

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDONESIA

The pioneer of emancipation and education for women in Indonesia was R. A. Kartini (1879- 1904). As the Dutch were in Indonesia at that time, Kartini corresponded with her Dutch schoolmates concerning women's emancipation and other problems. The letters were published in a book entitled, "Darkness to Light: Thoughts about and on behalf of the Javanese people." She opened the first Indonesian primary school for native girls in 1907 in Batavia and other provinces with support from Governor General Abendenon and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

Other important facts on women in Indonesia:

- The first Congress of Indonesian Women was in December 22nd, 1928 and took place in Java.
- The first women's vote in Indonesia in a General Election was in 1955.
- Based on the World Bank's list of 2017, the number of female Parliamentarians in Indonesia ranked 7th in the world after Pakistan.
- In 1990, Indonesian women in Parliament represented only 12% and in 2017, increased to 20%.
- In October 2019, Puan Maharani was the first woman to take the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Indonesia's 5th President, Megawati Soekarnoputri, took office as the first female president.