

**CLOSING REMARKS  
BY SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE MINISTRY OF FORESTRY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
AT THE ASIA FOREST PARTNERSHIP  
DIALOGUE ON REDD AND COMBATING ILLEGAL LOGGING  
BALI, 29 MAY 2009**

Distinguished AFP Partners,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish you a very good afternoon.

Let's thank God the Almighty for allowing us to come to the end of this AFP Dialogue on REDD and Combating Illegal Logging.

I am pleased to learn the successful proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFP Meeting, which comprise the Partners Forum last Wednesday, and the open forum which is this two day Dialogue. It is encouraging to see so many participants getting involved so lively and constructively in the plenary, sub-plenary, and working group sessions, discussing about 25 presentations.

As my minister hoped in his opening remarks, I think we can now leave this meeting and dialogue with broader and wiser perspectives, a basis to improve efforts towards development of the REDD mechanism and efforts to combat illegal logging. Indonesia joins the rest in this AFP event, in putting forward our views on issues under the meeting agenda, and being ready to listen to the views of others. Our views are not necessarily the same, but this AFP events present the opportunities for us to know, and if possible appreciate, each other's views. Hopefully that would promote synergy towards development of a workable REDD mechanism, and empowered endeavour to combat illegal logging.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In addition to those rich sessions, I believe the ample opportunities for us to be together in this venue, which was allowed by the breakfasts, lunches and a dinner reception, all provided in this hotel, would allow blossoms of communication, networking and cooperation among AFP partners and AFP participants. Such is indeed among the core functions of the AFP. That is also among the reasons why we chose the venue to be here in Nusa Dua, which is somewhat separate from the noise in Kuta Beach which could have distracted our focus on our business, to some extent. We do not want to be mean and prevent you from having fun, because for that purpose we have organized so that this meeting end on this Friday afternoon, so you can have a nice weekend in Bali, or maybe longer, without distraction of papers and meetings.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am also pleased to learn that the Steering Committee meeting held during this event has managed to elect our new Vice Chair of the AFP Steering Committee, which is Mr. Watanabe of Japan. I would like to congratulate Mr. Watanabe and the Government of Japan for the election, and for the commitment to continue Japan's long support to the AFP. I should also congratulate Mr. Zhongtian Zhang of China, for his promotion as Chair of the Steering Committee. I count on the wise and able leadership of the two gentlemen, to bring the AFP forward amidst this changing environment, towards the sustainability of the forests in Asia and the Pacific, and the improved livelihood of billions of people living therein and the surroundings. I should not fail to also thank our outgoing Chair of the Steering Committee, Dr. Henry Scheyvens of IGES, for his excellent leadership that has led us going in the right direction this past year.

I should also once again thank you all: participants, the Steering Committee, financial contributors, the Secretariat, the Ministry's organizing staff, the Government and people of Bali, the Melia Hotel management and staff, and everyone else that has helped made this event going successfully into its conclusion.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Now we come to the bitter part of this event, that is having to bid you all farewell. However you should be bringing home the CD containing all presentations during this Dialogue. Please do not put it away so carefully that you will never open it again. Treasure them, and also visit the AFP website, which now have its new appearance and utilities. I hope the CD and AFP website can serve as sources of ideas for future cooperation and networking with other AFP partners and participants.

With that hope, I would like to conclude my remarks. By thanking God the Almighty for his blessings for our successful proceedings these last three days, I declare the AFP 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Dialogue on REDD and Combating Illegal Logging, officially closed.

Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE MINISTRY OF FORESTRY  
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DR. BOEN M. PURNAMA