

VAN ZORGE REPORT ON INDONESIA

COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS ON INDONESIAN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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Van Zorge Report

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of the *Van Zorge Report on Indonesia* we introduce a few changes. The section you are reading will be a regular feature from now on, intended to give the reader a quick context and overview of the content and relevance of each issue. We've eliminated the thumbnail descriptions of each article from the **Table of Contents**, and replaced them with this feature in order to give a more comprehensive description.

The main focus of this issue is on **poverty in Indonesia**. Far from being of marginal interest to corporations and their leaders in Jakarta, the causes, results, and solutions to poverty have a great impact on business throughout the archipelago. As the government takes steps to address the problem, regulations, philosophies, and policies will be revised; no business will remain unaffected by the changes that will result.

The **From the Editor** feature in this issue was written by the Editor in Chief, Harvard-educated economist James Van Zorge, and is a critical analysis of the volatile condition of the rupiah, with some commentary on fiscal and monetary policy in Indonesia.

In the section entitled **Lecture**, we are pleased to present Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs' "Economic Possibilities for Our Time," delivered here in Jakarta in August at the 16th Annual Panglaykim Memorial Lecture. In his address, Professor Sachs, one of the world's most influential economists, discusses world poverty, the Millennium Goals (of which he was the prime author), and plans to eliminate extreme poverty. The lecture has been condensed to maintain a focus on the impact and meaning to Indonesians of Professor Sachs' thoughts.

In this issue's **Interview**, we were fortunate in having had an opportunity to follow up Professor Sachs' lecture with an exclusive one-on-one. The *Van Zorge Report* sat down with the economist and discussed issues including Indonesia's development, China's influence on the region, and the role of foreign aid institutions in Indonesia.

For our feature article on **Hunger**, our Managing Editor traveled out to West Timor to see first hand the conditions under which some Indonesians exist. The report details the gravity of the situation and looks at the causes and possible solutions to some of the most extreme poverty in the region.

In a related feature article on **National Food Security**, the *Van Zorge Report* examines the growing threat of locust infestation, a burgeoning problem that has thus far received little coverage in the media. We discover that the proliferation of locust swarms is already having a significant negative impact on rice and other crops, and we look at what this means to Indonesia.

Our regular feature, the **Research Report**, is a follow-up on our issue on Chinese/Indonesian trade relations. In a TNS/Gallup poll prepared exclusively for the *Van Zorge Report*, we examine the views of Indonesians on the rapidly growing Chinese economy and the impact on the lives of those living in the archipelago.

Closing out the issue is another regular feature, **In Brief**, which is our selection of political and business stories, compiled and offered with our analysis and commentary.



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