**DIRECTOR’S WELCOMING SPEECH**

The Attaché of Education and Culture of the Indonesian Embassy, Mr. Ramon Mohandas,

Distinguished guests,

Respected parent and guardian representatives,

And our beloved teachers and students,

***Assalamualaikum, peace be upon you, goede morgen, good morning, guten morgen*,**

On behalf of The Indonesian School in The Netherlands, we warmly welcome you at our school this morning. We would like to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation for your presence and company during this year’s Bhinneka Tunggal Ika Exhibition. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika can be comprehended as “in diversity we are united as Indonesian nation”.

Indonesia is huge in several categories. If we draw a straight line, the distance from Sabang, the westernmost point to Merauke, the easternmost point of the country, it is roughly equivalent to the distance from London to Baghdad, or from San Francisco to New York. There are about 238 million people in Indonesia, with more than 300 local languages, dialects and ethnic groups. The diversity of Indonesia is therefore a fact and reality, so is its unity.

The seed of a united Indonesia had been cultivated since long before our independence of 17 August 1945. It rooted from the Indonesian Youth Pledge of 28 October 1928, a moment we celebrate today with the Bhinneka Tunggal Ika Exhibition.

This exhibition is organised and implemented by our students, under supervision of our teachers. There will be acts; performances of traditional costumes, dances, songs; music workshop; class islands in the second floor consisting of Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali, and Sulawesi; and Indonesian gastronomy to taste. Those exhibition and performances are students-centred activities and creativities.

We hope this occasion will bring our school, our Embassy, and ultimately Indonesia closer to our best friends from the Candea College, The American School of The Hague and the Deutsche internationale Schule Den Haag. We intend to facilitate this good relations and friendship for a fruitful collaboration beneficial to all involved parties and to our respective nations.

To our students and teachers we are indebted to you for organising this event.

In advance we apologise for any shortcoming that may occur, and let’s enjoy our exhibition today.

Thank you.

Arbayah Kumalawati