

Indonesia, UAE ink deals worth \$23bn

● To develop a petrochemical plant in West Java

● ADNOC to supply 528,000 tonnes of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to Pertamina by the end of 2020

● Deals in education, health, agriculture, ports, renewable energy and counter-terrorism

● Plans to establish a sovereign wealth fund

Reuters | Jakarta

Indonesia signed 11 business deals with the United Arab Emirates worth a combined 314.9 trillion rupiah (\$23 billion) covering investment in energy and other sectors, President



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (L) and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (pictured in July 2019) oversaw the signing of deals worth nearly \$23 billion

Joko Widodo said yesterday. Widodo witnessed the signing of the deals with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Moham-

med Bin Zayed over the weekend during an official visit to Abu Dhabi, the Indonesian president said in a tweet.

Widodo, who began his second term in office in October, is keen for an increase in foreign investment to help create jobs

and boost growth in Southeast Asia's biggest economy, where economic growth has hovered at around 5 per cent for several years.

In the petrochemical and gas sectors, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) signed deals with Indonesian companies PT Pertamina and PT Chandra Asri Petrochemicals, UAE state news agency WAM reported.

It said they included an agreement for ADNOC to supply 528,000 tonnes of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to Pertamina by the end of 2020.

Pertamina and ADNOC signed a memorandum of understanding to explore the potential development of a petrochemicals complex in Balongan, West Java, ADNOC said in a statement on Monday.

The agreements with the Indonesian firms "will potentially help ADNOC to secure in-market presence in one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies," Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and AD-

NOC Group CEO, said in the statement.

Widodo said five agreements were also signed between the governments. They covered education, health, agriculture and counter-terrorism, according to Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

Widodo and the crown prince also discussed a plan to establish a sovereign wealth fund, said Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs, Luhut Pandjaitan.

Japan's Softbank and the US International Development Finance Corp (IDFC) were also interested in taking part in the fund, a statement from Pandjaitan said.

The UAE would be able to use the fund to invest in the development of Indonesia's proposed new capital in East Kalimantan province on Borneo island.

It is also interested in investing in a property development in Aceh province on the island of Sumatra, Pandjaitan said.

Boeing employees' emails bemoan culture of arrogance

● The emails were contained in some 100 pages of documents dated between 2013 and 2018 and transmitted to US lawmakers by the Seattle-based aviation giant.

● The emails show that Boeing tried to play down the role of its MCAS flight-control system in order both to avoid the costs

● The emails underscore the task awaiting incoming CEO David Calhoun

AFP | New York

Contempt for regulators, airlines and their own colleagues coupled with a casual approach to safety: a series of emails by Boeing employees paint an unflattering portrait of a company culture of "arrogance" imbued with a fixation on cost-cutting.

The emails underscore the task awaiting incoming CEO David Calhoun when he takes the company's reins on Monday, under intense pressure to restore public confidence -- and that of aviation regulators worldwide -- after two fatal crashes of the 737 MAX aircraft.

The emails were contained in some 100 pages of documents dated between 2013 and 2018 and transmitted to US lawmakers by the Seattle-based aviation giant. The messages were seen by AFP after their release Thursday.

Often cutting, dismissive, mocking or cavalier, the messages show that Boeing's current difficulties reach far beyond the 737 MAX, shining a light on a level of dysfunction that seems almost unimaginable for a company that helped democratize air travel -- and which builds the



Boeing employees working on a 737 MAX airplane at a factory in Renton, Washington; production was halted after two fatal crashes, and some employees blame a company culture of 'arrogance'. Inset, incoming CEO David Calhoun

“Would you put your family on a MAX simulator-trained aircraft? I wouldn't”

A MESSAGE SENT IN FEBRUARY 2018, EIGHT MONTHS BEFORE THE FIRST CRASH.

US president's iconic Air Force One airplane.

The emails show that Boeing tried to play down the role of its MCAS flight-control system in order both to avoid the costs involved in having to train pilots on the system in flight simulators and to speed the federal green-lighting of the MAX plane.

Investigators singled out the role of the MCAS (the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System) in the fatal crashes of MAX planes flown by Indonesia's Lion Air (October 29, 2018) and Ethiopian Airlines (March 10, 2019).

Those crashes claimed 346 lives and led to the plane's worldwide grounding last March.

"I want to stress the importance of holding firm that there will not be any type of simulator

training required," one Boeing employee messaged a colleague on March 28, 2017, a few months before the MAX received federal certification.

The message went on: "Boeing will not allow that to happen. We'll go face-to-face with any regulator who tries to make that a requirement."

A few months later, the same employee -- a test pilot -- bragged about having "save(d) this company a sick amount of \$\$\$\$."

The names of most of the employees who sent the messages were blacked out.

'I wouldn't'

In 2018, several employees working on the MAX simulators complained of encountering numerous technical difficulties.

"Would you put your family on a MAX simulator-trained aircraft? I wouldn't," said a message sent in February 2018, eight months before the first crash.

"No," a colleague agreed.

Two other employees said they were concerned about the impact on Boeing's image at a time, they said, when the company's leaders seemed obsessed with the idea of gaining ground on Airbus's narrow-body A320neo.

"All the messages are about meeting schedule, not delivering quality," one employee said.

A colleague replied: "We put ourselves in this position by picking the lowest-cost supplier and signing up to impossible schedules."

"Why did the lowest-ranking and most unproven supplier receive the contract? Solely because of the bottom dollar."

Robert

lawyer representing victims' families from the Ethiopian Airlines crash, said the Boeing culture led to "unnecessary and preventable deaths."

"Excuses will not be heard," he said in a statement on his law firm's website.

'Ridiculous'

The documents also show Boeing employees questioning the competence of the company's engineers.

"This is a joke," an employee wrote in September 2016, in a reference to the MAX. "This airplane is ridiculous."

"Piss poor design," said another, in April 2017.

And yet for decades Boeing was seen as representing the very best in aerospace engineering and design. It developed the 747,

nicknamed the "queen of the skies,"

Clifford, a US

and contributed to the Apollo program that sent man to the moon.

The aerospace company and its huge network of suppliers are goliaths of the US economy.

In June 2018, one employee messaged his own analysis of the problem: "It's systemic. It's culture. It's the fact that we have a senior leadership team that understands very little about the business and yet are driving us to certain objectives" while not "being accountable."

Michel Merluzeau, an analyst with Air Insight Research, said, "Boeing needs to re-examine an operational culture from another era."

Greg Smith, Boeing's interim chief executive officer, insisted that "these documents do not represent the best of Boeing."

In a message to staff sent Friday, he added, "The tone and language of the messages are inappropriate, particularly when used in discussion of such important matters."

Some emails are dismissive of federal regulators, starting with those from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) who approved the MAX.

"There is no confidence that the FAA is understanding what they are accepting," an employee wrote in February 2016.

Nor were airlines spared.

"Now friggin' Lion Air might need a sim(ulator) to fly the MAX, and maybe because of their own stupidity," an employee wrote in June 2017, more than a year before a 737 MAX crashed near Jakarta. "Idiots!"

Yet another employee, this one more somberly, wrote in February 2018: "Our arrogance is (our) p u r e demise."

