Hello, Goodbye, and Well-wishes

The word ‘selamat’ comes from the Arabic and literally means ‘safe’. When you greet someone ‘Selamat pagi!’ you are wishing that person a safe morning. Selamat is used in most greetings in Indonesian.

Examples:
- Selamat pagi!  Good morning (dawn – 11.00am)
- Selamat siang!  Good day (11.00am – 3.00pm)
- Selamat sore!  Good afternoon (3.00pm – sunset)
- Selamat malam!  Good evening (sunset – dawn)
- Sampai jumpa!  Good bye
- Sampai jumpa lagi!  Good bye (lit. Until we meet again)
- Selamat jalan!  Good bye (to someone leaving)
- Selamat tinggal!  Good bye (to someone staying)

Indonesians also use ‘selamat’ to their family members, colleagues, friends and acquaintance to wish them well in anything they are going to do.

Examples:
- Selamat makan!  Enjoy your meal!
- Selamat minum!  Enjoy your drink!
- Selamat tidur!  Good night!
- Selamat belajar!  Happy studying!
- Selamat bekerja!  Happy working!
- Selamat datang!  Welcome!

Selamat is also used by itself and with other words to make well wishes for birthdays, weddings, celebrations, etc.

Examples:
- Selamat!  Congratulations!
- Selamat ulang tahun!  Happy birthday!
- Selamat ulang tahun perkawinan!  Happy wedding anniversary!
- Selamat menempuh hidup baru!  Happy Wedding! (Lit. Best of luck for entering new life.)
- Selamat hari Natal!  Merry Christmas!
- Selamat tahun baru!  Happy New Year!
- Selamat hari raya Idul Fitri!  Happy Idul Fitri!
- Selamat hari raya Waisak!  Happy Vesak Day!