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The 4<sup>th</sup> Indonesia-Japan Forest Talks (IJFT-4)**

**“REHABILITATING AND RESTORING DEGRADED PEATLANDS TO SUPPORT THE  
ACHIEVEMENT OF INDONESIA FOLU NET SINK 2030”**

**Hokkaido & Tokyo, 8 November 2023**

Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030 is a policy guiding Indonesia's efforts in achieving a condition where CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in the forestry and land use sector is equal to or higher than its emission level. The FOLU Net Sink 2030 is part of Indonesia's Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050 (LTS-LCCR), where Indonesian Government has set up a set of strategic measures to reduce around 140 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030 from the FOLU sector that have been successfully prepared and now started to be implemented on the ground.

According to the operational plan of Indonesia's FOLU Net Sink 2030, it is depicted that the policy will be carried out by implementing several strategies, namely: (1) reducing deforestation and forest degradation in both mineral land and peat land; (2) development of forest plantation; (3) sustainable forest management; (4) forest rehabilitation; (5) peat restoration; (6) improvement of the peat water governance; and (7) biodiversity conservation. A national program that covers almost all strategies above is social forestry, a program that is carried out to realize forest sustainability, community welfare, and environmental and socio-cultural balance.

Within the framework of Indonesia's FOLU Net Sink 2030, **peat-areas-related-strategies** are mentioned a couple of times. Peat areas, due to its physical and chemical processes, are having slow rate of decomposition process and saving a great number of carbons. Mismanagement or inappropriate treatment will emit huge number of carbon emission. Many studies shows that the carbon contained in the peat areas are unstable in the form of organic carbon so that once the land cover on the peat areas is clear-cut and drained, the carbon itself is easily decomposed and emitting the CO<sub>2</sub> that vulnerable to fire. The carbon emission may reach up to 13.101 t C per hectare/year or equal to 48.081 t CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare/year.

An example of carbon emission from peat areas can be found in the implementation of the Peat Areas Project in Central Kalimantan Island as known as the Project of One Million Hectare of Peat Areas (*Pengelolaan Lahan Gambut/PLG*) for Indonesia's food reserves.

These areas have been emitting large number of carbon due to decomposition and repeated forest fires since its opening in the middle of 1990's. Furthermore, in an absence of effective management in the field and most areas remain open, although there are reforestation efforts by planting native species, the carbon emissions are still significant.

Since 2017 there have been various activities to restore the peat areas in Indonesia by stakeholders. The activities were related to the appropriate management of water level to maintain the peat quality. However, there are followed up questions refer to the implemented activities: (1) Were the activities good enough to restore the peat quality, especial in the ex PLG areas?; (2) Is there any involvement from other stakeholders and an updated knowledges in peat management, such as from CSO or private company to restore the peat quality?; and (3) Are they any lesson from other countries or regions regarding the peat management that can be learned?

Therefore, it is necessary to take appropriate and more effective actions to restore degraded peat areas and improve their qualities of ex PLG areas. It is expected that by restoring the ex PLG areas, the condition of peat could be restore and afterwards it will support the target of the emission reduction level of 31.89% unconditionally by 2030 as depicted in the Enhanced Indonesia Nationally Determined Contribution.

To discuss the role of Japanese government and society in supporting Indonesia's efforts to restore and rehabilitate peatlands, in the framework of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indonesia-Japan diplomatic ties, MIDORI Forestry Association in collaboration with the Japan Peatland Society and Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd., supported by the Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo, is organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> Indonesia-Japan Forest Talks (IJFT-4) on "Rehabilitating and Restoring Degraded Peatlands to Support the Achievement of Indonesia FOLU Net Sink 2030". The discussion will be held as a part of the visit of Vice Minister of Environment and Forestry in Japan.