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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EU-Indonesia to enhance export quality infrastructure and increase trade volume**

**Jakarta, 9 April 2013** – Today, the Indonesian Minister of Trade, Gita Wirjawan and the European Union (EU) Ambassador, Julian Wilson officially launched the second phase of the EU-Indonesia Trade Support Programme (TSP II).

Through this four-year grant programme, the EU is supporting various key government ministries and agencies to help Indonesia meet EU consumer's health, safety, quality and environmental standards and thus realise its full trade potential. The €15 million programme started in 2011 and is focused on strengthening Indonesia's Export Quality Infrastructure and to facilitate better access to demanding markets such as the EU.

Indonesia and the EU have enjoyed a thriving economic partnership spanning for more than 30 years. The trade value between the EU and Indonesia last year was €25 billion, with the latter enjoying a trade surplus of around €5.7 billion. Trade value between the two is expected to increase in the future (EuroStat 2013).

*“Indonesia and the EU are strategic partners in trade and investment. Indonesia continuously increases its market-share of raw materials and value adding industries in EU and develops its products to meet market demands through strengthening the capacity of Indonesian producers,”* said **Gita Wirjawan**, the Indonesian Minister of Trade in EU-Indonesia Trade Support Programme event at Le Meridien Hotel, Jakarta 9 April 2013.

*“The EU is committed to deepen trade relations with Indonesia, and through TSP II we hope to enhance the competitiveness of Indonesian exports in the EU market and increase the trade value between us in years to come, notably by supporting Indonesia's value added industry. We are very pleased to engage with the Indonesian Ministry of Trade and other relevant government agencies in this important initiative,”* added **Julian Wilson**, the Head of the EU Delegation to Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN.

Indonesia is a country with a dynamic population of 250 million, abundant natural resources and a vibrant economy which has reached the US\$846 billion GDP mark in 2012 (World Bank, 2013). This further stresses its importance as an economic partner of the EU. The EU, on the other hand, is the world's largest economic power, accounting for about 20 percent of world output. EU's total value of imports reached €1.32 trillion in 2012, making it the third most important export destination for Indonesia.

Despite the solid trade volume between the EU and Indonesia, this robust economic partnership is not without challenges. Consumer preference for high-quality and environmentally-friendly products is growing every year, continuously elevating demands for exporters. Indonesia, projected to become the 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world in 2030, is more than ready to turn these challenges into opportunities and increase its export penetration to an EU market that represents almost a fifth of total world trade.

The TSP II is co-ordinated by the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, and involves some key government agencies, namely the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, National Standardization Agency - National Accreditation Body, National Agency of Drug and Food Control and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

The programme has already achieved some results, which will be presented at today's event by the participating Ministries:

- Ensuring food safety and traceability for nutmeg as an effort to reduce aflatoxin and mycotoxin contaminants for exported nutmeg to the EU;
- Detering and eliminating Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through the issuance of a catch certification scheme in accordance to requirements of the EU. Through this initiative, Indonesia can maintain its position and guarantee continued access of wild capture fishery exports to Europe;
- Ensuring food safety of Indonesia's aquaculture exports through the implementation of the National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP). The main purpose of the NRMP is to provide reasonable assurance that fish, shrimp and other aquaculture products exported from Indonesia to the EU comply with the specified residue limits laid down in EU legislation to ensure consumers' safety;
- Developing an Information Management System to enable exporters to obtain reliable information on standards and technical regulations applied in key export markets, starting with the EU. More information on technical regulations and the export guide can be accessed at: <http://inatrim.kemendag.go.id>.

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