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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. held 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 was 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. This subject was again discussed in a recent meeting in Jakarta in late February 2009 whereby Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hassan Wirajuda agreed to hold future talks on building a comprehensive partnership.

The Roundtable is held in order to solicit views from the participants as a contribution to the discussion on this issue to be conducted by policy-makers concerning the format and substance of the Indonesia-U.S. comprehensive partnership concept. The U.S.-Indonesia Partnership Roundtable discussed a number of topics that also serve as an important exchange of views in the process of establishing the framework to further develop the bilateral relationship. Salient points of the meeting among others (a) to enhance bilateral relationship between Indonesia and U.S. in the context of a comprehensive partnership; (b) the two countries needs to work closely together in finding a solution to the world economic crisis through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperations; (c) Indonesia can play a role in bridging the west and islamic world; (d) strengthening people to people contact through optimizing the cooperations in the education and tourism sector; (e) increased cooperation in finding solutions for climate change issues; and (f) the comprehensive partnership between Indonesia and the U.S. must build on the existing bilateral cooperation mechanism, such as the IUSSD, TIFA, and EPD.

Washington, D.C. 15 April 2009
