



## PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

### Opening of Exhibition of Norwegian glass

Jakarta Hilton, 19 September 1995

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency, the Minister of Culture, for his kind words. May I also say how very happy I was to experience at first hand the riches of Indonesian culture, when His Excellency today guided me through the fascinating Taman Mini-Indonesia Indah park.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency on the very active policy he pursues of spreading knowledge of Indonesian culture abroad. I am glad to say that we in Norway are among the beneficiaries of that policy. Some time ago, the Concert Institute of Norway - Rikskonsertene - received from Indonesia the gift of a Gamalan instrumentarium, and now we have in Oslo an eager Norwegian group of novice Gamelan musicians! They have been inspired and encouraged in their efforts by Indonesian Gamalan orchestras which have visited Norway to give concerts and take part in festivals of music.

Glass is indeed a unique material. Made from solid rock, ground into the finest sand, its shapes and colours created in moments when fire and human breath meet, glass emerges as the most fragile beauty to enrich our lives.

Thousands of kilometres separate Indonesia and Norway. Our mountains, our sands, our glass differ - as landscape, climate and customs do. This exhibition presents a review of handcrafted Norwegian crystal and glass design from the 18th century up to today's Art and Studio glass. As pleasure in art and the enjoyment of beauty is common to people all over the world, we hope that this exhibition will please and interest the public of Jakarta.

Norway was among the first nations to recognize the Republic of Indonesia as an independent country, and we see this exhibition as our contribution to the programme of events commemorating the Republic's 50 years of independence. It is also an expression of our wish for closer ties between our two countries and for increased bilateral cooperation.

Thanking all those in Norway and Indonesia who have helped to make this exhibition possible, I have the pleasure of declaring the Norwegian Glass Exhibition in Jakarta opened.