

# Terrorists launch random attacks

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SURABAYA/PEKANBARU

Another terror attack against the police despite intensified counterterrorism efforts begs the question: To what lengths will the terror group go to carry out its mission?

In the latest in a string of terrorist attacks in East Java, the Riau Police headquarters in Pekanbaru was attacked by five men on Wednesday morning.

After crashing through the main gate in a white Toyota Avanza, four of the attackers, wielding samurai swords, attacked and wounded Comr. Faridz and Brig. Jon Hendrik. The attackers, identified as Mursalim, 42, Suwardi, 28, Adi Sufiyan, 26, and Daud, were shot dead by police officers.

The as-yet-unidentified fifth attacker, who was driving the car, crashed into several people in an attempt to flee the scene, killing traffic police officer Second Insp. Auzar and injuring two reporters.

The driver was later arrested and is being detained at the Pekanbaru precinct office.

"Based on our findings, this group is part of the Islamic State of Indonesia [NII] that is affiliated with ISIS in Dumai," National

Sleeper cells reactivated following crackdown

Densus 88 arrests dozens of suspected terrorists across country

Police spokesperson Insp. Gen. Setyo Wasisto said on Wednesday.

The Riau attack comes days after a series of deadly blasts in Surabaya and Sidoarjo, East Java, which police say were carried out by the pro-Islamic State (IS) group Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD).

Presidential Chief of Staff Moeldoko called the attacks a reaction to counterterrorism efforts. "[The attacks are happening] because the police are pressing them, triggering a reaction," he said on Wednesday. "The important thing is that the police cannot let up in their efforts."

East Java Police chief Insp. Gen. Machfud Arifin said the terrorist networks in Surabaya were "sleeper cells" that were reactivated for numerous reasons, one of which was the rearrest of JAD ideologue Aman Abdurrahman for his alleged involvement in the 2016 attacks in Central Jakarta.

Institute for Defense Security and Peace Studies executive director Mufti Makarim agreed, saying he thought the rapid rate of attacks indicated a speeding up

of the terrorists' plans. "If we look at the pattern, it's clear there was a certain amount of planning involved, but we have to look at the surrounding events to get a clearer picture."

Mufti noted that the arrests of suspected terrorists prior to the National Police's Mobile Brigade headquarters (Mako Brimob) riot, followed by the riot itself, might have prompted pro-IS militants to move their plans forward or change their targets for fear of detection.

"For example, the attacks in Surabaya were on houses of worship, when typically these groups target police officers, such as in the attack in Riau," he said.

Despite belonging to different groups, Setyo said the attackers in both regions were part of the larger pro-IS network in Indonesia. "They all pledged allegiance to [IS leader] Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi."

The counterterrorism squad Densus 88 "has" intensified its crackdown on pro-IS cells across the country since the East Java attacks. The police have shot dead four and arrested 13 alleged terrorists in the province since Sunday, most recently capturing alleged East Java JAD leader Abu Umar in Malang.

The East Java Police are also hunting two radical preachers who allegedly gave sermons at a regular religious gathering at

tended by the families involved in Sunday's bombings.

Densus 88 and the North Sumatra Police have also conducted several raids in Medan and surrounding areas on Tuesday, killing at least one.

"We cannot reveal the number [of people arrested], because the situation is still developing," North Sumatra Police spokesperson Adj. Comr. Tatan Dirsan Atmaja said on Wednesday.

In Tangerang, Banten, Densus 88 and the Tangerang Police raided three locations in the Pinang district on Wednesday, arresting three alleged terrorists.

Setyo said the three men — identified as MC, G, and A — were alleged members of JAD's Jakarta wing. When asked whether the recent attacks were connected to last week's riot at Mako Brimob, he would only say that the Riau attackers were connected to terror detainee Benny Syamsu Tresno, who was killed by police during the riot.

An Indonesian IS newsletter confirmed by a police source and seen by *The Jakarta Post*, call on IS supporters to "kill infidel wherever they are" and displays a photograph of Benny's body, calling him a "martyr".

