

Maersk partners Indonesia government on maritime and economic development of Bitung

Jakarta, 22 October 2015 – The Maersk Group has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) today with the Coordinating Ministries for Maritime Affairs and Economic Affairs, to enter an alliance on the maritime and economic development of Bitung in Eastern Indonesia.

The LOI was signed jointly by Dr. Ridwan Djamaluddin, Deputy Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs for Infrastructure; Dr. Edy Putra Irawady, Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs; and Jakob Friis Sorensen, President Director, Maersk Line Indonesia, and Rene Piil Pedersen, Group Representative for Asia-Pacific, Maersk Group.

The signing ceremony was held during the maritime seminar “Increasing Connectivity” in the presence of Henrik, His Royal Highness the Prince Consort of Denmark during the Danish State Visit to Indonesia.

This will contribute to enhance inter-island connectivity, and is in line with the Indonesia New Maritime Strategy. With trade being more developed in the Western part of Indonesia, the aim of the LOI is to accelerate trade and economic development in Eastern Indonesia. Bitung has been therefore been identified as a special economic development zone and a strategic national transportation hub.

Focus will be placed on driving increased connections for Eastern Indonesia to more developed parts of Indonesia (Java), regional (ASEAN) and global export markets (such as Europe and USA).

“We want to support the development of Eastern Indonesia by understanding the challenges and opportunities for the supply chains of key commodities such as tuna, coconut and their downstream products, as well as the potential of aquaculture development and the need to improve vocational skills in this area. We see the added value this will bring and expect this will enhance the economic activity and trade of the country,” said Jakob Friis Sorensen, President Director of Maersk Line in Indonesia.

The scope of collaboration will include areas such as understanding the key drivers in the two industries; the processes around customs clearance, cargo release and other border procedures; the flow of goods through the port; the regulatory environment; and the shipping liner connectivity of Bitung in a regional and international perspective.

“We have been operating in Indonesia for more than 50 years, and we see the potential for increased exports out of the Eastern Indonesia. We are excited to partner with the Indonesia government to enable trade and develop for example, the fishing industry, which will create jobs and economic development to the local communities. If successful, our aim is to make Bitung a model for replicating good practice in other parts of Indonesia to bring about increased trade for the country,” concluded Jakob Friis Sorensen.

Maersk Line was the first shipping line to offer a direct service linking the Bitung port to the transshipment hub Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Johor in April 2014.



About Maersk Group in Indonesia:

- The Maersk Group is a worldwide conglomerate with 89,000 employees, of which 650 are in Indonesia.
- Maersk Line opened its first office in Indonesia in 1958. At the time, the company was known as Maersk Line Djakarta Branch Ltd. Maersk Line also became the first ever container shipping line to carry Sumatran coffee in containers from Palembang in South Sumatra.
- Maersk Line has five offices throughout Indonesia, located in Jakarta, Surabaya, Medan, Panjang and Semarang.
- Besides Maersk Line, other Group business entities in Indonesia include Damco - a global freight forwarder, Safmarine - a shipping operator specialising in Africa trade and MCC Transport – shipping line handling all Intra-Asia containerised cargo for the Maersk Group in addition to providing feeder services.

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