



Welcoming Remarks

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Distinguished government officials from Indonesia and countries across Asia
Esteemed colleagues from international organizations,
Friends from the private sector, NGOs and academia,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are delighted to have you here today to participate in the 3rd annual Asia Low Emission Development Strategies Forum, to share your best practices and experiences. Thank you all for coming, particularly those who have travelled long distances to come to this event. This illustrates how important our forum is.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Nine years ago (2007) when Indonesia hosted the COP13, I was the President of the COP. We successfully adopted the Bali Road Map, which came up with a set of decisions that represented the various tracks that were seen as key to reaching a global climate deal. The Bali Roadmap includes the Bali Action Plan, which launched a new, comprehensive process to enable the full, effective, and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to, and beyond 2012.

Just six months after the Bali COP13, the Indonesia National Council on

Climate Change was established. I started to build the understanding of climate change to line Ministries, agencies, the private sector, academicians, scientists, NGOs, and other communities in Indonesia. At that time, only limited people understood and realized the negative impacts of climate change. Now, thanks to God the Almighty, significant changes are taking place in every corner of the country. There is now a growing awareness and understanding of what is happening and how people should respond and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Decision makers and scientists putting efforts to establish dedicated working teams, study centers, as well as to generate and extend their networks, build associations, and strengthen partnerships on climate change-related issues. The private sector, NGOs, and local communities are particularly working hard in trying to transfer and implement the policies and regulations into green growth practices at the operational level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As many of you are aware, Asia region continues to grow at a fast rate—faster than any other developing region. Comprising more than 4.2 billion people, or 60% of the world population, Asia is now the fastest growing economic region and the largest continental economy by GDP in the world. Moreover, Asia is the site of some of the world's longest economic booms, starting from the Japanese economic miracle of 1950-1990, the Miracle of the Han River during 1961-1996 in South Korea, and the economic boom of 1978-2013, particularly in China, India, Indonesia, and some other countries.

The fast economic growth in Asia has helped lift millions out of poverty, and contributed to rapid urbanization and industrialization, and rising consumption. This, and the population growth rate in this region, have put huge pressures on natural resources. Governments across this region must lead by establishing the frameworks and creating the conditions for a future in which business, government and civil society all work together to create what none of them could achieve alone. This includes striking the right balance between production, consumption, and environmental protection.

Fortunately, significant economic growth in many Asian countries is not the only objective. There are a growing number of examples throughout Asia demonstrating smart 'green' policies and investments. Green cities, efficient land use, renewable energy and energy efficiency are being put into practice by many of us. These, in turn, can make urban areas more economically competitive and socially inclusive, increase industrial and agricultural productivity, protect natural environments, and strengthen energy security.

The green economy and associated investments require transformation, which presents a huge opportunity for developing countries like Indonesia to achieve higher rate of economic growth while addressing important environmental issues, reducing poverty, and resolving other social challenges.

While economic progress is increasingly threatened by the risks of environmental degradation and rising resource scarcity, inequality, and the impacts of global climate change, I believe that low-carbon, green growth strategies address these challenges and, in fact, create opportunities to accelerate economic development and increase employment. Many emerging economies including Indonesia, China, India, Thailand, and others, have already started the transition toward this new development model. Our new government administrative is now being restructured, and I am sure, the issue of climate change remains as one of the top priorities in the agenda. Our key speaker today, Dr Endah Murniningtyas of the Ministry of Planning, will be speaking later to us on this issue.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I would like to welcome you all at this event.

Wishing you a fruitful meeting and discussions.

Thank you.