



**KEMENTERIAN LINGKUNGAN HIDUP
REPUBLIK INDONESIA**

JALAN D.I. PANJAITAN, KEBON NANAS, JAKARTA 13410, INDONESIA • KOTAK POS 7777 JAT 13000
TELEPON : 021-8517148, 8580067-69 (OPERATOR) • FAKSIMILIE 021-8517147 • SITUS : www.menlh.go.id

WELCOME REMARKS BY
**DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND
CAPACITY BUILDING**
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF REPUBLIC INDONESIA
at
Regional Meeting
**STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT (STRIPE)**

Jakarta, April 30, 2013

Bismillaahirrahamaannirrahiim

Assalamu'alaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarraktuh,

May the bless of Allah the Almighty upon us,

A very good morning,

Mr.Henri Subagiyo, Executive Director, Indonesian Centre for Environmental Law (ICEL)

Mr. Irman G. Lanti, Ph.D , Executive Director, Tifa Foundation

Ms. Carole Excell, Senior Associate, The Access Initiative, WRI

Resource persons and Speakers,

Distinguished delegates and participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be able to present at this important forum, on Regional Meeting on "*Strengthening the Right to Information for People and the Environment*" (STRIPE) project . I am pleased to address such distinguished audience to discuss the issue of access and right to information for people, and especially for the

environment. This forum is essential as a medium for exchanging views and ideas to offer solutions and way forward in promoting access of information for all. I am of the view that transparency and information disclosure will contribute to ensure economic growth, environmental preservation and social development in moving toward sustainable development.

I believe we all know that the STRIPE project has focused on creating new, effective opportunities for freedom of information law implementation and improvement in access to information about air and water and pollution control regulation, with focus in Thailand and Indonesia. I therefore appreciate all institutions and organizations that are involved in STRIPE project, especially Indonesian Centre of Environmental Law (ICEL) and The Access Initiative, World Resource Institute (WRI) of its efforts to organise this regional meeting. Moreover, for initiating discussion on strengthening environmental information disclosure among stakeholders. I hope the dialogue among important stakeholders will practically support and foster public information disclosure practices related to environmental management and sustainable development in Indonesia.

I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome all distinguished resource persons and participants to Jakarta, Indonesia. Especially for those how travel from abroad for spending your precious time to attend this meeting as well as visit Jakarta.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Availability of environmental information to public is crucially important, as it would provide clearer picture on how development project could risk public health and ecosystem, as well as serve as a basis for public and community to watch over development activities. Yet, environmental public disclosure and improving access to information has never been optimal.

In Indonesia, disclosure information to the public is a must and regulated by Act number 41 of 2008. This Act is essentially giving liability to any public agency to open access of information for public. Some of considerations given to the Act are: firstly, that information is a basic requirement for everyone to development personal capacity and its socio environment as well as a critical part of national security; secondly, that the right to information is a human right and public disclosure is one of the important features of the state uphold democratic sovereignty of the people to realize good governance; thirdly, that openness information public is means in optimize public oversight of the implementation of state and Other public agency and everything that resulted in interest public; and fourthly, that the management of public information is an effort to develop the information society.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Furthermore, In Indonesia, the current environmental protection and management act, Act number 32 of 2009, also emphasize importance of providing environmental information to the people. Why environmental information disclosure is important? Without a doubt, the world since the industrial revolution has undergone rapid and fundamental shifts in the way we consume, produce and live our daily lives. Over the last decades, we have witnessed an accelerated process of globalization that has brought tremendous benefits for people living in both the developed and developing worlds. Yet, as much as there has been a positive development, the levels of environmental pollution and degradation have continued to worsen with globalization, with an expanding world population and increased international economic activities.

Moreover, the recent global crisis thought every of us to pursue our development differently. As it is evident that water pollution, land degradation, and other types of pollution and degradation are not solely environmental issues, it is an development challenge. If left unabated, environmental pollution and degradation does not only have

the potential of unwinding years of development, but also it has the potential to dramatically affect the future of humankind. To deal with these circumstances, we need significant additional approaches and instruments as well as to shift development patterns.

Yet, Indonesia like other developing countries have limited options as they could not easily shift resources from their development agenda and poverty alleviation to natural resources and environmental management. Thus, it is a must to be look for win-win solutions and we need to aim for development related policies that are more consistent with this issue of protection of human health and livelihood in the long run.

That is why discussion of the theme “strengthening the right to information for people and the environment” is one that is timely and opportune. The environmental as well as economic challenges of today are multifaceted and complex. These challenges require that development not only boosts real growth, but it must also be in line with social inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and poverty eradication.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Understanding the importance of access to environmental information and public disclosure, Ministry of Environment therefore supports the STRIPE project and its findings. Therefore, I wish that these two days of regional deliberation would be able to highlight the findings of the STRIPE project and propose new actions to improve the current right of access to environmental information in the region. With great contribution and active involvement of participants from various agencies and countries, this regional meeting could provide a space for peer learning about issues faced by communities and activists in seeking access to environmental information through the use of freedom of information laws and promotion of proactive release of environmental information.

As we all live in the one and only Earth, efforts on improving public information disclosure require great cooperation among nations and stakeholders, especially within region. Hence, it is essential to share experiences and learning both by government national agencies and international organizations to develop strong regulatory mechanisms for the release of public environmental information in useful formats.

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, let me iterate my hope that this regional meeting will result not only on focusing on defining the concept of ensuring the right to information for people and the environment but importantly strengthening a regional cooperation and networking among all relevant stakeholders.

Again, I thank you and appreciate the organizer, resource persons and all participants for their commitment to the public information disclosure in the context of environmental management and sustainable development. May Allah the Almighty give us strength and his bless to fulfil the commitment.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarrakatuh.

Jakarta, April 2013

DR. Henri Bastaman, MES