

**KEYNOTE REMARKS
H.E. JOKO WIDODO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT THE OPENING
5TH BELT AND ROAD SUMMIT**

HONG KONG, 30 NOVEMBER 2020

**Honourable
Ms. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our world is facing a common enemy, the COVID-19 pandemic.

No country can defeat this enemy alone.

To control the virus, we must work together and synergize.

All actors must walk and move in sync towards a common goal, a healthy community, a strong and robust economy.

Through synergy, anything we do will be more effective and have bigger impact.

This is one of the most important lessons of this pandemic.

And we can apply this lesson in many other areas, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation.

The key to BRI cooperation is synergy.

Through synergy, BRI can expand its scope of cooperation with other initiatives, including national development initiatives within each BRI respective partner country or regional initiatives such as the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC).

It is important to continue forging and strengthening synergy with BRI partners.

First, we must synergize to foster a sense of ownership.

This is vital to maintain sustainability of projects under this cooperation.

A number of aspects that require attention for the sustainability of projects under this cooperation includes finance, environmental and quality issues.

Indonesia hopes the BRI cooperation will also encourage partnerships between the government, the public and the private sector, in the form of Public-Private Partnership or PPP.

Second, we must continue to maintain the principle of equality in cooperation.

The consequence of the principle of equality is that we must listen to each other, we must lift each other up, reinforce and not bring each other down.

Equality will create space for countries to plan projects based on their national interests. *National driven projects* that will be synergized into joint projects.

In Indonesia for instance, we have developed a grand design for infrastructure development, both on land and at sea.

In the past five years, Indonesia has completed several major infrastructure projects, including MRT Jakarta Phase 1; Youtefa Bridge in Papua; Trans Java Toll Road; Yogyakarta International Airport; as well as national connectivity that connects one region to the next.

Overall, we have built 3.194 km border roads; 1.387 km toll roads; 811 km railroad tracks; 136 ports; 15 ports; and 65 dams.

Indonesia's infrastructure development projects are open for cooperation with all partners, including BRI.

The Government of Indonesia guarantees the establishment of conducive environment for mutually beneficial cooperation.

We have undertaken big transformation to support the investment climate.

We have just launched the Omnibus Law on Job Creation which cuts down regulations and pushes forward large-scale bureaucratic reform.

Third, it is my hope hope that BRI cooperation contributes to the establishment of regional peace and stability.

As one of the largest country in the region, Indonesia hopes that our region will be a peaceful and stable region. A region that will become the centre of global economic growth.

Economic growth and stability are inseparable.

Therefore, we must be committed to safeguard these two elements.

Any potential tension in the region must be reduced.

We must respect each other and continuously uphold universally recognized principles of international law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude my remarks by inviting our BRI partners to strengthen cooperation.

We must not let this pandemic prevent us from cooperating and synergizing.

I invite all business actors to invest in Indonesia and make use of the facilities that Indonesia has to offer.

I believe 2021 will be a year full of opportunities.

May this forum activate cooperation that seizes the potentials at hand and bring benefits to us all.

Thank you.

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