

Unemployment has doubled and people's expectations are high. A free press (the freest in Asia) has emerged with a rapid emergence of civil society groups who are building partnerships amongst themselves. There is a strong sense of regionalism coupled with the issues of human rights and economic justice. The nature of ASEAN has changed in Asia. The human security of 600,000 refugees is critical. Islamic politics and their differing perspectives have a huge impact on the region as a whole and more specifically Indonesia which has the largest Islamic population in the world. In summary, Ambassador Sunquist highlighted the emergence of democracy, the open media and the potential of Indonesia to have a positive impact in the region as a whole.

INDONESIA IN TRANSITION:

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM PROCESSES: EMERGING ISSUES:

Democratic Development:

As a democracy in transition, Indonesia faces many critical issues. There is a feeling of renewal in the country with the recent changes and the election results, but the capacity of the different levels of government is in question. Support for institutional development and training is needed to strengthen legal processes – from the police to the judiciary.

Civil Society in Transition:

Civil Society is shifting ground and changing in nature throughout Indonesia. Civil Society is recognized as a broad range of groups of academic, educational, legal Institutions and NGOs including environment, labour, refugee, and human rights groups. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are mushrooming throughout Indonesia. In East Timor alone there are 57 domestic NGOs and 59 international NGOs. Many domestic NGOs are moving to become international NGOs with high wages which cannot be sustained over the years. Four or five of the current Cabinet Ministers have come from organizations such as WAHLI, a credible, environmental leader.

Decentralization:

There appears to be a strong recognition that the county can no longer be centrally controlled and administered and that decentralization will in the long run be good for the provinces. However, it is not clear how decentralization is viewed from the periphery, how it will be administered and whether local communities will be able to have elected representation.

Territorial Integrity: West Papua

Each of the separatist movements within Indonesia is viewed as unique. Key areas include West Papua and Aceh. For some it is important to understand what the broader