



PRESS RELEASE

Indonesia-Norway Partnership Gains Momentum for Good Governance

Jakarta, 12 March 2012 –This week, Ambassador Hans Brattskar, Director General and Special Envoy for Climate Change of Norway is in Indonesia to coordinate with the Indonesian REDD+ Task Force led by Minister Kuntoro Mangkusubroto to discuss progress in the implementation of the Indonesia – Norway Partnership to support efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

Ambassador Brattskar met with the Chairs of the REDD+ Working Group to learn about developments in building institutions and implementing strategic initiatives and pilot programs to curb deforestation. “We are taking the necessary steps to carry out the President’s commitment to maintain an economic growth of 7% while protecting our forest and reducing our emissions by 41% with international support. The success of the REDD+ program is important in achieving this dual targets. Norway has been an important ally in Indonesia’s respond to the common challenge of climate change,” said Kuntoro.

“Norway is proud to be part of and is fully committed to this partnership. I am confident Indonesia can meet its ambitious targets and look forward to seeing the effective implementation of the REDD+ strategy and the establishment of agreed institutions,” remarked Brattskar.

One of the key strategic initiatives being implemented is a two-year moratorium on new licenses. President Yudhoyono signed the Presidential Instruction (Inpres) 10/2011 on Suspension of New Licenses and Improvement of Governance on Primary Forest and Peatland in May 2011. Since then, the President’s Delivery Unit on Development Monitoring and Oversight (UKP4) along with the REDD+ Task Force have worked with relevant ministries and government agencies to formulate action plans for the next two years. These action plans will create transparency of information among ministries and businesses, to strengthen integration and synchronization of data, and to provide access for increased public participation – all are important pre-requisites to achieving wider reform in forest governance.

“The moratorium and the efforts to create one integrated map of all concessions handed out by different ministries, have revealed the chaos resulting from decades of past mistakes on our land use management,” said Minister Kuntoro, who also serves as the Head of the UKP4. “This moratorium is about developing better governance of forest and peat-land. We intend to create a more accountable, transparent, cross-sector approach to licensing, develop the appropriate policy for license review and when verified and necessary, enforce breaches in the law.”

“I understand the challenges of Indonesia, and I am impressed and encouraged by the holistic and systematic approach to REDD+ taken by the Government of Indonesia and Minister Kuntoro. Norway supports the moratorium and see it as an excellent opportunity for forest governance reforms and as an initiative that will help Indonesia reduce its emissions in line with President Yudhoyono’s pledge”, Brattskar said.

Following meetings with government officials in Jakarta, the Norwegian delegation together with the REDD+ Task Force will be visiting Papua to meet with the local government, representatives from the Low Carbon Economy Task Force, local environmental organisations and development partners. “

“Last time we visited Central Kalimantan. This time we are happy to visit Papua, which is crucial to the realization of the Government of Indonesia’s climate change pledges. I am looking very much forward to go to Papua tomorrow to see the vast intact forests you have there, to meet with local communities and to discuss sustainable development opportunities with the provincial authorities there.”, said Brattskar.

The Indonesian REDD+ Task Force fully recognizes the importance Papua will play in the unfolding of the countries REDD+ future, and has initiated facilitation to synchronize the provinces Low Carbon Development plan with the REDD+ National Strategy. “The REDD+ Indonesia Task Force, fully recognizes the pivotal role that Papua will play in our efforts to reduce deforestation,” stated Kuntoro. “We have been following closely the positive developments in this province, especially on how the provincial government has been working closely with civil society and *adat* (or indigenous) representatives in developing the provincial spatial plan (RTRWP).”

The work being done on low carbon development in Papua, as well as in other forested provinces, will provide input into the national framework for REDD+, which will then be implemented at a sub-national level.

In May 2010, Indonesia and Norway signed a Letter of Intent in Oslo outlining the framework for a partnership to combat deforestation and forest degradation. The USD 1 billion contribution from Norway will largely be dependent on Indonesia’s ability to verify reductions. The REDD+ Task Force reports directly to the President, has oversight over the development of the national REDD+ strategy and is responsible for designing the REDD+ agency and the funding instrument for REDD+ activities.

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