



Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force

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The 5th Annual Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force Meeting Opens In Central Kalimantan with New Funding and Data Commitments to be Announced

Palangka Raya, 19 September 2011 – The Governor of Central Kalimantan will open the fifth Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) meeting promoting sub-national progress in economic development and environmental protection. Over 200 representatives are expected at the three day event including representatives from the 15 GCF states and provinces (representing 5 countries), international stakeholders and experts.

"The GCF 2011 meeting is an important signal to Palangka Raya, Indonesia and the world that progress in REDD+ is moving fastest at the Provincial and State level" said Governor Teras Narang from Central Kalimantan Province. *"The GCF plays a key role in helping Central Kalimantan and other GCF states and provinces further develop and coordinate activities between national and sub-national level REDD+ implementation and build on our existing commitments."*

"REDD+" refers to "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation" which accounts for over 20% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. GCF states represent more than 20% of the world's tropical forests (including approximately 75% of Brazil's and more than half of Indonesia's tropical forests) and many states developing progressive climate policies such as California.

Central Kalimantan Province has played a key leadership role in Indonesian REDD+ policy as seen by President Yudhoyono's selection of the Province in 2010 to serve as a "Pilot Province". This designation initiates funding and technical cooperation between the federal and provincial government to develop new REDD+ programs. An MOU outlining this cooperation was recently signed September 16th, 2011 by the President's REDD+ lead, Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, and Governor Teras Narang.

"Once again, GCF member States and Provinces are leading the world in developing robust and sustainable REDD+ programs", said William Boyd, GCF Senior Advisor. *"The new GCF Fund and Knowledge Database highlights this leadership and will help identify common needs and finance targeted activities to catalyze jurisdictional REDD+ implementation."*

The Central Kalimantan GCF meeting is being hosted at the Luwansa Hotel in Palangka Raya September 20-22 between 8:00am – 5:30 pm. This year's GCF meeting will have several announcements regarding the establishment of a new funding mechanism for GCF states and a new data sharing tool. The full meeting will also include discussions many of the world's top experts on issues such as social and environmental safeguards, financing, the alignment of state and provincial REDD+ programs with national policies, and legal frameworks. Briefings will also include information on the California/Acre/Chiapas REDD Offset Working Group (ROW) and Google Earth's new MRV initiatives. The meeting is open to all interested stakeholders.

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