

E-10 2nd TERM COUNTRY PROFILES

INDONESIA

General Information

<i>Official Name:</i>	Republic of Indonesia
<i>Capital:</i>	Jakarta
<i>Population:</i>	237,512,352
<i>Major Languages:</i>	Bahasa Indonesia (Malay), English, Dutch, and Javanese
<i>Major Religions:</i>	Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Hindu
<i>Regional/Economic Organizational Membership:</i>	ADB, APEC, APT, ARF, ASEAN, BIS, CP, EAS, FAO, G-15, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, MONUC, NAM, OIC, OPCW, OPEC, PIF, UN, UN Security Council, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNOMIG, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, and the WTO, etc.

Governmental System

Officially, Indonesia is a presidential republic with a highly centralized unitary government centered in the capital, Jakarta. However, its history has been permeated by strong figures establishing semi-autocratic control, establishing the precedent of a powerful executive branch and weaker legislative and judicial branches. The president of Indonesia is the head of state, commander-in-chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, and the director of domestic governance, policy-making, and foreign affairs. The president appoints a council of ministers, who is not required to be elected members of the legislature. The president may serve a maximum of two consecutive five-year terms.

The highest representative body at national level is the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). Its main functions are supporting and amending the constitution, inaugurating the president, and formalizing broad outlines of state policy. The MPR comprises two houses; the People's Representative Council (DPR), with 550 members, and the Regional Representatives Council (DPD), with 128 members. The DPR passes legislation and monitors the executive branch; party-aligned members are elected for five-year terms by proportional representation. Reforms since 1998 have markedly increased the DPR's role in national governance. The DPD is a new chamber for matters of regional management.

Foreign Policy

Indonesia maintains strong ties to its regional neighbors through agreements such as a group it helped found, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This helps Indonesia foster both diplomatic and economic ties to neighboring countries and thus ASEAN remains a primary focal point of Indonesian foreign relations.

Indonesia is also a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a group that was formed during the Cold War in an effort to find a middle ground between the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. Despite the declining relevancy of NAM, it represents Indonesia's position on issues as being hedged between the East and the West. In recent years, Indonesia has tended to side with the United States on many issues, such as terrorism, but has not shown itself to feel obligated to do so.

Indonesia also has ties to Islamic states because of its status as the country with the world's largest concentration of Muslims. It is a vociferous opponent of state-sponsored terrorism and nations accused of doing so, such as Iran, because of the struggle it has had with domestic terror in the past.

Indonesia is former member of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). Indonesia left the cartel in 2008 after it lost its status as a net exporter of oil due to increasing difficulty of production, increasing oil usage, and depleted oil fields. Despite this, it maintains relatively strong ties with OPEC countries.

Overall, Indonesia is a moderating force in political areas in which it is strong. Its influence in NAM and the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) has been very helpful on a whole, often leveling out the more extreme positions of other countries.

Issues Summary

Issue 1: Separatism → Indonesia stands in vehement opposition to separatism within its country. The western half of New Guinea and the Aceh region are both engaging in separatist movements that sometimes result in armed conflict. As recently as the 1990s saw Indonesia losing a diplomatic effort to retain the eastern half of the island of Timor and instead East Timor became an independent nation.

Issue 2: Terrorism → Indonesia is a strongly anti-terrorist country. It not only supports NATO's efforts in Afghanistan, but also fights terrorism at home. Domestic terrorism has been a large problem in Indonesia for the last decade. The emblem of this issue has been the Bali bombings that occurred in 2002, which killed over 200 people and inspired public outrage against the terrorists in Indonesia. Jemaah Islamiyah is the primary terrorist organization working in Indonesia and Indonesian officials are working to crack down on this group and others

Issue 3: Ambalat Block → The Ambalat Block is a sea zone off the coast of Indonesia and Malaysia that is in dispute between the two countries. Its value comes from the wealth of oil said to lie in the Block. Malaysian naval and air forces have, according the Indonesian government,

made aggressive maneuvers in the area that the Indonesian government has condemned. Malaysia, however, denies these claims and insists that the Ambalat Block lies in Malaysian waters.

