



**Workshop on  
Options for Carbon Financing to Support Peatland Management  
4-6 Oktober 2010, Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia**

**Opening Address of Workshop  
by the Minister of Environment, Indonesia**

Honorable Mr Rusli Zainal, Governor of Riau Province,

Distinguished Representatives of ASEAN Member Countries,

Honorable Dr. Raman Letchumanan,  
Head of environment, ASCC, Department ASEAN Secretariat,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlement,

Assalaamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

Good Morning,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all distinguished delegates and participants to this very important Workshop on Options for Carbon Financing to Support Peatland Management which is held in Pekanbaru, the capital city of Riau Province.

In recent years, peatland issues have been a great intention in global environment. Having a large peatland area which is about 60 percent of the world's tropical peatlands, ASEAN member countries, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia, realize that peatland management play very important role in balancing global environmental condition, especially in maintaining carbon storage.

In this regards, the Government of Indonesia has a strong commitment to protect peatland areas from destruction, which is expressed by laws and regulations related to the peatland management. The recent policy was the signing of Letter of Intent between the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Norway, which come up with the

consequences of moratorium of conversion of peatland forest. It is correlated to the commitment the Government to reduce Greenhouse Gases emission by 26 % in 2020 in voluntary basis.

Undoubtedly, the large areas of tropical peatland in ASEAN region have been and are being treated by human induced degradation. Peatland rehabilitation and degradation prevention are urgently needed if sustainable peatland management is a must. For that reason, ASEAN Peatland Forest Project (APFP) has come to the implementation phase after stabilization period in the last few years.

On the other hand, tropical peatland has been recognized to play important role in carbon storage, which is about 10 times higher when compared to mineral soil. Therefore, peatland management for Carbon credits might be the best way to enhance sustainable peatland management.

In carbon trade, financing is still a challenging measures to be explored. It is required a strong commitment among various actors that supported by reliable methodology in carbon measurement. Hence, the Workshop on Options for Carbon Financing to Support Peatland Management is a strategic effort to explore and share any knowledge, experience of various alternatives for carbon financing to support conservation and rehabilitation of the project sites and for the benefit of local stakeholders involved in peatland management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Environment of Indonesia recognizes the presence of experts, individuals from government institutions, private sectors, international organizations, development partners and NGOs, that are very important and expected that they will contribute to the Workshop by sharing their knowledge and experience. A strong cooperation among various actors may play very important role in sustainable peatland management, particularly in providing carbon financing options. Certainly, the Workshop will strengthen collaboration among the actors and establish a better partnership.

Also, I would like to invite and encourage development partners to support this effort to support this effort to enhance conservation and sustainable peatland management, which contribute to better global environment. Without strong financial support, the proper managed peatland hard to be achieved.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the workshop organizer, namely the ASEAN Secretariat, the Global Environment Centre (GEC) and the Riau Provincial Government, which have been working cooperatively with Ministry of Environment of Indonesia in the organization of the Workshop. Similar appreciation goes to all those who have supported the implementation of the Workshop, particularly the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development/the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility (GEF) and to all stakeholder.

I wish you all have a fruitful Workshop.

By saying Bismillaahirrahmaanirrahiim I open the Workshop on Options for Carbon Financing to Support Peatland Management.

Thank you.

Wassalaamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Pekanbaru, 4 October 2010

Minister of Environment,  
Republic of Indonesia,

**Prof. Dr. Ir. Gusti Muhammad Hatta, MS.**