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FACTBOX-Indonesia replaces head of state oil firm Pertamina

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[Reuters News](#)

English

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(Click on [ID:nJAK358085] for story)

Feb 5 (Reuters) - Indonesia has appointed the current upstream director at Pertamina, Karen Agustiawan, as the new president director of the state oil firm, the state enterprises minister said on Thursday.

The move to replace Ari Soemarno as president follows complaints over fuel distribution in the capital and a fire at a major depot.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who is seeking a second term in office this year, is also under pressure to boost flagging oil output in Indonesia.

Here are some facts about state oil firm Pertamina, which was established in 1957 and employs about 16,000 people

UPSTREAM business covers oil, gas and geothermal energy exploration and production both domestically and overseas.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Masela block, Eastern Indonesia: Pertamina seeking a 30 percent participating stake in the block that is operated by Japan's Inpex Corp .

Natuna D-Alpha gas field, South China Sea: The government has asked Pertamina to develop the giant gas field, which has about a quarter of Indonesia's commercially recoverable reserves. Donggi-Senoro LNG plant in Sulawesi - Pertamina has a stake along with Mitsubishi Corp and PT Medco Energi Internasional . The plant has a capacity of 2 million tonnes per year.

Pertamina operates several gas fields in Indonesia, including in South Sumatra, supplying power plants in Jakarta via pipeline.

It has minority stakes in overseas oil projects including in Vietnam and Malaysia.

DOWNSTREAM includes processing, marketing, trading and shipping.

Pertamina has nine refineries in Indonesia with a combined capacity of around 1 million barrels per day (bpd).

The company only supplies 70 percent of domestic oil consumption, while the remaining 30 percent is met through imports. It also produces several other products including lube base oil and petrochemicals.

Pertamina holds a near monopoly in the distribution of fuel in Indonesia

FINANCES AND PRODUCTION

Pertamina has said it plans to invest 19 trillion rupiah (\$1.63 billion) in 2009, against 17 trillion rupiah in 2008.

It also plans to produce 169,750 barrels per day (bpd) of oil this year, up from 156,000 bpd of oil in 2008.

The company projects net profit in 2009 will be 12 trillion rupiah on an average oil price assumption of \$45 per barrel, against an estimated net profit last year of about 30 trillion rupiah on an oil price assumption of \$101 per barrel. (\$1=11650 Rupiah) (Source Reuters, Pertamina) (Writing by **Julie Shingleton**; Editing by Ed Davies)

PERTAMINA-INDONESIA/ (FACTBOX)|LANGEN|ABN|O|OIL|IF

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REFILE-Indonesia fatwa on smoking sparks anger, debate

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English
(c) 2009 Reuters Limited

(Refiles to add dropped letter in name)

By Julie Shingleton

JAKARTA, Jan 28 (Reuters Life!) - Indonesian smokers and the country's tobacco industry have slammed a move by the nation's top Islamic body to place restrictions on tobacco use by Muslims, calling it an interference in private lives.

Health campaigners welcomed the move, but said the government now needed to do more if there was to be any impact on curbing smoking in the world's fifth largest tobacco market.

While stopping short of an outright ban, the Ulema Council, or MUI, issued a fatwa at the weekend prohibiting smoking in public places or by pregnant women and children.

"I am angry about the fatwa, because both my father and grandfather are smokers and the new fatwa now makes them sinners," said Abdul Hardiyanto, 38, a Muslim stock broker. Fatwas are not legally binding in the world's most populous Muslim nation, but there is pressure to adhere to them or be regarded as sinful.

Smoking is widespread in Indonesia, with cigarettes among the cheapest in the world at around \$1 a pack and the nation famous for its traditional sweet smelling clove cigarettes known as "kretek".

"Is MUI playing God here?" questioned Adhitya Wisena.

"I am going to keep smoking, because religion must stay away from this matter. We have government regulation for this kind of thing," added Wisena, 33, a Muslim who works in a fish shop.

Some cities in Indonesia, including Jakarta, have banned smoking in public places, but the rules are widely flouted.

Many Indonesians also have a strong cultural affinity with smoking, with pressure to hang out and smoke after celebrations for births or weddings in villages across the archipelago.

"If you have money, you can buy cigarettes for yourself. If I have my own money, nobody can stop me," said Dewi Astuti, a 36-year-old Muslim woman.

The fatwa has also been condemned by the country's tobacco business and Indonesia's finance ministry estimated that it could trigger a drop in cigarette output of 5-10 percent in 2009.

Between 1960-2005, cigarette production jumped more than six-fold to 220 billion sticks, the industry ministry said.

