



**SECOND MEETING OF
INDONESIA – PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP (IPPP)
Jakarta – Indonesia, 25 - 26 July 2024**

*Partnership for Prosperity:
Fostering Regional Connectivity and Inclusive Development*

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

In the midst of global and regional challenges, ranging from the post-pandemic recovery, economic, and environment, it is critical for countries to prioritize an open and inclusive dialogue and strengthen cooperation in order to maintain stability while contributing to the progress and prosperity of the region. In this regard, Pacific, a region with abundant potentials, possess a crucial role in shaping regional and global architecture given its diversity, not to mention the commitment of the countries in a region to work together to foster regional connectivity and inclusive development for everyone, while respecting one's sovereignty.

The Pacific Ocean and its waters are among the most strategically significant maritime regions worldwide, influencing areas such as marine biodiversity, food and energy security, and international trade.

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia and the Pacific Island states face economic and environmental constraints that limit their ability to accomplish domestic and international development objectives. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid consequences of climate change (including coral bleaching, increasing sea levels, and harsh weather) have exacerbated pre-existing issues, created a multitude of obstacles, and imposed excessive development costs. The pandemic had a significant impact on many ocean-based activities, including tourism, fisheries, and critical components of the worldwide trade and transportation systems.

Pacific Island nations, including Indonesia, are vulnerable to natural disasters due to their geographic location and inadequate infrastructure. Major cyclones, tsunamis, severe droughts, floods, and volcanic eruptions have all posed significant risks in this region. Furthermore, several low-lying coral island states face impending existential threats as a result of climate change-induced sea level rise. Despite the hurdles, Indonesia and the Pacific Island countries have a lot of room to grow in their partnership. The ocean region accounts for more than 70% of their overall sovereign territory.

Indonesia, with the sea as its 2/3 territory, shares the same ocean with the Pacific Countries, and as such, both have a common heritage and wisdom of the Pacific. Indonesia and the Pacific Countries also hold the capacity for marine stewardship of the global south countries. These countries prioritize marine cooperation as a key driver of economic growth, social development, connectivity, and sustainability. Maritime cooperation involves numerous stakeholders and extends across all sectors and pillars.

Apart from that, Indonesia's initiative to strengthen engagement with Pacific region is also based on the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) which laid the foundation for envisioning Pacific region to be a closely integrated and interconnected region; and to this end, cooperation between countries to achieve collective prosperity in the region becomes fundamental.

In 2018, the Indonesia-Pacific Parliamentary Partnership (IPPP) was held as a means to answer the untapped potential of legislative cooperation and people-to-people contact between these countries. The meeting was aspirational and opened the path for greater cooperative measures between parliaments in a bid to advance connectivity and inclusive development of Pacific region. The meeting was adjourned with a promise for a second organization of the IPPP to further explore concrete deliverables on issues agreed in the first meeting.

OBJECTIVES

The 2nd IPPP aimed to reconnect and strengthen the collaboration between parliaments and parliamentarians in the region, which had been delayed due to the global pandemic. It will also reaffirm our commitment to working together to increase economic, political, and social connectivity between Indonesia and the Pacific Island countries. The meeting will discuss and build momentum for strengthening regional connectivity, providing an opportunity to create a more equitable, resilient, and prosperous future for people and the region.

The Second Meeting of the Indonesia-Pacific Parliamentary Partnership (IPPP) has three objectives. **First**, to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation among countries sharing the Pacific Ocean. **Second**, to explore concrete deliverables on regional connectivity, engagement and interaction between countries participating in the IPPP. **Third**, to strengthen cooperation on sustainable and inclusive development for a more stable and prosperous region.

Parliaments and parliamentarians will delve upon parliamentary questions on **Partnership for Prosperity: Fostering Regional Connectivity and Inclusive Development**, whereby it explores legislative institution contribution to cooperate and work together on issues such as socio-culture, education, women's empowerment, tourism, economy, maritime sector, climate change and disasters, and other environmental challenges.

The meeting will additionally explore and generate momentum for efforts to increase engagement among Pacific countries and develop a better understanding of one another's diversity and uniqueness. Aside from that, given the challenges that hampered the region, ranging from the post-pandemic implications that affect economic growth, more specifically tourism sectors, the rapid repercussions of climate change including coral bleaching, rising sea level, and extreme weather, and also efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is committed to foster a more connected Pacific that can deepen interactions, cooperation and collaboration.

PRIORITY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

1. **"Partnership For Prosperity: Fostering Regional Connectivity and Inclusive Development"**

The expansion of commerce and economics, regional security dynamics, digital gaps, climate change and disaster risk, health epidemics, gender inequality, and ocean governance are just a few of the pressing issues that the region must solve together. Collaborative efforts of such nature must support national interests and objectives, particularly those marked by a shared commitment to values and traditions. Parliaments and Parliamentarians have the ability to actively participate in and influence the most important forces and changes impacting our region, with the goal of ensuring its continued prosperity and welfare.

This first session will provide a platform for elaborative statements from participants on national policies, ways and means, intervention required and already available to advance national and regional connectivity. It is expected that parliament could share its legislative measures and or other interventions available that are fit for the purpose of this discussion.

In this session, parliaments will address the following key issues:

- a. The role of parliaments and parliamentarians of the Pacific Island nations to drive partnership, cooperation, and collaboration by fostering regional connectivity and inclusive development that benefit people and the region
- b. Envisioning Pacific region as a region that is stable, prosperous, and resilient
- c. Embracing diversity among nations and respect its sovereignty, and prioritizing commitment to work together for driving sustainable economic prosperity and development for all.

2. Connecting Our Seas and People: Opportunities and Challenges

Pacific countries are characterized by wide sea gaps between islands and archipelagos, as well as a relatively small land area inside a vast ocean. In the Pacific, the ocean and seas have become an essential component of daily life. To accomplish sustainable management and conservation, it is critical to understand the complex linkages that exist between society and water. Sharing access to the sea, port operations, air connectivity, and communications technology is critical in fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in all aspects since they serve as enablers of global trade. Parliaments and parliamentarians must also work to lessen the gap between countries by promoting deeper people-to-people relations, sharing culture, and the exchange of knowledge and values, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Discussions in this sub-theme will likely to evolve around these key issues:

- a. What are the opportunities and challenges for realizing the vision of connectivity in the Pacific region?
- b. The roles of cultures and arts in promoting closer interaction and engagement among countries in the Pacific region.
- c. Protecting ocean and environment while improving economic growth, and enhancing leadership to foster sea and people connectivity in the Pacific region.

3. Harnessing Maritime Potentials for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

According to Sustainable Development Goal 14, oceans and seas, as well as their resources, must be conserved and used sustainably. Therefore, Parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation should be enhanced to guarantee that the advantages of leveraging maritime potentials/investment/trade/tourism and resources are felt by all and that everyone is involved. To that end, discussions in this sub-theme will evolve around these key issues:

- a. To what extent do maritime potentials contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which could promote inclusive growth in the Pacific region?
- b. Efforts to empower women to benefit from economic development.
- c. What are the potentials and opportunities of the Pacific region in response to the challenges related to climate change, as well as other challenges that may impede economic development?

EXPECTED OUTCOME AND KEY DELIVERABLES

Under the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, the Second Meeting of the Indonesia - Pacific Parliamentary Partnership (IPPP) will engage parliamentary participants thus providing a platform for discussion in order to fostering regional connectivity and promoting inclusive development for all.

A Chair's Summary encompassing short conclusions of the meeting and ways and means that can potentially further advance parliamentary cooperation between Indonesia and the Pacific Island countries will be available by the end of this two-day meeting.

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