

A WORD OF WELCOME

I welcome the addition of *kukila*, the bulletin of the Indonesian Ornithological Society, as a quarterly supplement to the magazine *Voice of Nature*. There has been a need for such a publication to document Indonesia's rich avifauna and to present field notes and the results of observations and research on birds.

Contributors to *Kukila* will be compiling checklists of Indonesian birds and this will not be an easy task as there is a much greater variety of birds than of mammals in Indonesia. I hope that such checklists and other information on birds of different areas of Indonesia will continue to expand. Through *kukila* knowledge of Indonesian birdlife will be further developed and more widely disseminated.

I therefore share the pleasure of birdlovers, bird conservationists» birdwatchers and professional ornithologists in having *kukila* enrich their knowledge and accompany them on their fieldtrips. In addition, there is another and significant meaning to the publication of the bulletin.

The ancient word for bird, *kukila* is one of a pentad of concepts to guide us in striving towards the best possible quality of our lives. The four other concepts are **wisma**, or house which, together with **wanita**, or wife, stand for individual security and fulfillment; **curiga** or weapon signifies our position in society and the security that living within a society affords us and this is supported by the concept of *turangga* or horse, representing the ability to move and to communicate freely within that society or community. Finally, *kukila* stands for the joys and pleasures of life in close association with nature.

Such a sense of identification with nature has always been part of our traditional patterns of life; patterns that are now imperilled by increasing economic activities and the advances of technology, by rapid change and development in general. We can only accommodate such changes through the application of patterns of ecodevelopment, a development strategy into which environmental considerations are fully integrated. For this is required that we must increase our environmental awareness and reinvigorate the tradition of our close association and identification with nature.

It is in this light that I welcome the rebirth of *kukila*.

Jakarta. 19 February 1985

Minister of State
for Population and
Environment,



Emil Salim