the subject of a comprehensive Indonesia-U.S. partnership. Since then, the issue has gained momentum and has been discussed in a number of opportunities such as in the meeting between Vice-President Jusuf Kalla and Vice-President Joseph Biden in early February 2009. In a recent meeting in Jakarta in late February 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hassan Wirajuda agreed to start talks on building a comprehensive partnership. The Roundtable is intended to give a contribution towards the discussion on this issue and provide policy-makers inputs on the form and substance for future Indonesia-U.S. partnership.

The U.S.-Indonesia Partnership Roundtable will discuss a number of topics that can serve as an important exchange of views in the process of establishing the framework to further develop the bilateral relationship. Specific attention will be given to (a) discussions on political and security issues including ways to build and promote greater understanding and closer cooperation as well as obtaining benefits from regional engagements; (b) discussions on economic issues including dealing with current trade and investment issues as well as developing approaches to address the global financial crisis; and (c) public diplomacy to promote people-to-people contacts and regional and global tolerance.

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