



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE KAY RALA XANANA
GUSMÃO ADDRESSING AT THE 2014 JAKARTA INTERNATIONAL
DEFENCE DIALOGUE**

“Building Maritime Collaboration for Security and Stability”

Jakarta

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Excellency,
Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia
Dr. Boediono

Excellency,
Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia
Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro

Excellencies
Honourable Ministers of Defence
Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

First, I would like to thank the Government of Indonesia and the organizers of this prestigious Conference for once again inviting me to be here.

This could be a special moment for the JIDD: if present, it would be the last time we have, in this forum, Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono as the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Even without his presence, please allow me to pay tribute to a Leader, who has been the cornerstone of this important forum for discussing regional and global military issues.

Under Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's commitment, Indonesia has been playing a precious role in the promotion of debates on universal principles, humanist values and development challenges.

Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono proved to be a man with a great sense of tolerance, a diplomat of unmatched skill, an extraordinary Indonesian personality and a robust statesman with a strong character.

We hope to continue to count on Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's great vision, as he has given us an example of new, positive and continuous approaches, from the conceptual point of view to formulating cooperation and strengthening of relationships.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the JIDD, what each of us seeks to visualize, through the discussions that are conducted, is a broader perspective of the challenges of our time, and particularly of the challenges in our region, that may require special attention.

The subject this year is about 'building maritime collaboration for security and stability', which is surely both important and delicate matter.

I have to praise the true spirit of cooperation, with the involvement of 26 countries in a sophisticated search operation, having in mind the suffering of those who are concerned about the fate of their beloved ones. On behalf of the Timorese people, I want to express our solidarity to the Malaysian Government and our profound sympathy to all the relatives in this difficult time.

However, on the other hand, from what we have been following in our region, we are all extremely concerned with the current events in the South China Sea.

The word 'maritime' brings us to the vast ocean or to the sea near to our shores and, if we want to address the issue of 'security and stability', we are talking about common borders, common threats and common challenges.

And when we discuss all these problems (borders, threats and challenges), we all assume that everyone of us is governed by international law, without which relationships between States and Governments cannot be carried out within a framework of rules, set and accepted by all. These rules seek to shape our political behavior in terms of cooperation.

Without establishing this set of principles, to which all of us bow, which is to say that we all vow to enforce it, talking about maritime security and stability would be talking about very vague and general policy issues, while this subject is linked directly with the individual interests of each country, particularly the ones that, in one way or another, think or feel that they face challenges in this area.

In many cases that divide countries, it is plain to see there is a practice of 'double standards', usually by those that have more means to spend on propaganda, on alienation and on the pursue of interests that exceed their rights and breach the interests of others.

More often than not, demagogy normally covers the attempts against the values to which we all in principle are committed.

Otherwise, and stepping away momentarily from the subject of maritime security, we are confused when we cannot find the root causes for many of the world's problems.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In 2000, when we were undergoing the difficult process of creating a new State from the ashes, the thing we heard and kept repeating to ourselves, in relation to the assistance we were asking for desperately, was the rhetoric of 'everything but arms'.

Today, when we see armed conflicts in so many countries, the question that comes to our minds is: 'Where did those arms come from?', 'Who or which country is benefiting from the selling of those arms?'

We understand that the great powers are concerned with chemical weapons or nuclear weapons and they are busy threatening others with sanctions, but it seems that we all have lost the clear notion that people throughout the world are killing each other every day. The result is that we all become excited only when the reports show millions of refugees, waiting from international organizations' appeal for billions of dollars in humanitarian aid.

If I am wrong I beg you to forgive my great ignorance, but I have never heard of a serious debate on the subject of where the arms provided come from, to various factions in various countries, to shoot each other and to condemn their populations to suffering.

There are special missions created to monitor human rights and to assess domestic violence throughout the world and to quantify underdeveloped and developing countries in these areas. There are costly special courts on genocide. Curiously, nobody is able to identify the origins of the weapons used to conduct the mass slaughter of civilians!

I believe that many of us here are intrigued by this situation that continues to be a reality in several places throughout the world, making difficult the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen

Returning to the subject of 'building maritime collaboration for security and stability', as I have said before, only a sound basis of respect for international law can rule cooperative relationships between neighbours and within a regional context.

Otherwise, there will always be an environment of distrust causing frictions and leading to warnings and responses to those warnings, which may lead to confrontations. This situation causes apprehension to those who have little or nothing to do with the problems, since it may lead to possible political, social and economic impacts that will always disturb States, particularly when they are having difficulties in their development processes.

Today, maritime security covers large and small scale activities.

We understand that a trend in our region is to protect commercial maritime interest, amid rising regional tensions and, according to defense analysts, maritime surveillance is the most pressing need in East and Southeast Asia.

In our opinion, maritime cooperation would have a meaning of more deterrence, if we want to put it like that. Timor-Leste has been benefitting from the availability of countries like the United States of America in exercises such as CARAT, even if we are still far from being able to participate with minimum capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Timor-Leste is an island country (better yet, a half-island country). As such, the sea is of paramount importance when discussing the country's security strategy.

