



PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

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Ten years ago, the World Commission on Environment and development, which I had the honour to chair, met for the first time outside of UN headquarters here in Jakarta. The Commission had been generously invited by the President himself, who attended the Commission's opening meeting.

The Indonesian Minister of the Environment at the time Emil Salim, served as a distinguished member of our Commission. This year, he has served as Executive Chairman of the National Committee for the celebration of Indonesia's 50th Anniversary, and, no to forget, he serves in the life long capacity as a personal friend of mine. During this visit I have made the acquaintance of the present minister Mr. Sarwono Kusumaatmadja who so ably has succeeded Mr. Emil.

The World Commission held deliberative meetings here in Jakarta, we made site visits and held open, public hearing, tapping the knowledge and resources of Indonesia's non-governmental organizations, its most eminent scholars and its foremost scientific and technical institutes.

Indonesia seemed like a laboratory where the ideas of sustainable development could come to fruition. The Commission came to recognize the scope and depth of environmental concerns in this country. The challenges to this country seemed obvious.

- Indonesia was struggling to bring its people out of the trap of poverty.
- It faced population growth - Java for one being one of the most densely populated places on the planet.
- It has access to vast natural resources, mineral resources, oil resources, and a rich biological inheritance, making Indonesia a virtual Fort Knox of genetic reserves.
- It was heading for rapid economic development and urbanization, and there by facing the challenge of how to avoid the many mistakes made in industrialized countries.

It is we in the West who have developed at the expense of the environment. By means of example, London still holds the record for the world's worst killer smog, a distinction achieved in 1952, but many cities in developing countries have been running close.

We in industrialized countries cannot and should not ask developing and middle-income countries to hold back on their quest for growth and prosperity. We cannot say, sorry, we filled up the waste-basket. There is no more room for you to develop. What we can say, and what we should say is: We have made experiences. Some of them cost us dearly, and we are stuck with the huge costs of cleaning up past mistakes.

But we offer our cooperation. Tap our bank of experience. Use our technology. Leap-frog past the most polluting stages of development. Prove that sustainable development is possible.

And we are in this together. The course of development which the populous countries of the Western Pacific, yes all of Asia takes, will have a decisive impact on life on earth.

Technological breakthroughs will be needed in a number of areas. We should also increasingly focus on knowledge as the ultimate resource and as an engine of growth and change.

Our bilateral environmental cooperation is a modest contribution in this respect. Our formal bilateral cooperation dates back to 1990 when Indonesia and Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

It might seem daring for a country like Norway to engage in how Indonesia, with its 195 million people, should reconcile its dual ambitions for development and for environmental excellence.

Here, Java, which provides only 7 per cent of the total land area, is home to 60 per cent of the population. The island may house as many as 130 million a generation from now of which as many as 75 million would be urban.

By the year 2030, Indonesias energy demand may increase 7-fold, Pressure on urban and agricultural areas wil continue. Much of Indonesias prosperity will ultimately depend on the careful husbanding of its fertile areaas and its coastal seas.

What does Norway have to offer? And what have we to gain? In spite of the differences between us, it is remarkable how well we fit together.

Both countries have responsibility for management of huge marine and coastal resources. We are both oil-producing countries and face the environmental problems associated with this industry.

But equally important - Norway stands to gain by cooperating with a country which will become a leading industrial nation in the time span of not much more than a generation.

In the past two years, our cooperation has included reforestation of grasslands, development of a national Wetland policy for Indonesia, integrated coastal and marine biodiversity management, and institutional cooperation.

The new Program will include management and pollution control programmes with focus on both the marine and terrestrial environment.

While Norway is a maritime nation, Indonesia has aptly been described as "a maritime continent" and as such needs to develop its own technology platform to manage its enormous oceans.

- It is estimated that Indonesia is harvesting only 40 per cent of its fish and seafood potential.

- Sea transportation, so important here, may become exceedingly more effective when sea-routes are mapped and surveilled properly, bringing down both the risks of ship-wrecks, pollution and insurance costs.

The Norwegian companies represented here today are the finest in the field of environmental technology. Some of them are active in energy production, and all of them are meeting the world's most stringent environmental requirements in their own home market.

One exiting project in a maritime continent like Indonesia is Blom Mapping Group's programme of developing a digital sea-mapping system in Indonesia.

Had today's digital nautical maps been in use in combination with positioning and autopilot systems, Exxon Valdez and a series of other major pollution incidents could have been completely avoided.

As it turned out, Exxon may have to pay indemnification and cleaning costs for the 45,000 tons of spilled oil equivalent to the price of 45,000 tons of silver.

Today, monitoring buoys are used to detect algae, and various types of chemical pollutants, and the information can be transmitted via satellite in time for preventive action to be taken. If aquaculture is to occupy the place many foresee in the food production of tomorrow, we are dependent on such technology for banks to take the financing risks and for insurance premiums to remain affordable.

Indonesia has realized this in time and has procured Norwegian state-of-the-art marine monitoring equipment which will allow it to leapfrog many stages in the development of its maritime economy.

This seminar exposes some of the best and most efficient technology in place in Norway. In 1985 the meeting of the Commission hammered out the concept of sustainable development. Now, we are back in Indonesia. Norwegian environmental management and technology is the very best of what we have to offer. We move from conceptualizing to implementation, step by step, demonstrating that the economy and the environment can both prosper from change and investment.

In addition the programmes and contracts signed yesterday and today, I am pleased to propose to Indonesia that it accepts an additional training programme, sharing with you Norwegian experience in the field of clean production. This programme will be financed by Norway, and will comprise 15 Indonesian companies.

I hope that this seminar will lead to more cooperation between us, to competence-building, to technology transfer - and that we thereby will make a contribution to a safer, more prosperous future.