



April 20th, 2010

H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency President Yudhoyono,

We, the Governors of Aceh, East Kalimantan, Papua and West Kalimantan, would like to congratulate you for your ongoing commitment and leadership in the fight against climate change. We are determined to build upon your actions and ensure that concrete steps are taken on the ground to fulfill your vision. As such, we hope that Your Excellency will provide further support and endorsement of our efforts to address climate change at a sub-national level.

A letter addressed to Your Excellency, President Obama and President Lula da Silva in October 2009 outlines the significant work that is being undertaken at a sub-national level across Indonesia, the United States and Brazil to address climate change, especially through Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). These efforts are being coordinated through the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCS).

The GCS is the first effort at any level of governance to move into what might be called the "proof of concept" stage in the ongoing effort to bring REDD into Greenhouse Gas (GHG) compliance systems. It is one of the most robust efforts in the world today that is capable of designing a workable REDD framework that could meet the stringent requirements of GHG compliance markets and the practical realities of project implementation. In addition, the specific programs and projects currently being developed under the GCS framework are sufficiently advanced, scalable and professionally designed that they are worthy of being upheld as examples of what is possible in this sector.

Based on the collective experiences of the GCS work to-date, we believe that states, provinces, and other local governments around the world have a critical role to play in bringing forests into climate policy. Our efforts stand as positive



proof that multi-jurisdictional collaboration among states and provinces is vital to the effort to develop workable frameworks for REDD and other forest activities. Without deep and sustained engagement by sub-national governments, these efforts will not succeed. We urge you to work with other world leaders to include strong provisions for sub-national action on REDD and other forest activities in any international climate treaty and domestic legislation.

On the 18th - 20th of May 2010, we will be convening a meeting with our GCS partners in Aceh. Delegates from GCS member states and provinces in Indonesia, the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and Nigeria will attend, along with a growing network of stakeholders and other supporters. The meeting will focus specifically on advancing the GCS's efforts to build capacity for REDD, define the key elements of effective sub-national REDD programs, and develop recommendations for policymakers and regulatory authorities considering ways to integrate REDD and other forest carbon activities into emerging GHG compliance systems. We very much hope that Your Excellency will delegate someone from the Central Government to attend this meeting and contribute to this process.

President Obama's upcoming visit to Indonesia in June 2010 also provides a unique opportunity to continue advancing effective climate change policy. The United States is considering legislation that would constitute one of the largest and most important GHG compliance systems in the world, with strong provisions for REDD. We have an opportunity to show President Obama that Indonesia is capable of implementing effective REDD initiatives that can substantially reduce GHG emissions as part of a global effort. We request Your Excellency to facilitate an opportunity for us to meet with President Obama during his trip to Jakarta in June so that we may discuss with him the vital importance of REDD for any effort to solve climate change, and impress upon him the fact that REDD already has significant momentum, especially through the GCS process.

We look forward to further collaboration with Your Excellency in continuing to work towards the design and implementation of policies that make forests a successful part of the strategy for combating climate change.



Sincerely,

Irwandi Yusuf
Governor of Aceh

Barrabas Suebu
Governor of Papua

Rwang Saroek Ishak
Governor of East Kalimantan

Cornelis
Governor of West Kalimantan