

**Remarks as delivered by Adm Mike Mullen
Indonesian Command and Staff College
19 July 2006**

Terima Kasih. Selamat Siang.

<Thank you. Good afternoon.>

I am delighted to be here and to have this chance to talk with you today.

Let me begin by expressing my condolences for the loss of life suffered by your nation two days ago when a tsunami struck your southern shores.

It is yet one more reminder of the destructive power of nature and of the uncertainty of the times in which we all live today.

Please know that my thoughts and prayers -- as well as those of my country -- go out to all those suffering as a result of this terrible tragedy.

I have likewise expressed those sentiments to Admiral Sobijanto on behalf of my Navy.

It was, indeed, my great honor to host the admiral in Washington, DC a few short weeks ago, and now he has done me the honor of allowing me to visit him and his navy here and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

I am also very grateful for the warm welcome you have given me.

Though I spent a good deal of time as a junior officer in the Pacific, this is my first visit to Indonesia. And I am quickly learning just how wonderful and beautiful your country truly is.

In fact, I was interested to learn that your motto is:

Bhinneka Tunggal Ika.
<*"Diverse yet unified"*>

It is a motto we can all learn from.

My country, like yours, is a nation of widely diverse peoples and cultures.

Through our own struggles we have learned -- and are still learning -- that there is great unity in our diversity.

We may have diverse opinions and policies but we all strive to be unified in our mutual respect for one another.

Through this respect we can see that we are all ultimately bound together by a shared hope for our children's future.

Today, the globalization of the world economy means their economic future will largely depend upon free trade.

Our imports and exports -- power sources, food, clothing, and so many other necessities of life are furnished more and more by world trade -- and ninety-percent of that trade flows across the sea.

That is another common thread between our nations. We both hold a closeness to and a reliance on the sea.

Like diversity, I believe the greatest power of the sea is to unite, not to divide.

I am convinced that without a shared commitment to a free and secure maritime commons we cannot secure a better and more prosperous future for our children.

That is why, in my country, I recently called for the development of a new Maritime Strategy aimed at doing precisely that.

Where our previous Maritime Strategy was designed just to defeat a single enemy at sea, our new one must be centered upon building partnerships across the world.

The old Maritime Strategy focused on sea control, but I have told my country that our new one must recognize that the economic tide of all nations rises -- not when the seas are controlled by one -- but rather when they are made safe and free for all.

Today the safety and security of the global maritime commons are being challenged like never before.

All maritime forces are being stretched as we prepare for traditional missions, provide navigable, secure, safe ports and harbors and at the same time confront a full range of transnational threats.

At last year's International Sea Power Symposium in Newport, Rhode Island, naval leaders from 72 nations gathered to discuss these very threats and the growing imperative for maritime security.

There was widespread support for the concept of creating a voluntary 1000-ship Navy, one that brings together a fleet comprised of ships and capabilities from many law abiding nations, standing watch over the seas -- standing watch with each other.

Think of it as a global network for maritime security that brings together international navies, coast guards, maritime forces, port operators, commercial shippers, and local law enforcement all working together to address areas of common concern.

This global network for maritime security as the name implies must be simple, in the self-interest of participating nations, and flexible enough to accommodate national, regional, and global concerns.

It will principally demand three things of us: sincere cooperation, shared capabilities, and seamless connectivity.

Sincere cooperation means we know and respect each nation's threshold -- national sovereignty always comes first.

But it also means that every law abiding country -- no matter its size - - contributes when and how they are able.

We bring what we can when we can.

Everyone benefits from the safety and security of ports, harbors, territorial waters, maritime approaches, the high seas, and international straits.

Such cooperation is not going to solve all our maritime problems -- but it certainly can assist in solving most of the common challenges we each face day to day.

There is enormous power simply in viewing a problem through another's eyes.

For this to work, of course, those nations or navies that can assist others -- must do so when asked.

Not every nation welcomes assistance from the United States, for example but they may welcome such assistance from another trusted regional partner.

It is also important that nations or navies that need assistance -- ask for it.

My country saw this on our Gulf Coast during Hurricane Katrina, just as you did after the tsunami here in Indonesia.

All nations have seen times of need, from Earthquakes in Pakistan, to a submarine rescue off Petropavlovsk, to mudslides in the Philippines and many other places.

It emphasizes for me the second fundamental we are always stronger and more effective when we share our capabilities.

No nation can do everything, but all nations can do something.

Maritime security starts with every nation's capacity to contribute and expands outward from there.

Every nation with vital maritime interests must develop the right mix of capabilities appropriate to their circumstances.

We all have challenges to overcome as we develop our maritime forces and we can and should help each other do so.

That will require us to adhere to a third, perhaps most important fundamental. We must get connected and stay connected.

To protect our nations and those global maritime commons we need a better picture of illegal activities and transnational threats we cannot stop them if we cannot find them.

Finding them means we have to share information freely and widely.

By sharing data on commercial ship characteristics, accurate cargo manifests, merchant ship crew lists, sailing times, destinations, and current ship locations we can begin to close those maritime gaps where we are most vulnerable.

While getting connected is about sharing information and maritime awareness it is also about much more.

It is about getting to know one another -- training together working together, sailing together, whenever each is willing and able.

The success of Indonesia's Integrated Maritime Surveillance System and the positive relationship that exists here regionally between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore -- particularly in the Strait of

Malacca -- are great examples how maritime forces can cooperate to improve security.

They are effective models for regional partnership and for creating shared maritime awareness.

We are learning a tremendous amount from this type of cooperation and from exercises like CARAT, which as you know just closed its Indonesia portion yesterday.

We must pursue other such opportunities to engage with one another.

We learn and help each other only if we stay connected.

If we think about sea power in these terms -- sincere cooperation, shared capabilities, and seamless connectivity -- we can envision how a 1,000-ship Navy made up of volunteers from many nations could help solve the common problems we all face.

There is an Indonesian saying:

Berat Sama Dipikul, Ringan Sama Dijinjing.

<A heavy load should be borne together as well as a light load.>

Our loads today are heavy, indeed. But I am hopeful that, if borne together -- where and when we can -- we will make them lighter.

The global maritime commons is too vast, too important and too vulnerable not to do so.

Like Indonesia's motto itself, our network will be comprised of nations and navies that are diverse in interests yet unified by common hopes.

The greatest of which is the hope for a safe and prosperous future for our children.

I believe it is that hope which will always unify the citizens of Indonesia and the United States.

Hopefully my speech has been of value and I hope in the future the TNI and USA Navy will be able to work together better.

Thank you.