Issue 4: Security Council Reform → As one of the most populous nations in the world, Indonesia is interested in reforming the Security Council to more accurately represent its members. It believes that the Cold War era power structure that currently prevails over the Security Council in the form of the veto powers is unwieldy in the modern world.

Issue 5: Darfur → Indonesia supports the deployment of peacekeeping troops to the embattled region of Sudan, but feels that the majority of the responsibility should be in the hands of the African Union, with the United Nations taking more of an advisory role.

Relationship with the United Nations

Indonesia has been a member of the United Nations since it became independent from Dutch Colonial Control and Japanese Occupation in 1945. Since its first participation (UNEF, 1957), Indonesia has deployed 22 contingent in various United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to assist peace processes around the world. Today, Indonesia is still actively participating in the UN peace keeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Liberia (UNMIL) and Georgia (UNOMIG).

The deployments of peacekeeping operations under the United Nations, demonstrates Indonesia's strong commitment to universal peace, enhance its foreign relations and its independent and active foreign policy, thus increases Indonesia's image within the international community as a vital Peacekeeping element.

Relationships with other United Nations Security Council Members

China: China and Indonesia established diplomatic relations on April 13th, 1950, which was suspended on October 30th, 1967 due to the occurrence of the September 30th event of 1965. Ultimately China and Indonesia eased tensions with one another by the early 80's and by 1989 had proposed normalizing relations between them. Thus on August 6th 1990 China and Indonesia normalized relations with one another based on the "Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence," which also the same concept is used in their Political system known as Pancasila.

Viet Nam: Indonesia and Vietnam have been involved heavily in Economic Trade Areas within South East Asia. And they both have diplomatic missions to one another's Capitals as of this year.

United Kingdom: Indonesia has an embassy in London, and the United Kingdom has an embassy in Jakarta.

Italy: Indonesia and Italy have established diplomatic relations with one another, Indonesia has an embassy in Rome and Italy has an embassy in Jakarta.

Russian Federation: Russia and Indonesia are members of Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and both have embassies in each others nation.

Belgium: Indonesia has a Diplomatic Mission to Belgium; their embassy is located in Brussels.
Croatia: Has no diplomatic ties to the Republic of Croatia as of September 2008.

United States: The United States has important economic, commercial, and security interests in Indonesia. It remains a linchpin of regional security due to its strategic location astride a number of key international maritime straits, particularly the Malacca Strait. Relations between Indonesia and the U.S. are positive and have advanced since the election of President Yudhoyono in October 2004. The U.S. played a role in Indonesian independence in the late 1940s and appreciated Indonesia's role as an anti-communist bulwark during the Cold War.

Cooperative relations are maintained today, although no formal security treaties bind the two countries. The United States and Indonesia share the common goal of maintaining peace, security, and stability in the region and engaging in a dialogue on threats to regional security. Cooperation between the U.S. and Indonesia on counter-terrorism has increased steadily since 2002, as terrorist attacks in Bali, Jakarta and other regional locations demonstrated the presence of terrorist organizations, principally Jemaah Islamiyah, in Indonesia. The United States has welcomed Indonesia's contributions to regional security, especially its leading role in helping restore democracy in Cambodia and in mediating territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Greece: Indonesia has a Consulate in Athens.

Burkina Faso: Indonesia has no known diplomatic ties with Burkina Faso as of October 12th 2008.

France: Indonesia and France as of this year have “normal” relations with one another. Indonesia has an Embassy in Paris, a Consulate-General in Marseilles, and a Consulate in Nouméa. France has an Embassy in Jakarta.

Panama: Indonesia and Panama have no known diplomatic ties as of October 12th 2008.

South Africa: Indonesia has an Embassy in Pretoria, and South Africa has an Embassy in Jakarta.

Costa Rica: Indonesia has no known diplomatic ties with Costa Rica as of October 12th 2008.

Libya: Libya has a “People’s Bureau” (Their phrase for Embassy) in Jakarta, and Indonesia has an Embassy in Tripoli.