



INFORMATION

Indonesia Hosts the 11th High Officials' Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE)

The Indonesian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry hosted the 11th High Level Official Meeting (HLOM) of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum of Health and Environment (APRFHE) at Swissotel, Pantai Indah Kapuk, Jakarta on 22 – 23 November 2023.

APRFHE is a discussion forum on policies and interventions in the health and environmental fields, both at the national and regional levels, which consists of 34 countries including:

Australia	Macau	Philippines
Bhutan	Malaysia	Republic of Korea
Brunei Darussalam	Maldives	Samoa
Cambodia	Marshall Islands	Solomon Island
China	Micronesia	Sri Lanka
Cook Islands	Mongolia	Thailand
Fiji	Myanmar	Timor Leste
Guam	Nauru	Tuvalu
Indonesia	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Japan	Northern Mariana Islands	Vietnam
Kiribati	Palau	
Laos	Papua New Guinea	

APRFHE aims to improve health and the environment, in line with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Meanwhile, HLOM is a regular meeting every 18 months to discuss focal points for matters related to regional forums which are attended by Echelon I level and Ministerial Meetings. Indonesia has the honor of being the host country for APRFHE for the 2020-2024 period, in accordance with the agreement reached at the Ministerial Meeting in Manila, Philippines, in 2016.

The 11th HLOM APRFHE 2023 was attended by 125 delegates from 10 countries and 2 international organizations including the United Nations of Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) with the theme of *"The Role of Strategic Health and Environment on National Development to Achieve the SDGs"*.

The Deputy Minister of Health, Dante Saksono Harbuwono with the Director General of Pollution and Environmental Damage Control, Sigit Reliantoro, who represent the Minister of Environment and Forestry, officially opened the activities which were scheduled for two days from 22 November to 23 November 2023. The Technical Working Group (TWG) discussion was also held with the presence of the Deputy WHO Representative for Indonesia, Dr. Momoe Takeuchi, and Deputy Regional Director UNEP Asia Pacific, Marlene Nilsson.

The 11th HLOM discussed *APRFHE governance, financial issues and monitoring mechanisms, as well as relevant strategic and technical issues*. The delegates discussed the *issue of health problems caused by environmental factors and vice versa, as well as the development of inclusive and fair public policies as solutions*. In addition, the joining countries *agreed to strengthen APRFHE's role in the environmental and health sectors in the Asia Pacific region*.

In addition, the meeting also discussed the process for selecting the APRFHE chairman for the next period will be carried out at HLOM-12 in 2024. Indonesia proposes that the election of the chairman be voluntary with no restrictions on existing or new members. The chairmanship position of 5 years is also considered too long, and this will be reconsidered at the next ministerial level meeting.

References:

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