Timor-Leste loses over \$50 million a year in illegal fishing. My government is also concerned with the security of its future petroleum exploration facilities in the sea. As such, Timor-Leste wants to strengthen its maritime component to put an end to illegal fishing and to protect its interests and the investments it has.

The strengthening of the maritime police and the naval component, through providing them with proper resources, will surely increase certainty and confidence in regard to our country's maritime security.

Timor-Leste, which has only been an independent State for the past twelve years, is therefore prioritizing its needs, from the human capacity building to the construction of the necessary facilities.

In addition to this, it is obvious that having adequate means, in our exclusive economic zones, will enable us to participate in fighting the trafficking of arms and drugs, as well as illegal trade.

Timor-Leste is currently in the process to joining ASEAN. As small as my country is, we do not harbor illusions of grandeur that we will make enormous contributions to the region's maritime security. However, we recognize the need for active cooperation with all who are close to our maritime borders.

Here, I should say that we are talking with Indonesia in relation to the islands closest to us, and with Australia in relation to the Northern Territory, in order to draft an agreement on an integrated development plan.

Fortunately, everything suggests that there is enormous good will from all parties, which are motivated by the perspective of broader cooperation that results in concrete benefits for the people. We sincerely believe that such a trilateral agreement will cover the entire economic development potential and improve relationships between peoples, so that everyone may live happily on this planet.

Evidently, maritime security will be very important in an area that we may call an economic, social and cultural sub-region.

However, in order for this cooperation to be honest and serious, it is vital that we determine the maritime borders between countries, under international law, in a clear manner without subterfuges of any kind.

It is truly offensive to see how some countries, because they are large, wealthy or heavily armed, are always the ones that are more unfair to their neighbours, particularly when those neighbours are small and poor.

International law is always invoked, in the pronouncements made in relation to other countries. But international law is simply relegated or forgotten, when it is to ensure major economic benefits at the expense of the principle of fair policy and of the universal values of equal rights and obligations between peoples and nations.

As a new country that is still consolidating State institutions and where most people still lack the minimum conditions for living healthy lives, we can only raise our voice to make sure that there must be true justice in the world, particularly in this new millennium.

We only became a full-fledged member of the United Nations in September 2002, while many other countries signed the Charter of the United Nations, when the organization was created and, time to time, it happens that they are called for relevant positions, including in the Security Council.

In a way, we only can get confused and stunned thinking about how international law may prevail, when the ones, that do not respect it, would be the ones making decisions in these important world bodies. The intricate reasons of the 'cold war' have now led to a sophisticated culture of manipulation and fraud, seeking to alienate the unwary and the unprepared.

I have to say, once for all, that we are and will always be committed to standing for the truth, with the same spirit we had, in the past, when many believed that Timor-Leste was a lost cause. We will stand for our rights with the same faith and determination, in order to contribute to justice between nations and better understanding between peoples.

And we believe that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea should play an effective role in solving the differences.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For a small country as mine, talking about maritime security, whether in terms of joint exercises or information sharing, will never solve and may even permanently hinder the vital issue of the delimitation of the maritime borders.

It is fundamental to us, moreover when neighbours plan to buy drones to secure their ocean resources and to protect their borders.

We firmly believe in the motto 'times change, wills change'. The spirit of the new millennium should proportionate to the leaders of the world a better sense of responsibility towards the humanity.

The international environment, more open to the awareness by all countries, whether they are large or small, strong or weak, of their rights and duties, gives us hope that the leaders of this globalized world want to correct the wrong policies of the past.

I would like to quote the US former Secretary of State for Defence, Robert Gates, who, in a honest way of putting things in regard to a different matter, acknowledged 'the lack of humility to accept there was no forecast on the negative consequences', resulting from decisions made only to display arrogance and power.

Globalization binds small countries and makes them hostage to their own weaknesses, when competing in the global market. However, globalization also

presents valuable opportunities, when properly considered, for small countries to denounce the lack of good faith by the large countries, the lack of honesty by the powerful countries and the policy of manipulation by the rich countries.

Globalization and its sophisticated technology is, after all, a two-edged sword.

Let maritime security not be a double-barreled cannon. Let the effort in fighting transnational crimes not allow other interests, particularly in terms of economic dominance, cast a shade over the relationships between countries and the cooperation that should exist between nations.

Excellency,
Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia
Dr. Boediono

After a very difficult past, Indonesia and Timor-Leste came to embrace, almost at the same time, the path of democratic process.

We commend the very smooth and peaceful transition to democracy, in 1997-1998 which allowed Indonesia to enjoy, once again, another 'pesta demokrasi'.

We wish all the best to this great Nation and to the Indonesian people and express our friendship to all the political parties and our respect to their leaders.

Thank you.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

19 March 2014