

**INDONESIA-5 MAY 2006, CONFERENCE ROOM #2 PM
Sub Regional, Regional, and International Cooperation**

**STATEMENT BY
MR. DANA A. KARTAKUSUMA
ASSISTANT MINISTER, TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
Sub Regional, Regional, and International Cooperation
5 MAY 2006, 10.00 am - 01.00 pm, Conference Room 2**

Indonesia is an active member of the ASEAN in the Environment field. This year Indonesia is hosting the ASEAN Environment Year (AEY) to be launched on 18 May 2006 this month. All ASEAN Ministers on Environment and Ministers of Environment from China, Japan, and Korea are expected to join the official launch of the AEY at the Bogor Botanical Garden, host of rare and rich species of biodiversity of our country, as the AEY theme this year is "Biodiversity, Our Life Our Future". During the event, Ministers are going to plant trees from each country, representing the rich biodiversity of the region. Each tree planted by the honorable Ministers will represent thousand of trees planted by various major groups in other part of Indonesia, particularly at critical lands that covers the upper watershed of major rivers. The Java Island, the most populated island of Indonesia, host of more than 60% of the Indonesian population, has been hit by a number of landslides and erosions with incident of deaths.

The impact of global climate change in Indonesia has alarmed the country on the importance of conserving the upper watershed of river catchments areas. Critical lands at upper catchments areas badly need replantation and greening program. In this regards, Indonesia recently launched its "Green Indonesia" program, aiming at rehabilitation of upper catchments areas, which in turn, could prevent annual flooding and incident of landslides. The AEY just come at the right moment as almost all countries in the region are hit by the energy crisis. As not to conflict with the objectives of "food security", bioenergy will be developed mostly at these critical lands, helping the country

in alternative energy while at the same time contribute to the greening programme. Various partners and international and financing organizations as well as Honorable Ambassadors from other countries will be invited to the event, with possibility to expand partnership in the sub region.

It is also to be noted that the celebration of the AEY will also involve various parties, including civil societies as well as green private sectors who contribute in-kind in facilities for the event. A multistakeholder partnership among Government-civil society-private sector is therefore established as a good example in such activity.

It is therefore interesting to see that the sub regional cooperation becomes one of many ways to promote the public-private partnership, as well as an important mean in campaigning the implementation of sustainable development. In its turn, this subregional cooperation could eventually be readdressed at regional level such as at the Asia and the Pacific forum, in order to promote a wider cooperation with possible source of funding coming in.

Thank you.