MARGUERITE AFRA SAPIE IN JAKARTA  
AND APRIADI GUNAWAN IN MEDAN  
CONTRIBUTED TO THE STORY

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## Crackdown on online radicalism intensified

**JAKARTA:** The Communications and Information Ministry has intensified its effort to identify and block online content related to radicalism and terrorism in the wake of a series of terror attacks in Surabaya, East Java, and other regions.

"I have given the instruction to monitor the content of websites using a crawling method every two hours. Should we find suspicious content, we will block it right away," Communications and Information Minister Rudiantara said after a meeting with representatives of social media platforms on Tuesday.

He added that the crawling was expected to yield results, even if there were few websites with radical content. The government is searching for content that is deemed provocative, promotes terrorism or exacerbates the current state of terror.

The ministry said that, as of Tuesday, it had blocked social media accounts for spreading terror-related content — most of which was posted on 450 Facebook and Instagram accounts.

"Some of them were previously identified but we had not yet blocked them because they were still subject to investigations conducted by the police or the National Counterterrorism Agency [BNPT]," Rudiantara said.

He added that the ministry would ask social media platforms to deactivate the accounts after the investigations.

Such a commitment was echoed by representatives of Facebook Indonesia who stated that the platform would follow up on any complaints from users and the ministry regarding negative content.

"We have no room for violence," said Facebook Indonesia public policy head Ruben Hattari who was present at the meeting. He, however, did not provide an exact time frame as to when the blocking would be conducted, saying the platform received many complaints every day.

The online measure will be supported by an artificial intelligence tool that will crawl websites based on keywords. Initially, the government used this tool to stop hoaxes and block pornographic content on the internet. — JP

# BI interest rate hike imminent

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**Marchio Irfan Gorbiano  
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THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Bank Indonesia (BI) is expected to make good on its promise to end its expansionary monetary policy by raising its interest rate on Thursday in response to external pressures that have hit the rupiah hard, analysts have said.

Following the rupiah's recent depreciation, the central bank has sent a strong message that it has ample room to adjust the BI seven-day reverse repo rate if it deems the depreciation could harm its inflation target.

In the last two years, the central bank has lowered its policy rate by 200 basis points to the current level of 4.25 percent as a stimulus to stir GDP growth. The current rate has stood unchanged since September 2017.

The rupiah traded at Rp 14,094 per US dollar on Wednesday, according to the Jakarta Interbank Spot Dollar Rate (JISDOR),

**Ample room to adjust  
BI rate**

**Current rate in place  
since September**

**High rate vital to anchor  
inflation**

slightly depreciating from Rp 14,020 seen a day earlier and far from the Rp 13,400 seen at the beginning of the year.

Bank Central Asia (BCA) chief economist David Sumual said an interest-rate hike was vital to anchor inflation to within the government's target of between 2.5 percent and 4.5 percent this year.

"[With an interest-rate hike] the central bank is expected to anchor its inflation expectation, which could potentially run loose if there is no reaction from the monetary side," he said.

The central bank's governors are scheduled to announce its policy rate for May on Thursday

following a two-day board of governors meeting, which began on Wednesday. It is also expected to announce its new monetary stance and policy mix in response to the latest development.

BCA's David also said BI's interest-rate hike was vital as other neighboring countries such as Malaysia and the Philippines, among others, had adjusted their interest rate following the United States' Federal Reserve's interest-rate increase in March.

He said external pressures, particularly amid speculation over the Fed's interest-rate increase, would force more BI interest-rate hikes throughout the year.

Samuel Asset Management economist Lana Soelistianingsih projected the central bank would raise its interest rate by 25 basis points on Thursday, while concurring with BCA's David that more hikes were possible in the near future as external pressures had yet to show signs of receding.

"The expectation is that this

will not be the only [BI] interest-rate increase and will be followed by further [increases]," she said, citing some of the geopolitical risks, such as talks between the US and North Korea, as well as the US' trade war sentiments with China as other external pressures besides the Fed's interest-rate hike this year.

Ongoing external pressures have pushed foreign investors in Indonesia to place their assets elsewhere, as the foreign investors recorded a net sell of about US\$2.8 billion in stocks this year, according to data from Bloomberg. Indonesia's sovereign bonds also recorded a net outflow of \$2.3 billion since the end of March, Bloomberg data has shown.

Securities firm Binaartha Sekuritas analyst Reza Priyambada said market players had perceived significant uncertainty in Indonesia's economy, especially in its trade-balance deficit in April after it recorded a surplus beforehand.

The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) reported on Tuesday a trade deficit of \$1.63 billion last month, same as in the first two months of 2018, despite booking a \$1.09 billion surplus in March.

"This raises questions [among market players] as they thought the government was committed to revitalizing import dependency," said Reza. "This kind of panic will affect the state budget with its macroeconomic assumptions that just keep on missing."

The anticipation over possible changes to BI's policy rate was also influencing the market, he added, saying that even if BI decided to raise it, the move would only temporarily strengthen the rupiah, while both credit growth and market activities would likely be curbed.

Furthermore, improving macroeconomic conditions in the US had caused investors to turn their heads to US dollar-based equity, further worsening the rupiah's performance. At the same time,

the Jakarta Composite Index (JCI) has become more exposed to the dollar amid surging imports by domestic manufacturers.

Separately, Narada Asset Management research analyst Kiswoyo Adi Joe expressed confidence that the dollar would not become as strong as many had projected.

"The US might show better inflation rates but it seems that their other economic indicators were not as good, so there is a possibility for the Fed to hold back from raising its rate," Kiswoyo told *The Jakarta Post* by phone on Wednesday evening.

The Fed maintained its benchmark rate earlier in May despite hints of further increases this year, indicating that there were conditions holding the Fed back from consecutively pushing the rate up, said Kiswoyo.

He said he was optimistic spending would grow in the second quarter of the year, boosted by Idul Fitri and the regional elections.

## STREAMLINING

# Integrated online licensing set for launch

**Anton Hermansyah**

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

After a month's delay, the government has set May 20 as the launch date for the online single submission (OSS) system, a web-based platform that will integrate all business licensing, and enable the simultaneous issuance of permits.

The new system, set for launch on May 20, is designed to integrate all licensing processes at central and regional government level, cutting the long procedures businesspeople have had to endure when applying for permits.

With the new platform, investors can apply for a license anywhere, so they do not have to shift the process back and forth between central and regional administrations.

Investors will also be able to monitor the progress of their applications, whether they are still being processed by relevant ministries or agencies, or have been

shifted to the regional administrations where their future businesses will be located.

Coordinating Economic Minister Darmin Nasution said the central and regional governments were ready to implement the new platform as they had nearly completed the two biggest stages required before the launch.

The two stages are the establishment of task forces that would supervise the new platform implementation as well as revision of existing regulations, Darmin said.

"All 34 provinces and also 422 out of 514 regencies and municipalities have already established their task forces, so it is 82 percent [complete]," he said after a Cabinet meeting at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday.

"For the [system] reform, the ministries and agencies also have simplified their rules."

At the central government level, Darmin said 16 ministries and one agency had slashed 422 regulations comprising 232 rules re-

lated to licensing and 190 on other matters.

"Regulations related to licensing, including those in regional governments, are based on regulations at ministries and agencies that have been cut a lot," Darmin said.

As for task-force establishment, Darmin acknowledged the difficulties, especially at regional level.

As of March 27, 33 provinces as well as 273 regencies and municipalities had already created their task forces. On Jan. 23, task-force establishment had been done by only 10 provinces, as well as 75 regencies and municipalities.

Currently, 92 regencies and municipalities have yet to establish their task forces.

Home Minister Tjahjo Kumolo said the government was formulating a set of measures for regencies and municipalities delaying their task-force establishment, ranging from warnings and advice, to administrative sanctions, which would affect their budgets and programs.

The government promises that the new licensing process system will be much more flexible.

Darmin said as long as investors stated they were committed to working on their building permit (IMB) and environmental impact analysis (Amdal), they could build their offices immediately after their detailed spatial plan (RDTR) was approved by the regional governments.

"When an investor comes to a one-stop integrated service [PTSP], he or she only has to bring a notarial act and the company will be approved immediately by the Law and Human Rights Ministry," he said.

"[The investor] will also obtain company identification and tax numbers as well as a location permit as long as he or she is committed to getting the IMB and Amdal."

However, Darmin said the government still had to amend some laws stipulating that the IMB could not be issued without an Amdal.

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## Jokowi appoints new advisors

**JAKARTA:** President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has appointed four new staff members to his administration through a presidential decree, said Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung.

They are Adita Irawati, the former corporate communications vice president for state-owned communications firm Telkomsel, Abdul Ghofar Rozin, the son of Nahdlatul Ulama senior cleric Mohammad Ahmad Sahal Mahfudz, Siti Ruhaini Dzuhayatin, the former commissioner of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, and Ahmad Erani Yustika, the former director general at the Villages, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Ministry.

"They have started working and yesterday they coordinated with the state secretary and me because managerial administration [duties] fall under the Cabinet secretary," Pramono said on Tuesday.

Adita's task, he added, was to revamp outdated public relations systems at ministries and state institutions by promoting content-making through social media.

Abdul was appointed to assist the President during domestic religious events, such as when Jokowi meets with ulema on visits to Islamic boarding schools.

Siti, with her background in religious issues and human rights, was assigned to assist Jokowi with international religious issues.

Ahmad would assist Jokowi in developing economic policies, given his expertise in village funds, Pramono said.

This brings the number of Jokowi's staff members to 10. The other six are Johan Budi, Ari Dwipayana, Lenis Kogoya, Sukardi Rinakit, Gories Mere and Diaz Hendropriyono. — *JP*

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## Incentives set for small investments

JAKARTA: The government is finalizing a regulation on fiscal incentives for new investments below Rp 500 billion (US\$35.49 million), which are not covered in the latest tax-holiday scheme.

Under the regulation being prepared, fresh investments worth between Rp 100 billion and Rp 500 billion will be eligible for a 50 percent cut in corporation tax for five years, said Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) deputy chairman Azhar Lubis.

"The new incentives will be applied for pioneering industries that do not meet the Rp 500 billion requirement [for obtaining a tax holiday]," he said in Jakarta on Wednesday.

The industries eligible for the incentives will be the same industries stipulated in Finance Ministry Regulation (PMK) No. 35/2018 on tax holidays, which include pharmaceutical raw materials, petrochemicals and semiconductors, as well as electrical parts and manufacturing.

The latest incentive is among several that the government is preparing to attract more investments to South East Asia's largest economy.

The government is also expected to finalize new tax allowances and other tax incentives for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said previously that fiscal incentives had an important role in maintaining the country's economic growth amid external pressures on Indonesia's economy, which are likely to force Bank Indonesia to increase its benchmark seven-day reverse repo rate during its board of governors meeting on Thursday. — *JP*

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# Govt to make Tanjung Priok transshipment port

Farida Susanty

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The government is looking to make Tanjung Priok Port in North Jakarta an international transshipment port.

The current effort to develop the port is also linked to the government's ambitious plan to take over the transshipment container market that has so far been controlled by Singapore.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has recently inspected the operation of a direct-call ship measuring 10,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), which is operated by France-based shipping company CMA CGM.

The ship, heading to Los Angeles, United States, calls at port once a week.

Jokowi said the 10,000 TEUs ship had already seen a number of loaded and unloaded containers amounting to 4,300 TEUs.

"It means the shipping is done in an efficient way, with a direct call [scheme]," he added recently.

The President said with the

Operation of larger vessels to boost exports

Shipment from Tanjung Priok expected to become cheaper, faster

Priok to take 2 million TEUs from Singapore

current scheme and the big ship, companies exporting their products could save up to US\$300 per container.

"It will give a much more competitive edge to our [exported] products compared to the foreign products," Jokowi added.

The current operation of big vessels in Tanjung Priok is then expected to increase exports.

The ship itself transported footwear, garments and electronic products, among others.

The commodities came from Bitung, North Sulawesi; Medan, North Sumatra and Surabaya, East Java as well as Semarang, Central Java.

