

Indonesian Air Show 1996 - June 22-30

A report by the Maastricht International Aeronautic Society (MIAS)



Above: An impressive array of current IPTN products taxi or hover (in the case of the helicopters!) in a line to salute Indonesia's President Soeharto.

INDONESIA ORGANISED its second ever international airshow at the end of June. This time Soekarno-Hatta International Airport provided the venue for the Indonesian Air Show 1996 (IAS'96).

The first airshow, ten years ago, took place at the old Jakarta airport, Kamayoran. Just as it had been then, the latest technology available in Indonesia was put on display, but this show also set out to demonstrate a willingness to co-operate and expand capabilities.

It is well known that the region enjoys considerable economic growth and this has enabled many countries to purchase or manufacture sophisticated aircraft. Naturally, there was particular emphasis on Indonesia's achievements in the aerospace industry.

Some 225 exhibitors from 21 countries occupied the recently-constructed buildings within the new display and exhibition area which has been built just north of the Soekarno-Hatta number two terminal. It already covers 70 hectares and there is still room for further expansion. In all, four aerobatic teams and around 115 aircraft took part.

The exhibition ran from June 22 to 30, with trade days from the Sunday until Thursday. The public was admitted for the last four days. An impressive opening ceremony was attended by hundreds of VIPs on the 22nd and in his opening speech, President Soeharto said that IAS'96 was the centrepiece of this "Year of maritime and aerospace".

Formations of aircraft then flew over to open the show — six F-5s, six Hawk Mk 53s, six F-16As, NB0-105CBs and NAB-412s of the Army and Navy, plus Air Force NAS-330Js. The complete range of the state-owned aircraft manufacturing company *Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusanantara* (IPTN) gathered for a mass formation, providing a unique sight as each type taxied forth in a line to salute the President and guests.

Making its international show debut was the 54-passenger N-250, PK-XNG, which gave daily demonstration flights. IPTN is studying

