

**JTTRI International Seminar on
"Railway and Area Development in Jakarta"
Mr. Hikasa's speech**

Selamat pagi. Nama saya Hikasa dari MLIT, Japan.

Today, with the participation of many people, including Mr. Heru, Director of Railways Infrastructure, Directorate General of Railways, Ministry of Transportation, Indonesia, H.E. Ishii, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Indonesia and others, we are pleased that the International Seminar on "Railway Development and Area Development in Indonesia" sponsored by Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute will be greatly held.

Indonesia has the world's fourth largest population of approximately 250 million, and has achieved remarkable economic growth with a real GDP growth rate in the 5%. In particular, in Jakarta, many infrastructures are being developed, including the construction of public transportation and sidewalks, such as MRT and airport railways, as well as the construction of high-rise buildings. I saw this vigorous town and realized again how it has developed.

Japan and Indonesia have long been based on strong relationships. Since the 1970s, Japan has provided various support for railways, including the restoration of tracks on the Java North Line, the adoption of double tracks and electrification, and the modernization of commuter railways in Jakarta.

Especially in Jakarta, since the early 2000s we have been continuously supporting the MRT Jakarta north-south line, and we were able to safely start operations in March of last year.

I took the MRT when Mr. Akaba, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism visited Jakarta at the end of last year. Also, yesterday I took the MRT with Mr. Shukuri, the chairman of the JTTRI. Noise and vibration were low and we were very pleasant. We are also very pleased with the steady growth in the number of passengers, which is nearly 100,000 per day.

MRT is a major trigger to change the flow of people and traffic in urban areas, as well as the culture. The MLIT will continue to actively cooperate in extension of the north-south line and construction the east-west line.

Looking at the future image of urban development, I believe that securing sustainability is an urgent policy issue, as indicated by the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" set forth by the U.N. For the further development of cities, we need to promote not only new lines but also smooth connections with railways and other transportation modes and development along railway lines centered on railway stations. These are the theme of this seminar, so we need to promote a shift to public transportation and aim for the realization of a sustainable city based on public transportation.

In this sense, we are confident that today's seminars held with the participation of Prof. Dr. Morichi of National GRIPS, Mrs. Umiyatun, the Head of Research and Development Agency of the Ministry of Transport of Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Sutanto, Associate Prof. Dr. Hibino, and experts will be a good opportunity for both Japanese and Indonesian officials to have discussions on future policy issues from the perspective of railway and area development in Jakarta.

In this seminar, I hope that meaningful exchanges of views will be held and that the cooperation between Japan and Indonesia in the field of railways will become stronger.

Thank you very much.