As of 2017, Indonesia has seen

a \$11.8 billion trade surplus, from \$9.53 billion in 2016, Central Statistics Agency (BPS) data shows.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said the aim was to make the shipment of containers from Tanjung Priok cheaper, easier, faster and more transparent.

"So far, there are 3 million [TEUs containers] that pass through Singapore, and we have taken 800,000 [TEUs of the total figure]. We will keep on taking more."

The minister said he was eyeing at least 2 million TEUs of transshipment containers that used to pass through Singapore to be diverted to Tanjung Priok.

The government plans to lower the non-tax revenue (PNBP), which shipping lines are usually charged, if the vessel is bigger.

Budi also expected the positive outcome from the CMA CGM operation in Indonesia would also attract other shipping lines to Tanjung Priok.

Meanwhile, state port operator Pelindo II that manages Tan-

jung Priok Port, said the port was already equipped with facilities for big vessels, such as a 19-meter-deep draft.

Earlier this month, Tanjung Priok Jakarta International Container Terminal (JICT) also welcomed a 10,600 TEUs mother vessel operated by CMA CGM.

"This is part of Tanjung Priok's effort to become a transshipment port with facilities for big vessels. It is evidenced by the arrival of 10,000 TEUs vessels," said Pelindo II president director Elvyn G. Masassya.

He added that he expected ships of 14,000 TEUs, originating from the US, to dock at Tanjung Priok in June.

He said he expected Tanjung Priok to become a consolidated cargo station for all of Indonesia's goods, before exporting the commodities abroad.

So far, Tanjung Priok has seen 6.9 million TEUs in container traffic, with 55 percent being international containers.

"We expect it to increase by 10 percent [this year]," he said.

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## ENERGY MARKETS

# Pertamina to follow Shell in seeking fuel price hike

**Stefanno Reinard Sulaiman**

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

State-owned energy giant Pertamina will soon propose to the government new prices for its commercially sold gasoline products amid an upward trend in global crude oil prices that have exceeded US\$70 per barrel.

As of Wednesday, the price of global benchmark Brent crude was \$77.91 per barrel, up from price as little as \$44.82 per barrel in June last year.

Pertamina acting president director Nicke Widyawati confirmed on Wednesday that the company would propose a new price for its gasoline. However, it is still in internal discussions.

"We will propose it, but currently our main focus is to serve society ahead of Ramadhan," she briefly said, referring to the Is-

lamic fasting month, which starts Thursday.

Separately, Pertamina corporate secretary Syahril Mukhtar said the firm was in consultations with the government regarding an increase in its gasoline prices.

"We are part of the government; [gasoline prices] are a sensitive issue for society. Therefore, the government must take into consideration the effect [of a fuel price hike] on people's purchasing power," he said.

Meanwhile, PT Shell Indonesia has submitted its request for a fuel price hike to the government. Djoko Siswanto, the oil and gas director general at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, confirmed on Tuesday, but he did not disclose the amount of price adjustment sought by Shell.

He indicated the government would announce its decision

within two weeks.

When asked for confirmation on Tuesday, Shell Indonesia president director Darwin Silalahi refused to comment.

Shell Indonesia downstream external relations and country social performance manager Sri Wahyu Endah could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

As of April, the government required all gasoline distributors to get approval from the government before increasing fuel prices. The new policy was set out in the revised Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry Regulation (Permen) No. 39/2014 on the formulation of gasoline retail prices.

The regulation, issued last month, is aimed at keeping inflation in check. It binds all gasoline distributors in the country, including privately-owned ones like newcomer Vivo Energi Indo-

nesia, a subsidiary of Vitol Group based in Switzerland, and Total Oil Indonesia, the local arm of France's Total SA.

In the previous regulation, gasoline prices fluctuated in accordance with global oil prices and the rupiah exchange rate, with the government limiting the profit margin of all business entities to a range of 5 to 10 percent of the basic gasoline prices.

Djoko from the energy ministry explained further that the ministry had limited such requests for price increases to one a month.

"We will evaluate the proposal for at least two weeks and then announce the result. The standard is that [fuel distributors] cannot take a margin of more than 10 percent," he said, adding that the government would use the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark.



