



# Apfp - SEApeat

ASEAN Peatland Forests Project - Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia

## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### **APFP LAUDS INDONESIA'S DECISION TO RATIFY HAZE TREATY**

**Petaling Jaya, 18 September 2014:** The ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) Senior Technical Advisor, Faizal Parish today congratulated the Indonesian parliament for voting to ratify the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

“On behalf of the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) we strongly congratulate Indonesia for ratifying the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP). This is an important milestone for the international effort to solve the problems of transboundary haze. Although Indonesia has been very active especially in recent years in addressing the haze and has supported the implementation of various aspects of implementation of the AATHP - this decision enables the full implementation of the Agreement.”

“One important future step will be the establishment of the proposed ASEAN Coordinating Centre (ACC) to coordinate work to address the haze. It is hoped that this will be based in Indonesia. Consideration of this has been postponed due to the delay in ratification.”

“One of the key measures to prevent the Haze is the Implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020 (APMS) as 90% of the transboundary haze is from burning of peatlands. Already much has been achieved under the APMS and Indonesia has also introduced a moratorium on new licenses for peatland development till 2015. The ratification will give impetus to extend this protection. The Indonesian Ministry of Environment, under the APFP, has undertaken a range of activities to work with local communities in fire prone peatlands to enhance capacity for fire prevention.”

“It is hoped that cooperation between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore will be enhanced to provide more support for peatland fire prevention and sustainable peatland management. In addition, engagement of the private sector from these three countries is important to promote sustainable peatland and plantation management as well as work with local communities and local authorities to prevent fires in areas around the existing plantations. An integrated development and management strategy is needed at landscape level.”

“We congratulate the outgoing government of President Susilo on its work to address sustainable peatland management and hope this will be continued by the incoming administration.”



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\*The ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and led by the ASEAN Secretariat, aims to demonstrate, implement and scale up sustainable management and rehabilitation of peatland forests while the SEApeat (Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in South East Asia) Project, funded by the European Union, seeks to reduce deforestation and degradation of peatland forests in Southeast Asia. The Global Environment Centre is the Regional Project Executing Agency for both Projects.

Projects funded by:

