Welcome Address by Dr. Arifin Rudiyanto
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Minister Expert Team in Regional Planning and Maritime National Development Planning Agency

Assalam. Wr.Wb., Good Morning! Selamat Pagi!
Distinguished guests, speakers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for us to have you all here, to pay a little attention, to something that many have not realized its importance, the Geospatial Information. We, Indonesian Government, face the fact that Indonesia is a big and complex country, with more than thirteen thousand islands, located in a very strategic position, between two continents, Asia and Australia, and between two oceans, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Indonesia faces great diversities, ethnicities, languages, cultures, that must be managed well in order keep Indonesia as a one country with integrity and sovereignty. Therefore, geospatial information is and will always be very important information that can manage our country into one great Indonesia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

All decision makings made by Indonesian Government must be made based on accurate and reliable data and information. And this is a mandate from the constitutional law and regulation. We have learnt from the past that we often paid only little attention to such data and information that had produced the disparity of economic welfare, the destruction of environment, the bad disaster management, and also the up and down economic growth. And not long time ago, we realized that Indonesia Government must look at everything as a whole, Indonesia as a One Country, where Geospatial Information plays a very important role. With Geospatial Information, we can plan, implement, monitor and assess our development into more systematic and confident ways. The importance of geospatial information in all aspects of our lives was established when Geospatial Information Act was implemented in 2011, with an expectation that with geospatial information, together with other non geospatial data, we can gain and accelerate the development.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

In the new government, the nine development priorities that was stated by Mr. Joko Widodo, I believe that geospatial information will play greater role. In the past, many believed that geospatial information is a tool for decision making, but from now on I will say that geospatial information is a soft infrastructure that will be the basis for any decision making. This is a great challenge for Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) as the only agency authorized in managing basic geospatial information in Indonesia and
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Apart from having great natural resources, Indonesia faces many kinds of disasters. Geographically also, Indonesia is located in a ring of fire, and we have to live with this. With geospatial information, I believe that we can reduce the impact of such disaster by giving every citizen the accurate and reliable information. Disasters, ladies and gentlemen, as we experience from Tsunami in Aceh, was not just a local, or national disaster, but had great impact in many countries. Disaster like that as well as climate change will never take into account on who we are and where we come from. This has given me a good point where data sharing is not just for institutions within a country, but it is a need for every nation with other nations for the sake of humanity.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank to all of you for making this geospatial information important and special. Yes, it is special to be geospatial. I would like also to thank to my colleagues from Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) and from other ministries who has been working hard in providing and sharing geospatial information for our national development. With sharing, we can make this world a better place for everyone. Thank you, and have a nice stay in Bali.

Wass. Wr. Wb.