

**The 2014 ASEAN-ROK SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING ON FORESTRY
BY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
11 DECEMBER 2014**

Your Excellency Minister Shin Won Sop
Your Excellency Ministers of Forestry of ASEAN Member States,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea, especially the Korea Forest Service for inviting me to deliver a keynote address in this Special Ministerial Meeting on Forestry.

As a forester, I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to share my pertinent thoughts in this meeting.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Forestry is a multidimensional issue. It has a strong correlation with poverty alleviation; the sustainability of human's life support system, the conservation or protection of ecosystem and biodiversity, and even development of alternative energy sources.

I am pleased to learn the cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea has been giving a high priority to forestry. It is natural because forest in ASEAN countries covers an area of 283.2 million ha or 16% of the world's tropical forest. The huge natural resource must be managed in such a way that provides the highest benefits in a sustainable fashion.

To Indonesia, forestry plays an important role not only for poverty alleviation, but also for climate change mitigation and adaptation. On this occasion, please allow me to share with you three important steps taken by Indonesia to ensure the balance and synergy between economic and environmental benefits gained from forest.

Firstly, through implementation of good forest governance we can ensure the achievement of sustainable forest management. Indonesia has taken measures to increase forest production and productivity. To improve value added, Indonesia also continues developing timber and non timber forest products processing industry. These measures aim to maximize forest contribution to poverty alleviation of local forest community and national economic development. My government has a strong intention and now is preparing a natural resources and scientific-based national economy for the prosperity of the

people of Indonesia. In the context of forest as natural resources, I have directed clearly that forest for people is carried out systematically and legally to provide more access for forest farmers and small holders. Small holders shall gain substantial economy gross margin, among others, through timber commodity planting. For that reason, forest farmers and small holder's access to forest is improved through the development of private forests, village forests, community forests, and private plantation forests. These schemes are expected will develop small holder economy that will lead to a strong national economy.

Secondly, we hold a high commitment on forest conservation. In addition to protecting the forest, Indonesia also contributes to reduction of emission from deforestation and forest degradation. Indonesia has just completed a long endeavor of readiness stage of REDD+ implementation. Today Indonesia is one of the most ready countries. We also implement a strict moratorium on new permits for primary forest and peat land. We also continue undertaking the one billion trees program as well as rehabilitation of critical watershed to protect dams from heavy sedimentation.

Thirdly, forest conservation has a strong correlation with addressing climate change impacts. Indonesia is committed to voluntarily reduce emission by 26% emission of the 2020 BAU and by 41% with international participation. Indonesia also stands to support new global commitment on climate change in 2015 that will enter into force in 2020, with the main element of national commitment to address climate change.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Because forestry issues are often cross boundary, international cooperation is imperative. Indonesia has been involved in many bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation.

With the Republic of Korea, for example, the two countries have commenced cooperation in forestry since 1968. Back then, Republic of Korea was one of the first countries to invest in the field of forestry in Indonesia. In 1979 the Indonesia-ROK Bilateral Forum on Forestry was formed, and in 2010 the Korea-Indonesia Forest Centre was established in Jakarta. Currently, there are 13 forestry companies from the Republic of Korea operating in Indonesia.

We also have cooperation in human resources capacity building. Recently, the two countries cooperate in developing the Sentul Eco Edu Forest as a learning and tourism site. Last year we also have celebrated our close relation in forestry cooperation, when Her Excellency President Park Geun-hye planted a tree in the State Palace during her official visit to Indonesia.

I believe similar cooperation has also been developed between the Republic of Korea and other ASEAN Member States.

I hope that the ASEAN-ROK Special Ministerial Meeting on Forestry today can strengthen and emphasize mutual cooperation, towards a sustainable forest management for the prosperity of the people.

Every ASEAN Member State may face different forestry problems. For Indonesia, the areas of cooperation that could be explored, includes forest fire management, biodiversity conservation, value added forest products processing, including bio-energy. As long as it is based on the principles of common issues, mutual respect, and mutual benefits, I believe we must continue to enhance our partnership.

We recognize that the Republic of Korea has considerable experience in its low carbon green growth policy. Indonesia and other ASEAN Member States could adopt this policy approach. Subsequently, South-East Asia will be able to contribute in realizing a more comfortable world to live in.

As for Jakarta, our capital city, there is a cooperation currently being initiated with regard to river restoration. Jakarta and Seoul share similar traits. We have rivers flowing through our city. I was informed that in the past, the rivers across Seoul were in similar condition with the Ciliwung River in Jakarta. However, rivers in Seoul are now different. They are clean, beautiful, and healthy tourism sites. We hope that we can do the same for Ciliwung and our other rivers. We would like to invite the Republic of Korea to continue and expand the cooperation in river restoration.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

To end my remarks, I would like to wish you a successful Special Meeting, with fruitful outcomes for all of us.

Thank you.

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