

Opening Remarks
Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation
Ministry of Forestry
as CITES Management Authority of Indonesia
on the occasion of the Opening Session of the International
Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES
Bali, 8-10 Januray 2013

Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb,

Good morning,

Ms. Milena S Schmidt, CITES Secretariat

Mr. Johnson Steven, ITTO

Honorable delegates from the regions of Africa, Latin America, and Asia

Distinguished delegates and participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, let us praise our highest gratitude to God Almighty for his blessing so that we could gather here together in this very valuable meeting.

In this opportunity, I would like to inform you that Mr. Darori, the Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation sent his deepest apology to all participants for not being with us in this very special meeting, due to an urgent activity with the Ministry of Forestry and the

President of the Republic of Indonesia on the occasion of plantation activity through the trees adoption programme at the Gunung Gede National Park this morning. On behalf of the Director General, allow me to read his opening remarks.

Distinguished delegates and participants,

The International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES aims to share experiences in managing timber species included in the CITES appendices under the ITTO-CITES program. The meeting also gives us the opportunities to discuss ways to ensure that the utilization of timber species CITES-listed still consistent with their conservation and sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently 298 plant species are listed in the appendices I and approximately 28,679 plant species are included in appendix II, of which 200 species are categorized as timber species. However according to WCMC over the past 8 years, data shown that more than 9,577 species of plants are traded through the CITES mechanism. The data shows that most of traded species in CITES are plants not animals, actually.

Due to the large trade of plants especially timber species thus bearing in minds the importance of their role in the ecosystem, therefore we need to put our great attention properly to deal with the issues related with the plants species in order to support human life in the sustainable manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen

With the support of ITTO and CITES Secretariat, CITES Management Authority of Indonesia are proud to host the meeting, to facilitate discussion and sharing experiences in managing timber species that have been initiated under the ITTO-CITES program.

In principle, CITES is an international framework which aims to ensure that international trade in species of plants and animals are legal, traceable and sustainable, both ecologically and economically. Therefore, the meeting is designed to have better understanding on the methodology to trace and/or to prove the legal acquisition; developing non detriment finding (NDF), setting quotas and also developing artificial propagation (or widely known in tropical region as forest plantation). It is also important to understand the annotation of CITES listed as a tool on trade control.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As agreed, there are four species that will be discuss during our meeting here in Bali, namely *Gonystylus spp.* (Ramin-*Gonystylus bancanus*) for Asia region, *Prunus africana* and *Pericopsis elata* for Africa region, and Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) for the Latin American region.

Under ITTO-CITES Program, many activities have been conducted such as research, observation, workshops, focus group discussions either at the national as well as at the regional level. Those activities conducted to find a

method or a way for achieving sustainable management and to support the implementation of CITES for timber species. Therefore, the meeting that held here in Bali is expected to be an appropriate forum for those three regions on learning process between range-state or develop a collaboration to improve the management and implementation of the CITES.

Ladies and Gentlemen

May I now take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the CITES Secretariat, and ITTO for the support and I would like also to express our appreciation to resource persons / speakers who have been willing to share their experiences and all participants for attending this workshop.

I do hope that all the participants or representative of agencies or institutions could work together to find the fruitful result.

I look forward that you would come up with workable and fruitful measures for sustainable forest management in CITES. With this, I declare International meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES officially open. May God the Almighty always bestow His blessings and guidance on us.

Finally, Welcome to Indonesia, you are all in a wonderful place, Bali, and I hope you can enjoy it very much.

Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation

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