



OPENING SPEECH

By

Rachmat Witoelar

Executive Chair of the National Council on Climate Change

The Republic of Indonesia

delivered on the opening ceremony of

The IPCC 31st Plenary Session

Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, 26th October 2009

Honorable Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of IPCC,

Honorable representative of UNEP and WMO

Honorable IPCC Bureau members

Distinguished Guests and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest welcome, to all distinguished participants who have come to Bali for the IPCC 31st plenary session. It is a great honor for me to take part in the opening of this event that gathers climate scientists and experts from all over the world.

Secondly, I would also like to express my highest appreciation to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** and the **Indonesian Agency of Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG)** for their efforts to ensure a successful meeting.

Distinguished Guests and participants,

We have learnt from the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC, that our climate has unequivocally or evidently changed and that such change could likely be irreversible. Societies can and have responded to climate change by adapting to its impacts and by reducing Green House Gases emissions (mitigation), thereby reducing the rate and magnitude of change.

As demonstrated in a few other global environmental challenges, the debates and progress to adapt and mitigate climate change is very much driven by the advancement of science, which is embodied in the IPCC and its highly reputable scientists.

We gather here in Bali to lay a strong foundation for the next IPCC assessment report, due in 2013 – 2014. As the last IPCC assessment report received overwhelming applause from all over the world and indeed has been awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, the current subsequent task will be much more difficult.

Societies of the world are now demanding stronger scientific assessment to pursue adaptation and mitigation measures at **local levels**, and of the higher degree of certainty that can be **measured** and also **tangible** or within their reach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Most of the developing countries are hit bad by the adverse impact of global warming and climate change because their science has just not been adequately developed. They are not sure how, to where and what to act because of their lack of capacity in producing their adaptation and mitigation measures due to lack of scientific basis. The stronger and faster they develop their state of the art science, the better they will cope with climate change issue.

Science will help developing countries strengthen developing countries' efforts to be parts of the climate change solutions. As an example, Indonesia is devising an energy mix policy including LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry) that will reduce its emissions by 26 percent by 2020 from BAU (Business As Usual). Indonesia also aims to change the status of its forests from that of a net emitter sector to a net sink sector by 2030.

As we deliberate new scientific findings and augment the rigor of climate change scientific approach into a mid-term future, the decision makers and climate negotiators of the world are

besieged with the target set by our leaders to achieve consensus on a deep cut emissions target in six weeks time.

To strengthen the link between scientific deliberations in the IPCC Meetings and the series of UNFCCC negotiation meetings, I would like to suggest that this august body produces several scientific briefs that include topics such as:

- Setting up the reference level of emissions for REDD
- Updates on scientific debates on carbon sinks, both for pristine and degraded forests, and on peat lands and oceans
- Elaboration on scenarios of different targets of stabilization of carbon concentrations in the atmosphere

In the end, it is our common but differentiated duty as the global community to save our own civilization and the only planet we call home. Hence, it is therefore imperative to reveal more local evidences from climate change processes, to enhance local wisdom of adaptation and mitigation measures and to foster knowledge exchanges.

Distinguished Guests and participants,

As the host of this distinguish gathering, we would like to convey our aspiration that during your five days deliberation, further alignment can be made between the on-going and future scientific assessments with the political direction that has been set by our Leaders and by the moral compass that have been set upon us by the, yet to be given birth, future generations.

I wish that you enjoy the hospitality of the Gods in the Island of Bali and its traditional heritage. During your stay please enjoy our traditional culture, custom, culinary and hospitality. It is our greatest hope that you bring back a sweet and memorable moment to your country and wish to come back again in the future.

Finally, I wish all of you an exciting series of discussions and scientifically rich outcomes, and I herewith **declare 31st IPCC plenary session officially opened.**

I thank you.

Denpasar, Bali 26th October 2009

Executive Chair of the National Council on Climate Change

Ir. Rachmat Witoelar