

of the recent decision of the United States, Canada and Europe to phase out quotas on textiles in 2005. Canada was also cited by *The Jakarta Post* as co-funding a US\$22 million program that aims to improve small and medium enterprises' services, production techniques, marketing skills and management in eastern Indonesia.<sup>4</sup>

Canada was described in the Indonesian media as one of the advanced countries that now require Indonesian products be certified with an "ecolabel", guaranteeing a certain level of environmental protection during production. Indonesian papers widely reported as well the participation of a Canadian delegation in a committee meeting on Islamic banking that took place in Jakarta for the purpose of establishing an "international Sharia council tasked with developing standards, products and facilities to be collectively adopted by some 140 Islamic banks and financial institutions in 75 countries around the world that manage a total of US\$230 billion in funds."

A Canadian insurance company, Manulife, was often mentioned in editorials related to corruption especially when a Supreme Court's disciplinary committee decided to exonerate three judges from the Jakarta Commercial Court after being accused of taking bribes before issuing "their controversial verdict that declared the Canada-based Manulife insurance firm bankrupt."<sup>5</sup> Canada was mentioned in articles related to sustainable development in developing countries and the global environment. Local papers reported on Canada's contribution to financing the publication of a book on guidance, care, support, and treatment of HIV/AIDS patients in Indonesia.

Canada was also described in the Indonesian papers as one of the countries that cares about human rights. On Human Rights Day, December 10, 2003, *The Jakarta Post* asked people whether they had ever violated other people's rights or whether their rights had ever been violated. One of the respondents said: "I also think that societies such as the US or Canada care more about human rights issues. There is no way that we can compare the human rights implementation here [in Indonesia] to those countries because we are in a different stage of social development. Foreigners are more ready to consider human rights, given the social circumstances they are in."

The Indonesian online press, both in English and Arabic, did not focus much attention on Canada's domestic policy nor on mad cow disease, unlike other countries' media examined in this study. The emphasis on Canadian news was mainly aimed at Canada's involvements in international trade along with other developed nations. No negative perceptions of Canada were reflected in local papers.

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<sup>4</sup>*The Jakarta Post*, November 12, 2003

<sup>5</sup>*The Jakarta Post*, October 10, 2003