## Rubber sector urged to set up units in Indonesia

## Our Bureau

Kochi, Aug. 13

Indonesia, the second largest rubber producer in the world, has invited Indian rubber industry to invest in that country and benefit from ample natural rubber resources.

In a meeting with All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), Dickey Fabrian, Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in India, had conveyed his country's eagerness to increase bilateral trade in rubber goods.

Fabrian invited Indian rubber industry to start their rubber manufacturing units in Indonesia due to availability of natural rubber, inexpensive labour/power and friendly government policies. Indonesia has also invited investment in rubber plantation through lease of land.

Niraj Thakkar, Senior Vice-President of AIIRA and Convener of upcoming India Rubber Expo, said a high-level Indonesian delegation is likely to participate in the India Rubber Expo to be held in Mumbai in January next year to further strengthen the ties between rubber goods manufacturers of two countries.

As such several automotive tyre and rubber goods manufacturing units are looking at ASEAN countries to take advantage of the free trade regime, Thakkar said.

sajeevkumar.v@ thehindu.co.in