

**A Joint Press Release on the Cities Window Series organised by the Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) Program funded by the European Union (EU) - co-hosted by Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Banyumas Regency, and UNCDF in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and Global Cities Alliance on - “Transforming Cities – Planning, Structuring, and Financing Projects”
September 12th – 14th, Banyumas, Indonesia**

The three day City Window Series (CWS) organised by the Smart Green ASEAN Cities Program aims to convene public, private and development partners to share lessons on policy frameworks and concrete actions for sub national financing for cities in the ASEAN Region. SGAC is implemented in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and funded by the EU.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Indonesia and Banyumas City will co-host the City Windows Event as one of the ASEAN countries to benefit from the program. It will be co-hosted with United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and Global Cities Alliance (FMDV). It will be attended by about 120 participants. There will be 55 participants from the ASEAN Member states including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar Philippines Thailand, and Vietnam and about 65 Environmental Agency focal points from 31 cities/regencies in Indonesia, four private sector partners and three EU cities and Asian Development Bank (ADB) who will participate virtually.

The objective of the CWS is on sub national governments planning, structuring and financing of their different sectoral (waste, renewable energy and digital innovation) development initiatives to transform public service delivery in a sustained and effective way. Cities from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Italy, Netherlands and Bulgaria will share lessons on their respective smart cities development and catalytic financing of their smart green projects. The other ASEAN cities will learn how to develop their projects to be ready for investment from the program.

Mr. Thibaut Portevin, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Indonesia/ASEAN, believes that bringing together the experiences from the EU and ASEAN cities will be critical to knowledge exchange and partnership. He said “partnership between the ASEAN and EU is imperative, particularly when focussing on pressing issues of urban development and collective opportunity especially on sub national financing for sustainable development. The EU stands resolute to work with the ASEAN region on environment and climate change and looks forward to the innovative financing solutions from the program to further consolidate this partnership with the ASEAN region”.

As the Chair of the ASEAN, this second cities window series is important to leadership at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia who will also hold the Horizontal Learning session at the CWS and bring together environment focal points from 31 cities and regencies to highlight the challenges of environmental issues and demonstrate sustainable waste management solutions from Banyumas City. In this regard, Mr. Novrizal Tahar, Director of Waste Management of MoEF, stressed the importance of extending collaboration and cooperation with domestic and international

partners in advancing the Indonesia sustainable waste management and broader environmental agenda.

“Indonesia faces insurmountable challenges from the impacts of climate change because of its geographical location. We need to persevere in our efforts at the national, sub-national, regional, and global levels, and advocate to expand this partnership beyond the ASEAN and EU to mitigate this problem. Importantly, MoEF welcomes this opportunity to collaborate with the SGAC program and co-host this event to share with the ASEAN cities on waste management”, Mr. Novrizal said.

The CWS will partner with the EU cities on knowledge exchange and raising awareness on different smart green city initiatives from the EU (Italy, Netherlands, France). Moreover, It will bring onboard different private sector (PT. SME, PT BIJ, TM One) and financial institutions (European Investment Bank, Asian Development Bank) to provide information and lesson on public private partnerships and financial structures on collaborating with public institutions like the cities at the sub national levels on investment planning and structuring.

The Mayor of Banyumas, Achmad Husein, expressed how the transformation in Banyumas’s waste management is a continuous process that is impossible to take place without active participation of private sectors and communities. The mayor also believes that event like the CWS will help the city to learn from other cities across the region. “Banyumas has created a circular economy from waste management that is sustainable, with active participation of communities and private sector investment and we are proud to co-host and share our experiences, but we are also excited to learn from other cities across ASEAN,” Mr. Husein said.

In addition, the UNCDF’s Director of Local Transformative Finance, David Jackson, stressed that piloting city finance innovation requires necessary knowledge, skillsets, and visions from the cities and national government to establish an enabling environment. “SGAC aims to develop city financial modules for future scale-up by cities. The event provides an opportunity for cities to present and learn about smart green projects and their business plans, so that a pipeline can be developed for future financial support by SGAC” said Mr. Jackson.

Press Conference: 12 September 2023 @ 12:30 hrs, Venue: Baladewa Room, Java Heritage Hotel

Members:

- Dr. Novrizal Tahar, Director of Waste Management of Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)
- Achmad Husein, Mayor of Banyumas Regency
- Mr Fakri Karim, Senior Advisor, Smart Green ASEAN Cities Programme, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

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