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Connecting Japan and Indonesia through
resources, logistics & construction.

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Greetings

Dear Friends & Partners

Hello. I am Yoichi Harimaya, representative of PT. Japan Bridge Asia. I am taking the liberty of sharing this PDF with those with whom I have exchanged business cards and everyone I have had the pleasure of working with.

We act as a bridge for business between Japan and Indonesia, centered on resources, logistics and construction. "Nanmei" — the Southern Sea toward which the great Peng bird flies in Zhuangzi's fable. Looking out from Japan to the islands of the south, I began this journal to deliver living, on-the-ground intelligence and the larger currents that run beneath it.

This inaugural issue takes up the theme I find most compelling right now: **AI, Energy & Resources** — and the underlying strength of Indonesia.

Yoichi Harimaya

REPRESENTATIVE, JAPAN BRIDGE ASIA

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Reading Indonesia's underlying strength through AI, energy and resources.

No. 1

CHAPTER 01

Indonesia in the Age of AI

What decides the AI race is less the technology itself than whether a nation owns its own foundations.

The global current is moving toward "Sovereign AI" — owning your own language, data and compute base rather than having it held by another country. Indonesia sits in the leading group. In 2025 it launched an AI Center of Excellence together with NVIDIA, Cisco and Indosat, and began developing "Sahabat-AI," a large language model for the Indonesian language.

Behind this lies the national vision "Indonesia Emas 2045," aimed at the centenary of independence in 2045. An overwhelmingly young, digitally native population is a vast tailwind for AI adoption. Private estimates suggest AI could add hundreds of billions of dollars in value to the Indonesian economy by 2030.

280 M TOTAL POPULATION	180 M UNDER AGE 40	2045 CENTENARY VISION
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But one thing must not be forgotten: the data centers that run AI consume enormous amounts of electricity. In the end, dominance in AI leads back to dominance in energy. That is precisely why the next chapter matters.

Dominance in AI leads,
in the end, to dominance in energy.

No. II

CHAPTER 02

Energy Policy at Home

President Prabowo frames "energy self-sufficiency" as national sovereignty itself, pledging to achieve it within a few years (the national agenda "Asta Cita"). In reality, coal still supplies about 68% of electricity, and Indonesia remains one of the world's largest coal exporters.

At the same time, its trump cards — abundant domestic energy sources — are plentiful.

GEOTHERMAL Among the world's largest reserves, thanks to a volcanic archipelago. In June 2026, construction began on Unit 2 of the Dieng geothermal plant (55MW) in Central Java.

NICKEL The heart of the EV battery. Exports of unprocessed ore are banned, steering the country toward domestic processing (downstreaming).

BIOFUEL Leveraging the world's largest palm oil output, the biodiesel blend rate is being raised from B40 to B50.

The 23% renewables target has slipped from 2025 to 2030, caught between decarbonization and coal dependence. Yet the direction is clear: do not rely on imports. Amid tensions in the Strait of Hormuz in early 2026, the President visited Japan, South Korea and Russia in quick succession — confirming cooperation with Japan on geothermal, critical minerals, LNG and civilian nuclear power.

Yet the direction is clear:
do not rely on imports.

CHAPTER 03

The Enduring Strength of Owning Its Own Resources

The weakness shared by many AI and manufacturing powers is a reliance on imported energy.

Indonesia is decisively different here. It has coal beneath its feet, geothermal from its volcanic islands, hydropower, and nickel — the key to EVs and batteries — accounting for over 40% of world reserves, plus palm oil for biofuel. In other words, it can supply both the power to run AI data centers and the materials to build EVs and batteries on its own — a rare nation indeed.

From "dig it up and sell it" to "process it at home, add value, then sell" — this is the essence of the downstreaming policy. Self-sufficiency in energy and resources is the strongest buffer against geopolitical risk. Even if a strait is blockaded or another nation restricts supply, a country with its own sources is hard to topple.

CHAPTER 04

Drivers of the Republic of Indonesia's Future Growth

So where do the keys lie that turn this raw strength into genuine development? I see five.

- ① **Downstreaming — internalizing added value.** From raw-material exporter to manufacturing nation: nickel → batteries → EVs.
- ② **Talent and R&D.** R&D spending is 0.28% of GDP and 5G penetration only about 2.5%. Education and engineer training are the biggest challenge.
- ③ **A realistic energy transition.** Balancing coal dependence with decarbonization targets — moving geothermal and solar from slogans to deployment.
- ④ **Governance and infrastructure.** Untangling ministerial silos, simplifying permits, and the fate of the new capital, Nusantara.
- ⑤ **And cooperation with Japan.** In the foundational work of resources, logistics and construction, Japan's technology and capital and Indonesia's resources and youth fit together remarkably well.

When we talk about the future of AI, what ultimately matters is neither semiconductors nor capital. It is the underlying strength of a nation that owns its energy, its resources — and its people.

Indonesia is quietly, but surely, assembling these conditions. We at Japan Bridge Asia stand precisely at this juncture between Japan and Indonesia, building the bridge to the next great current.

We look forward to the next issue — bringing the wind of the Southern Sea, once again, to you all.



Yoichi Harimaya YOICHI HARIMAYA
REPRESENTATIVE, PT. JAPAN BRIDGE ASIA

Based in Indonesia and deeply rooted on the ground, he leads a business centered on resources, logistics and construction, alongside M&A advisory and market-entry support for Japanese companies. With extensive local networks and on-the-ground expertise, he reliably connects Japan and Indonesia.

PT. JAPAN BRIDGE ASIA

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