

Opening Statement by His Excellency Professor Khurshid Ahmad on the occasion of the Ninth Meeting of Indonesia Pakistan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Ministerial Commission held at Jakarta on December 6-7, 1978

Your Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, We deem it an honor and a privilege to be amidst you on the occasion of the 9th meeting of IPECC. We are meeting in the beautiful city of Jakarta, in the lap of a network of islands where the emerald green of the Indian ocean meets the glowing blue of the Pacific, country the beauty and grandeur of whose landscape is excelled only by the affection and hospitality of her people. At the very outset, I would like to express on behalf of the members of my delegation, and on my own behalf, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality extended to us by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and for the nice feelings you have so kindly expressed in your address of welcome. Your words have cut deep chords of affection in our hearts and have added to the warmth that characterizes our mutual relationship.

2. Your Excellency, this is a meeting among brothers. The relations between our two countries are based on very solid foundations of faith, culture and history. The IPECO Organization was created to help in the achievement of our common objectives of raising the standard of living of the people of our countries through sustained economic, and social development. Structurally, the Organization has undergone a change and it is now a bilateral Joint Ministerial Commission. But the objectives remain the same and I am very glad to observe that our two Governments are determined to consolidate, these relations and to achieve cooperation in various sectors on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. I have no doubt that the deliberations of this meeting of the Commission will contribute positively towards the attainment of our common objectives.

3. Your Excellency, we have observed with admiration and the efforts which the people and the Government.. Of Indonesia have been making in the recent past to achieve economic growth. You have been allocating your resources in a prudent manner as a result, obtaining steady growth and efficient exploitation of natural resources. We have been greatly impressed by the efforts undertaken by the Indonesian Economic Planners to diversify the industrial base and to achieve growth in exports. The expansion of Indonesia's cooperative activities with the developing countries of Asia are a source of satisfaction for us. We believe that Pakistan can play an important and positive role in the development of Indonesian economy through mutually beneficial cooperative endeavors.

4. Your Excellency, in Pakistan we have tried during the last year end quarter to stabilize the economy and to correct number of imbalances from which the society suffered. I am happy to state that these efforts have succeeded to a considerable extent. There is a new resilience in the economy. GDP growth during the year 1977-78 6.5% with agriculture attaining 4.3% and manufacturing 4.7% growth. Agricultural production, particularly of rice, registered an appreciable increase but wheat production declined because of rust. Attack and unfavorable weather conditions. The rate of inflation was contained at 6.9 per cent during this year. Like Indonesia, we are trying to increase our exports and promote industrial investment, both in public and private sectors, particularly in export oriented units. And above all we are trying to weld the growth objective with welfare so that social justice is attained in society. This is an objective which the peoples of Pakistan and Indonesia share.

5. Your Excellency, IFECO symbolizes not only an identity of interest between Indonesia and Pakistan,, but also an identity of views, hopes and aspirations. In a world that has yet to discover the importance of the moral dimension of life, the principles enunciated in Pancasila and the Objectives Resolution of Pakistan emphasizes that human society is to be rebuilt on the foundation of faith in God, oneness of humanity and social justice for all human beings.

6. Your Excellency, IPECC Commission can play a positive role in the development, efforts being made in our two countries. We have been dealing with a number of useful

proposals in the agendas of the previous meetings including ideas relating to the establishment of industrial joint ventures. The growth of trade between Indonesia and Pakistan has been satisfactory but the potential of cooperation in the areas of joint venture and technical cooperation has yet to be realized. I propose that in this meeting we request our colleagues to devote their full attention to these issues which have been on the cards for so long and on which final

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decisions should be made without further loss of time. In the field of trade, long term arrangements are required to be made for exchange of major commodities like rice, cotton, palm oil and tea. Pakistan is in a position to offer technical assistance in a number of areas. The machinery manufactured in Pakistan is of good quality particularly sugar plants and textile machinery components and we would be glad to offer competitive terms to Indonesia for purchase of machinery and other engineering goods.

7. I also wish to avail of this opportunity to compliment the brotherly people and Government of Indonesia under the dynamic and farsighted leadership of President Soeharto, for the leading role that Indonesia is playing as the centre of gravity of ASEAN through which an effective and constructive framework of regional cooperation has been established. ASEAN is now highly regarded and accepted not only by the peoples in the member countries but by countries outside the region as well. Pakistan's policy towards ASEAN is to encourage its development since its overall objectives are in harmony with ours. Towards this end we shall further strengthen our relations with the ASEAN Organization and its individual countries.

8. Our desire in associating with ASEAN is further manifestation of our desire to promote effective regional and bilateral cooperation in the economic, social, cultural and other fields. It is essential that the countries in our region not only be at peace with each other but also positively cooperate with one another for the common good of our peoples.

9. Your Excellency, I would not like to dilate upon all the issues which would be discussed during the course of this meeting. I may however assure you that my delegation is prepared to give full cooperation to their Indonesian colleagues in reaching positive results and we would give our earnest consideration to any suggestions from your side for the attainment of closer economic, educational and cultural cooperation.

10. Before I conclude I would like to extend, once again, our appreciation for the cordial reception and hospitality extended to us and for the excellent arrangements made, for this meeting.

Thanking you.