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## 24 expatriates detained in N. Jakarta

**JAKARTA:** The North Jakarta Immigration Office raided on Tuesday an apartment building where 61 foreign nationals resided in Kelapa Gading, North Jakarta, detaining 24 of the expatriates for further investigation.

The immigration office's head of supervision, Adi Tri Nugroho, said there were indications that the 24 foreigners had violated immigration laws and caused trouble for residents of the apartment building.

"Three foreigners were found with substances suspected to be narcotics, and they are currently being investigated by the relevant authorities," Adi said on Tuesday, as reported by *kompas.com*.

Adi said the office had also received several complaints from residents who claimed the expatriates had harassed them by forcefully grabbing their cell phones and making missed calls, thereby obtaining local residents' phone numbers.

Twenty of the 24 people detained are Nigerian citizens, one is Gambian, one is Ugandan, one is Senegalese and one is stateless.

Some of them failed to present any travel documents, while others had overstayed their residence permits, Adi said.

The foreign nationals were suspected to have been involved in cybercrime, he said. The office confiscated laptops and cell phones. — *JP*

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## TRADE

# China's OBOR set for e-commerce expansion

Riza Roidila Mufti

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

China is keen on establishing a stronger presence in the fast-growing e-commerce sector in Indonesia and ASEAN through its cross-regional infrastructure mega project called the One Belt, One Road Initiative (OBOR).

Currently said to be the world's largest e-commerce player, China is confident that its mega project will help deepen its cooperation with ASEAN countries in the digital sector.

"China is willing to be a partner with ASEAN to seize opportunities brought by the new-wave technological and industrial revolution and jointly promote internet-based mass entrepreneurship," said Chinese Ambassador to ASEAN Huang Xilian on Wednesday.

"China and Indonesia will vigorously develop cross border e-commerce to build a bridge for cooperation among small and medium [enterprises] in both countries."

Speaking at the ASEAN-China Business Forum: The First E-Commerce Dialogue in Jakarta on Wednesday, Huang said e-commerce had eased the flow of trade between China and ASEAN and Indonesia.

"Because of e-commerce, now we can easily purchase Chinese products in Jakarta, and at the same time, plenty of Southeast Asian specialty products have entered China's e-commerce market," he said.

The reason China is pouring its money into ASEAN and Indonesian e-commerce lies within its own massive digital industry.

With 753 million internet users, China's e-commerce transactions have grown from less than 1 percent of worldwide transactions a decade ago to 40 percent today. In 2016, the value of mobile payments related to consumer spending in China amounted to US\$790 billion, 11 times that of the United States.

At the same time, the booming e-commerce trend has made

ASEAN a new hot spot for Chinese investment. According to Google and Temasek Holding data, the digital economy in ASEAN is expected to exceed \$200 billion in 2020.

In Indonesia, China has taken root in the e-commerce sector through investments by giant tech firms like Alibaba Group Holding, Tencent and JD.com, helping the emergence of new unicorns like ride-hailing firm Go-Jek and online marketplace Bukalapak.

Alibaba has poured at least \$6 billion into nearly every aspect of the country's e-commerce sector, including online marketplaces Lazada and Tokopedia. Meanwhile, Tencent and JD.com have invested in Go-Jek and travel platform Traveloka, respectively.

With 132 million internet users, Indonesia seems too big for China to ignore as it is now ASEAN's largest market for e-commerce, with transactions worth \$5.6 billion in 2016, according to Bank Indonesia data.

Huang said there was still a lot to be done with ASEAN in the future, including enhancing synergy in e-commerce development strategies, strengthening governmental guidance and identifying the focal points of cooperation as well as fostering collaboration among enterprises.

Meanwhile, experts point to the need for both the Chinese and Indonesian governments to ensure that the cooperation is mutual.

"I hope it is not merely investment, but also transfers of technology," said Sugeng Rahardj deputy chairman for social, economic and cultural affairs at the Indonesia-China Association, adding that China's digital expertise would help enhance Indonesia's e-commerce sector.

Poppy S. Winanti, an international relations expert at Gadjadara Mada University, stressed the need for cooperation that would require strong partnerships between foreign and local companies in order to ensure the domestic market would benefit.