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Press Release

New Report highlights the changing nature of EU-Indonesia Development Cooperation

Today (21/5), the Vice Minister of the National Development Planning Board (BAPPENAS), Dr Ir Lukita Dinarsyah Tuwo, and European Union (EU) Ambassador Julian Wilson jointly launched the annual report on EU-Indonesia development cooperation. The report shows that the EU and its Member States, together, provided more than € 300 million in development assistance to Indonesia in 2012. It emphasises the changing nature of development cooperation and the move towards dialogue and collaboration between equal partners within areas of common interest and concern.

The annual report, the so-called "Blue Book 2013", depicts EU support to Indonesia which amounted to over €300 million in 2012, disbursed in the areas of education (€115 million); economic cooperation, trade and investment (€32 million); environment and climate change (€38 million); good governance (€18 million); health, water and sanitation (€45 million); and disaster preparedness and conflict prevention (€6 million).

Focusing on the principle of equal partnership, the 2013 Blue Book sheds light on the ways in which the assistance has benefitted people and empowered them to contribute to the country's development and to become voices of change.

Next to partnership, change is the second main theme of the new report. Indonesia has had great success in reducing poverty, supported in part through strong economic growth and improved democratic processes.

"Today, Indonesia is an emerging economic and commercial power with sustained annual growth, which is expected to exceed 6 %. The country is a G20 member and a powerhouse in the region, a vibrant democracy, and a donor in its own right. The EU and Indonesia are strong partners and we are teaming up, finding solutions for today's global challenges." said Julian Wilson, EU Ambassador to Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN.

Ambassador Wilson continued: "It is self-evident that the nature of our development cooperation is changing to reflect this. Together with Indonesia, we aim to build a modern, outward-looking cooperation that is built on the principle of equal partnership and dialogue in areas such as climate change, transnational crime, global governance and regional security".

A key strategic element of EU cooperation policy is the effective use of development assistance. In order to improve its delivery of aid, the EU adopted a new development cooperation policy, the 'Agenda for Change', in 2012. The new agenda, which will go live next year, sets out how the EU will focus its aid to help where it is most needed, and where it can make as great an impact as possible.

The EU and its 27 Member States have a long-standing tradition in promoting development, and despite economic challenges and budgetary constraints, together they remain the world's biggest donor, providing €53.5 billion in 2011, more than half of all global development funding.

During today's launch representatives of the Indonesian government, civil society and the international community gathered to discuss the status quo and future prospects of EU-Indonesia cooperation. The spotlight was on environment and climate change, with the discussion focusing on ways to strengthen development cooperation in this area.

The report is available online at: <http://bit.ly/eubluebook>

The European Union (EU) is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 European countries. It has delivered half a century of peace, stability and prosperity, helped raise living standards, launched a single European currency, and is progressively building a single Europe-wide market in which people, goods, services and capital move freely among its Member States.

In Indonesia, the EU has found a dynamic equal partner who shares its core values of democracy, diversity and development. As large economies, the EU and Indonesia have much to gain from ever more intensive cooperation. Today, the EU and Indonesia work together in education, environment and climate change, emergency response, justice, trade and investment.

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