

Emin Hitay, Turkish businessman who loves Indonesia very much

Willing his back to be decorated with the Tattoo of Garuda

Following a visit of East Java Governor to Turkey last week, Arif Afandi, Managing Director of Wira Jatim and a former journalist of Jawa Pos has reported that Turkish businessmen Emin Hitay is ready to build the power plant in East Java.

Mr. Hitay is handsome like movie star. He is tall and has a straight posture. His style of talking is polite and friendly. He speaks fluent in English and knows a little of Bahasa.

That's Emin Hitay, President of Hitay Investment Holdings who had signed the Letter of Intent with Soekarwo, Governor of East Java to build the geothermal power plant in East Java.

Hitay, name called by people, is not an ordinary businessmen. A gentlemen who has a big influence in the country is also an Indonesia Honorary Consul in Istanbul since 2008. Red and white flag has been raised and the emblem of the Indonesia Honorary Consul has been placed in front of his fancy house which is located just across the Bosphorus Strait.

On the backyard of his house, we can see a strong Bosphorus bridge which connects Europe and Asia. The strait of Bosphorus is the strait that connects Black Sea and the sea of Marmara which strait up to 32 kilometers in length and becomes an important trade traffic flow in Turkey.

There are two bridges across the Bosphorus Strait. Namely Bosphorus Bridge with a length of 1074 meters and the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge with a length of 1090 meters. Bosphorus Bridge was completed in 1973, while Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge was completed in 1988.

Currently, Turkey is making construction of railway tunnel under the sea along 1,400 meters. The tunnel is located at a depth of 55 meters below sea level. At the foot of the European side bridge stands four luxury homes. In Istanbul, only wealthy people can own a house with a beautiful beach view; and Hitay is including one of the wealthies who owns the house like that.

Signing ceremony takes place at Hitay's house. A number of leading businessmen in Istanbul attended the ceremony. Among them, there is one businessman who has a textile factory in Bogor.

Dinner and Sufi Dance hosted for the East Java business delegation who also accompanied by Indonesian Ambassador to Turkey, Mrs. Nahari Agustini. Guests also have the opportunity to enjoy the view of Hitay's house backyard which shows the city of Istanbul at night time.

Hitay confessed that he has already fallen in love with Indonesia. Because of that, he does not mind being a Honorary Consul of Indonesia in Istanbul. Because of so in love, Hitay is

willing to decorate his back with tattoos of Garuda Pancasila. Tattoo was made on the February the 14th by a world-class tattoo artist Petroski in Florianopolis, from Brazil.

"I am very impressed with the Garuda Pancasila because it illustrates the unity in diversity. This is so appropriate with the conditions in Indonesia. Emin Hitay said firmly that the world should use the same philosophy owned by Indonesia.

As honorary consul of the Republic of Indonesia, Emin Hitay is very active in promoting Indonesia to his country, Turkey. For example, he had made the Independence Day celebrations in August 17 at his house two years ago. In the celebration, Hitay was asking the permission of Istanbul Mayor to decorate along the bridge with red and white lights and flags.

Is that enough? Not yet. At night, Emin Hitay also held a fireworks display with cost of hundreds of millions of rupiahs or tens of thousands of Turkish lira. The celebration of Indonesia independence for the first time in Istanbul was attended by the U.S. consul general, Russia, Japan, South Korea, and a few number of honorary consuls from different countries. The celebration in Istanbul is also attended by community leaders and local business community. He said "I did it as an expression of my love for Indonesia,"

Meanwhile, the Indonesia Ambassador for Turkey, Nahari Agustini has told that Indonesia independence celebration held by Hitay was very hilarious and memorable. Ambassador, a lady who was born in Bangkalan, Madura City has never seen a foreigner who loves Indonesia as Mr. Hitay.

"Mr. Hitay has to spend hundreds of million of rupiahs to hold such a celebration. The fireworks exactly likes the one in every Independence celebration in Jakarta" said Mr. Hanif Salim, the Economic Affairs of the Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara.

Hitay has already had eight geothermal power plants in many provinces. He has been more closer with Indonesia since 2006. He went to Jakarta for a meeting with a group of business incorporated with DEIK, which is led by Minister Mehmet Ali Sahin. At that time, Turkish business delegation met Minister of Industry Marie E. Pangestu.

He said "I am very impressed with the warmth of the Indonesia people, their smile, sense of togetherness and hospitality. Since that meeting, I felt chemistry with the community and the Indonesian authorities."

After his return from Indonesia, Hitay proposed to be a Honorary Consul of Indonesia in Istanbul. However, he is officially appointed in 2008.

"I am very proud to have the Indonesia government's confidence on me to be the Indonesian Honorary consul in Istanbul" said Hitay who also own business offices in Jakarta.

In the future, Emin Hitay hopes to contribute a lot more of the development of Indonesia, to continue promoting culture, investment, and tourism in Indonesia. Through these efforts, Hitay hopes the relations between Indonesia and Turkey which have been already strong become more solid.

For Indonesia, Turkey is very important that is as a gate for trade in Europe and Central Asia. Beside its similarity in terms of the religion majority (Islam), Turkey has a strategic position in the economy of the Europe continent. With an annual average growth of 4 percent since last decade, Turkey has become an investment's destination of the European countries that were hit by recession.

In a business meeting between East Java businessmen and fund managers, bankers, and business people in Switzerland, the country which was the center of the Red Cross is also rely on Turkey as a gateway to the Islamic countries in Middle East and Africa in term of investment.

Economically, Income per capita of Turkish citizens has increased sharply since last ten years, which was originally \$ 3,000 now to reach \$ 11,000.