

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TOURISM MARKETING**

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14 March 2011

MR. AKIRA KANAI

Chairman of JATA (Japan Association of Travel Agents)

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Ref.: *Our deepest sympathies to the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami*

Dear Mr. Kanai,

Allow me on behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the entire tourism sector in Indonesia to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the thousands of victims and their families of the recent devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan a few days ago.

As you know, we in Indonesia know all too well what it is like to suffer from such overwhelming natural disasters. We know the grief and shock at the suddenness of these events, and the heart-breaking work afterwards in the rescue and recovery process.

We also know the gratitude with which we received the prayers, expressions of solidarity, and practical help from our neighbors at our time of trouble. Japan to its full credit has always been among the first nations to respond to natural disasters in Indonesia with an outpouring of sympathy and assistance. We are deeply conscious and grateful for the help received in the past from Japan. In closing, Mr. Chairman, please be assured that our heart goes out to you, your esteemed organization's members and the Japanese people. Our Japanese clients are among the most steadfast and numerous of visitors to Indonesia for decades and we are grateful for their patronage. Through these visits, we feel that our people-to-people bonds have grown strong over the years and enable us to feel a deep sympathy at this difficulty time.

With expressions of my highest sentiment,

Sincerely yours,



Sapta Nirwandar

Director General of Tourism Marketing

Ministry of Culture and Tourism,

Republic of Indonesia

