

The Launching of Memorandum of Understanding between The Nature Conservancy and Indonesia Ecolabelling Institute.

In line of promoting certification of forest resources, TNC has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia Ecolabelling Institute (Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia/LEI). The official MOU launching ceremony was held on Saturday, 8 March 2008 as one of the main session in the seminar event of Green Furniture of Indonesia which was conducted by LEI in cooperation with Indonesia's Association of Furniture Industries (ASMINDO) and supported by TNC. The seminar was part of series of activities in International Furniture and Craft Fair Indonesia (IFFINA) which was officially launched by the Vice President Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Yusuf Kalla on 7 March 2008.

The seminar was opened by the Minister of Forestry Republic of Indonesia, MS Kaban presenting his remarks on major issues in forestry in Indonesia including the increasing number of forest degradation and the importance of mainstreaming forest certification. The success of sustainable forest management will be examined by an indicator that has to be proved through certification body assessment. In the future eco-label certification is expected to be a mandatory instead of voluntary action. In order to support this the government is going to provide more incentives for industries that seriously implement and obtain certification of sustainable forest management. The Minister has also urged the industries and consumers to combat illegal logging and give rewards for the legal and certified wood.

Following the speech from the Ministry of Forestry, LEI and TNC launched the Memorandum of Understanding. LEI was represented by Mr. Taufiq Alimi, Executive Director and TNC was represented by Mr. Widodo Ramono, Director of Policy.

Exchanging MOU witnessed by the Ministry of Forestry Republic of Indonesia



Left to right: Ambar Tjahyono (ASMINDO Chairman), MS Kaban, Widodo Ramono, Taufiq Alimi



Left to right: Ben Jarvis, Widodo Ramono, Ambar Tjahyono MS Kaban, Taufiq Alimi, Mukhti Ihsan (ASMINDO)

LEI has been a strategic partner in achieving the sustainable forest management in Indonesia. LEI applies credible certification scheme of forest resources management. The collaboration between TNC and LEI is to promote mainstreaming standard legality of timber in Indonesia through cooperation with private sectors, academics, NGOs, local communities and government

The first sessions of the seminar delivered presentation from LEI regarding Ecolabelling Certification and Trade and ASMINDO regarding The Green Furniture of Indonesia. In this occasion Mr. Widodo Ramono addressed the message that once Kalimantan was known as the highest timber production. Through TNC's program of Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade – a

program which is funded by USAID RDM/A - , it is expected to promote responsible timber trade that will help Kalimantan regain its position as the strong hold of timber production area. Mr. Ramono has also mentioned about the needs of certification for timber production outside of forest concessions. The community has to get access in receiving certification out of their community production forest.

On the second session of seminar Mr. Ben Jarvis from TNC delivered presentation of Outlook for The Supply of Green Timber from Indonesia's Natural Tropical Forests. Other speakers are from International Finance Corporation (IFC) regarding Sustainable Wood Program and SENADA (a USAID funded project) addressing the Increasing of Competitiveness of Furniture Products Using Certifications.

Another activity in IFFINA is the Green Pavilion which promoted LEI and its partners' program in supporting Green Furniture. TNC also took participation in the Green Pavilion booth.