



## PRESS RELEASE

### ONE YEAR COUNT DOWN CELEBRATION BALI 2008 ASIAN BEACH GAMES

**Bali, 23 October 2007** – Today is exactly 360 days to the commencement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games 2008 (ABG), and the Bali Asian Beach Games Organizing Committee (BABGOC) is holding a inauguration ceremony at Lumintang, Denpasar. The count down ceremony is a reminder of how close the multi-sport event is, where the world will focus on Bali.

The President of the Indonesian NOC (National Olympic Committee) as well as the Director General of the BABGOC, Ms. Rita Subowo states, "What we do today is not just a ceremony, but a special celebration for the people in Bali and the whole of Indonesia, for their full support for the preparation and staging of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games 2008is. The count down clock will be a historical monument to remind that Bali and Indonesia as a whole was the host of the largest multi-event beach games in the world."

As explained by IGB Alit Putra, the President of KONI in Bali, the people of Bali through the local government show a full support by providing an area at Lumintang to be transformed into a public park with the count down clock tower. The Balinese government is also committed to maintain the public park, including the 7 meter high tower.

The decision to chose 360 days to the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games 2008 is related to the Hidunese calendar – the religion of the majority of Bali – that one year consists of 360 days.

The Executive Director of BABGOC, Mr. Indra Kartasasmita, expresses his hopes,"I would like to see, with the construction of the count down clock for the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games 2008, there will be a spirit of sportsmanship among the youth and the enthusiasm in promoting this event, which is the pride of all Indonesians."

The Director of Events and Ceremonies, Mr. Ervan Ibrahim explains that the count down clock ceremony is the largest event organized by BABGOC towards the opening ceremony on October 18, 2008. Indonesia's best performers, composers, singers, dancers and choreographers are



involved in the event, including Djaduk Ferianto, Trie Utami Edo Kondoligit and the composer of the Theme Song “Together We Inspire The World”, Dwiki Dharmawan. Djaduk Ferianto, the internationally renowned director, composer and musician will direct the performance, “This is a unique performance that will bring a message of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games 2008 to the world. We will show an entertaining production of more than 200 musicians, singers and dancers from different places in Indonesia, including Balinese artists such as the famous choreographer Ida Ayu Wimba Ruspawaty who will present the Burung Djalak dance as part of the promotion for the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games mascot.”

The event will also introduce for the first time, the official theme song of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games. The song, titled “Inspire The World” will be performed by the teenage singer Theresia Natalia or “Echa” together with the seasoned singer Trie Utami, and a choir of twenty youth from the “Joyful” group.

Dwiki Dharmawan, the Indonesian composer who performed with various international bands and orchestra, explains, “It is an honor to be entrusted to compose this theme song, as I know that this song will be part of the Indonesian history and will bring the pride of Indonesia to the world. Especially that this song portrays the unity of nations through sports.”

The philosophy of the count down clock itself is interpreted on the tower, the creation of the Balinese architect, Mr. Yos Amarta. “To design and construct the count down clock involves dozens of the best Balinese craftsmen, and I am proud to be part of this historic work,” declares Yos Amarta. The design of the tower takes shape of the splashing water at the beach, to portray the various beach sports disciplines and the eagerness to entice the world to the beauty of Bali. The colours of the count down clock tower expresses the joy of all the participants, the red-and-white of the Indonesian flag and the theme “Inspire The World” on the front, as well as the Djalak Bird statue wraps up the whole message of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Beach Games.

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