The edict will hurt tobacco growers as consumption falls, the chairman of the Tobacco Farmers' Association in the Jember district of East Java told the Antara news agency.

The \$8 billion tobacco industry in Indonesia plays an important economic role, with tax on cigarettes accounting for about 10 percent of government income in the past, while the sectors provide millions of jobs.

Indonesia's national commission on child protection welcomed the fatwa, although said the government should do more.

It urged Indonesia in a statement to ratify the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on

Tobacco Control.

The FCTC aims to reduce tobacco consumption, including through a ban on advertising and promotion, but Indonesia has been reluctant to sign up because of concerns about the impact on the economy despite the health risks from smoking.

(\$1=11290 Rupiah) (Additional reporting by Dicky Christanto and **Jennifer Henderson**, Writing by Olivia Rondonuwu; Editing by Ed Davies and Sanjeev Miglani)

INDONESIA-SMOKING/ (PIX)|LANGEN|RLF

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Japan on a plate at new Jakarta restaurant

Tue Feb 10, 2009 12:57am EST

By Julie Shingleton

JAKARTA (Reuters Life!) - It doesn't get more Japanese than sushi, soba and sumo, and Jakartans can now have a taste of it all at a new restaurant that aims to bring Japan to Indonesia.

Kuishinbo Japan, set in a Jakarta shopping mall, is a huge restaurant that offers a plethora of Japanese dishes as well as origami classes, flower arranging and a sumo wrestling ring.

Diners can also learn more about Japanese icons such as ornamental dolls and the famous cherry blossoms by reading their table mats and there are plans to bring in ninjas to perform.

"We want to pass the knowledge of Japanese culture to future generations through activities and events as well as food," said restaurant spokesman Reino Barack.

"It's a village where you can really feel that you're in Japan, although ironically, if you look outside the window, you're in Jakarta," he added.

Kuishinbo's size lends itself well to activities, and the restaurant can hold over 220 people spread out over seven different sections. The decor is typically Japanese: paper walls separate the sections, there are paintings of sumo wrestlers and waiters in kimonos greet customers in Japanese.

Unlike other Japanese restaurants in the city, there are seven menus to choose from, offering everything from curries to sushi and sashimi to deep fried tofu dishes.

For dessert, there are green tea cheesecakes and the pancake-like dorayakis to choose from.

"Most Japanese restaurants specialize in one, two or maximum three kinds of foods," said Barack. "If you go to a sushi restaurant, you probably won't be able to have a curry rice. Or if you go to a ramen restaurant, you probably won't have soba."

Kuishinbo, which Barack said means "big eater" in Japanese, also challenges diners to eat one kg (lb) of the dish of their choice in less than 25 minutes. If they succeed, their meal is free.

According to Barack, only one Indonesian customer has so far managed to wolf down his meal in the allotted time.

"Next time, we will put the big eater in the middle of the sumo ring, because it is fun to watch," Barack said.

(Editing by Miral Fahmy)

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Signs of the Times: Stressed out, cheap eats

Wed Jan 21, 2009 12:51pm EST

(Reuters) - The global recession manifests itself in big and small ways, most gloomy, some quirky and often reflecting the inventive human spirit. Here is a look at some signs of the times.

* The mood was exuberant, even giddy, in Washington's Lafayette Square, across from the White House, a few hours after Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th U.S. president. But a lone figure holding up a yellow placard struck a jarring note. "WE BUY HOUSES," read the placard, a reminder of the economic crisis that confronts the country after eight years of laissez-faire Republican policies. "Cash in 24 Hours," said the sign, which offered a toll-free telephone number. What was the placard bearer paid for hoisting the sign? "Minimum wage, man. I think," said the man, who gave his name only as Diego.

* More Indonesians have been seeking alternative treatments as the financial crisis raises stress levels, says Maya Safira Muchtar, owner of a Jakarta holistic care center that uses Ayurveda, a system of traditional medicine that includes herbs, nutrition, meditation and massage to treat ailments like stomach ulcers. "We have been quite busy lately because people have high stress levels. They try to find something that can calm them down or help them cope with their daily stress," Muchtar said.

* A Japanese fast-food chain's sales have been rising since October as customers flock to its cheap beef-on-rice dishes. "The impact of the current economic situation has yet to come down to our price range," said Haruhiko Kizu, a spokesman for the Yoshinoya restaurant chain. A typical Yoshinoya dish costs 380 yen (\$4.20), offering a cheap meal option in urban Japan, where lunch often costs around 1,000 yen (\$11).

