

MINISTER OF HEALTH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

OPENING REMARKS AND OFFICIAL INAUGURATE

On THE SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
“THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH”,  
Jakarta, Indonesia. June 16<sup>th</sup> 2009

The Excellencies:

First Consoler, French Embassy

Mr. Roux

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Resource persons

Participants from South East Asia Region

Distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen.

*Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh*

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to this very important South East Asia Regional Workshop in Jakarta “The impact of Climate Change on Health”.

This workshop, as we know it is related to next commitment of the South East Asia Regional Country from WHA resolution that is to assess progress regarding the level of climate change implications awareness into national health

policies, raise health implications of climate change awareness, support the development of national policies taking into account this dimension and discussion the modalities of developing a regional road map.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the ages, human societies have altered local ecosystems and have modified regional climates.

Based on the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, climate change currently contributes to the global burden of disease and premature deaths. Human beings are exposed to climate change through changing weather patterns (temperature, precipitation, sea-level rise and more frequent extreme events) and indirectly through changes in water, air and food quality and changes in ecosystems, agriculture, industry and settlements and the economy. At this early stage the effects are small but are projected to progressively increase in all countries and regions.

Adverse health impacts will be greatest in low income countries. Those at greater risk in all country include the urban poor, the elderly and children, traditional societies, subsistence farmers, and costal populations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia government contribute on international issue and global commitment in Climate Change. As next steps from Bali Road Map which came from Conference of the Parties 13 regarding Climate change in Bali 2007, Indonesia has come to integration climate change issue in Indonesia National Plan. On our policy we include a important message as main goal that is climate change proof and resilience to climate change issues.

Generally, the model of global climate variability in Indonesia will affect the increasing of temperatures with the increasing rate lower than sub-tropical territories. In the southern part of Indonesia occurred the decreases of rainfall

while at the northern part rainfalls increased. Based on researches that held in some locations, the increasing of the sea level was identified reached until 8 mm every year (Bakorsurtanal, 2002). If Indonesia does not response by reducing the green house gasses emission, in 2070 the sea level will rise until 60 cm.

Facts show, in 2008 climate change impacts in South East Asia is annually affected by climate extremes, particularly floods, droughts and tropical cyclones, while large areas of the region are highly prone to flooding and influenced by monsoons. Such climatic impacts will severely threaten the livelihood of poor people living in rural areas with limited adaptive capacity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Adaptation is needed now in order to reduce current vulnerability to the climate change that has already occurred and additional adaptation is needed in order to address the health risks projected over the coming decades.

As a developing country, capacity of Indonesia for adaptation response for climate change is still needed to develop. The most vulnerable group affected is low-income community. That's why government responses for climate change should consider poverty reducing program. Beside triple track strategy, pro-poor, pro job, and pro-growth, we must put pro-health and pro-environment as the main concern in part of national strategy on climate change.

In general, the government of Indonesia has been developing a national policy. Ministry of Health has become member of National Council of Climate Change that focusing in adaptation for climate change with other related sector and institutional on anticipation of climate change and develop a roadmap of climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that everyone gathered here will consider the vulnerable risks related to climate change, and evaluate the existing health systems and policies in order to improve in building capacity for reducing risks and thus create healthy communities, healthy countries and a healthy world.

And once again, let me stress at this point that climate change impacts has occurred, therefore Department of Health together with other sectors must lead and work pro-active for adaptation and mitigation efforts and driven all development actors to apply healthy development policy.

Last but not least, allow me to thank for great cooperation between French Embassy, WHO, MOH Indonesia and other South East Asia countries for this event.

And In the name of God Almighty, I officially opened this regional workshop and I wish all of us a productive, interactive and meaningful meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.

*Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh*