

**Statement by
Miroslav Lajčák
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak
Republic
Slovak-Indonesian Business Forum
(Bratislava, 12 June 2012)**

Your Excellency, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs,

Excellencies Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here and to express my sincere thanks to His Excellency Coordinating Minister Mr. Hatta Rajasa for participation in the 6th Slovak-Indonesian Business Forum. Mr. Coordinating Minister, we have met in your beautiful country during my official visit in March 2010. We consider your visit to Slovakia, together with a large group of significant Indonesian businessmen, as a contribution to deepening of our cooperation in the political as well as in the economic field. I believe that this event will contribute to successful preparation of the official visit of the President of Indonesia Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to Slovakia in 2013.

One of the main objectives of the new Slovak government is to further improve the economic environment in Slovakia for both foreign and Slovak investors. We would like to attract investments with higher added value and foster relations between our companies and businessmen, with particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed to strengthening the competitiveness of the Slovak economy, increasing the inflow of foreign investments, and supporting export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises through our network of economic diplomats abroad. Our responsibility lies in the overall coordination of foreign policy, which the economic diplomacy is an important and indispensable part of.

Slovakia is a country with open and export oriented economy, with limited natural resources which creates a potential for deepening cooperation between our entrepreneurs. Indonesia has been our traditional trading partner in South–East Asia. Our mutual turnover has been growing for many years and reached 205 mil. USD in 2011.

Our ambition is to start new forms of mutual cooperation which could further develop positive trends. We are ready to develop cooperation in areas on which the government of Indonesia focuses, such as construction of power plants, cement factories, roads, bridges and tyres production. Slovak universities, research centers and companies support food safety of Indonesia in tropical environment of your country. We see potential for further deepening of our cooperation in other fields, such as geological research, mining, metalurgy or nuclear energy.

Dear Mr. Minister, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to briefly touch upon our bilateral relations. Slovakia considers Indonesia as a very important country in the region of South East Asia and beyond. Your country has achieved substantial success on its transformation path and can serve as an example to follow for others in the region. We appreciate your role in regional integration and overall in maintaining the regional stability and security.

I am glad that the political dialogue between our countries is on a good track and our brief but substantial debate just a couple of minutes ago is a confirmation of it. Visits, such as yours, bring an ample proof that we have what to offer to each other. As I have already mentioned, Slovakia pays a great attention to the development of mutual economic ties. Agreements, which are going to be signed, manifest that the establishment of the Slovak–Indonesian Business Forum had sown the seeds of a very good tradition. I would like to use this opportunity to commend Ambassador Harsha Joesoef and Ambassador Štefan Rozkopál for their contribution in organizing this event and I would like to express my conviction that the upcoming “business matchmaking“ will yield further concrete deliverables.

Mr. Minister,

Despite the economic focus of your visit to Slovakia I do believe that your staying here carries another important element – increase of the level of mutual awareness. It goes without saying that your visit gives impetus to further enhancement of our cooperation and moves us further.

I can assure all the participants that our government will work very hard to find new ways to strengthen our relationship with Indonesia so that you, the business people, can make a decision to trade and invest with confidence. We will further strengthen our economic cooperation and better utilize the opportunities for doing business between our countries.

At the very end, I would like to thank all the participants for making this event a success and I hope you will enjoy every minute of your stay in Slovakia.

Thank you for your attention.