* Australians are turning to camping holidays as the financial crisis bites. Caravan and holiday parks are reporting high occupancy rates for first time campers, says the Caravan and Camping Industry Association of New South Wales. Occupancy has increased up to 10 percent for many coastal holiday parks.

* The economic crisis may dim the lights on Brazil's Carnival. O Globo newspaper reported that many Rio de Janeiro Samba schools are struggling to raise funds before the end-of-February celebrations and are running late in their float preparations. "We decided to do something smaller, but which will have the same brilliance. We still haven't decided what we will take to the street," said Jorge Castanheira, president of the Independent League of Samba Schools.

* Australian car sales may be sluggish, but bicycle sales are holding up much better as more commuters pedal to work. The Cycling Promotion Fund said bike sales outstripped car sales by 38 percent in 2008, the biggest margin in at least eight years. "The economic downturn and the affordability of cycling is one of

the key reasons for the continued surge in bicycle sales," said the fund's Elliot Fishman.

* Beauty salons are big business in Indonesia and Roger's Salon in Jakarta, is helping customers save as much as half the price of a hair coloring if they bring in their own dye. The treatment usually costs between 400,000 and 1,000,000 rupiah (\$35-\$88). "If customers come to the salon, they have a special budget for services, because it is a basic need," said Ami, one of the salon's hairdressers.

* Some Australian employers have come up with a novel way to cut staff costs without losing their brightest young talents: paying graduate recruits to take a "gap year" and come back in 2010. The Australian Financial Review said at least two law firms had offered A\$10,000 (\$6,676) in cash to graduates to defer their start dates and some had been offered airline tickets.

(Compiled by Eric Beech and David Storey; Reporting by Todd Eastham in Washington; Jennifer Henderson and Julie Shingleton in Jakarta, Taiga Uranaka in Tokyo; Stuart Grudgings in Rio de Janeiro; Michael Perry and Mark Bendeich in Sydney; Editing by Chris Wilson)

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Historic Indonesia hotel packed with local flavor

Fri Jan 23, 2009 4:52am EST

By Julie Shingleton

JAKARTA (Reuters Life!) - Few travelers choose to stay in Kampung Bali, one of Jakarta's oldest and little-known districts, but for guests seeking a taste of traditional Javanese culture and a little less luxury, there's Wisma Garminah.

The family-run bed-and-breakfast hostel is barely ten minutes from central Jakarta's modern and glitzy center with its luxury multinational hotel chains.

Soemarno Sosroatmodjo, Jakarta's first governor and a close friend of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, could not have foreseen that the home where he once entertained top officials and dignitaries would one day become a bed-and-breakfast.

"One day, my father's friends asked if they could pay him something for his hospitality as they frequently visited Jakarta, and that is how the business started," said Karma Widjaja Sosroatjmodjo, the son of the first governor and who now owns and runs the homestay with his wife Heri.

"I get to meet so many people. I to get to know more about the world, more about people, more about what they think about Indonesia; and then we can give them information back about us Indonesians too," added Sosroatjmodjo, who is fluent in Dutch and English and wears a traditional Indonesian cap.

"So for us it's very enjoyable to have guests, especially foreigners," added Sosroatjmodjo, also known as Wede.

The hotel is filled with old Javanese furniture, from wooden carved gates in lieu of entrance doors, to Madurese bridal beds and coffee chests, placed around the two-storey colonial house.

Traditional instruments are everywhere; there are Dayak tribal costumes, daggers and shields from Borneo and old pictures of the family and their visitors adorning many walls.

"This place is like something out of a 1920s novel. It feels like so many stories have unfolded in this building," said Katie Lamb, a 26-year-old Australian tourist.

Lamb said she moved from another hotel to Wisma Garminah because she tired of staying in a "generic stifled business hotel environment."

Jenelle Whittaker, a 21-year-old student from Melbourne staying in one of the seven standard rooms, says the place feels unique in an increasingly globalised world.

"Sometimes staying in hotel rooms abroad feels like being back home rather

than half way around the world, because they are all the same, and that is not the case here," she said.

Wisma Garminah has been operating as a homestay since 1972, and typically serves a home-cooked breakfast every morning.

Guests can taste dishes from all over Java, such as nasi liwet, rice cooked with coconut milk, or nasi rames, steamed rice with tempe or soybean cake.

Wisma Garminah, which doesn't advertise and doesn't have its own website, has only two deluxe rooms and seven standard rooms ranging from 280,000-350,000 rupiah (\$25-31) a night.

There are also dormitories at a cheaper price.

(Editing by Ed Davies and Miral Fahmy)

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