APP LAUNCHES COLLABORATIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE WITH WEST KALIMANTAN & SOUTH SUMATRA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Jakarta, 31 May 2016 – Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP) and the Belantara Foundation last week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Sumatra provincial government, as well as a declaration of commitment with the West Kalimantan provincial government, to support both provincial governments in sustainable landscape management to achieve green growth in their respective region. Both provinces are leaders in this space and have driven the push for integrating environmental protection and economic growth policy in Indonesia.

The agreement with the South Sumatra Provincial Government will run until 30 October 2018 and focuses on developing sustainable landscape management, with particular focus on forest fire prevention and protection of peatland. Both APP and Belantara Foundation also commit to be part of donor committee to fund landscape projects in South Sumatra, managed by the Partnership for Landscape Management (KELOLA) led by the Governor of South Sumatra and supported by Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

The MoU builds on a number of initiatives that APP and the Belantara Foundation have underway in South Sumatra, including an MOU with the Production Forest Management Unit – Unit IV Meranti in Musi Banyuasin District on Protected Forest Management through Community-based forest protection and restoration activities. The agreement was signed in April 2016 and will continue until April 2019, and covers 11,388 hectares of Meranti Sungai Merah protected forest.

The declaration with the West Kalimantan Provincial Government focuses on developing the province’s partnership program on commodity-based development. Launched by the Governor of West Kalimantan, this program aims to ensure that supply of commodity and natural resources is sustainable and beneficial to the livelihoods of local small-scale farmers.

APP and the Belantara Foundation are also active in West Kalimantan via a collaboration with IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative and three forestry companies - PT. Mayangkara Tanaman Industri, PT. Wana Subur Lestari, and PT. Mayawana Persada to promote sustainable landscape management in production forest in the Kubu-Ketapang landscape. Kemitraan Foundation, a local organisation, has been appointed to implement the program.

Aida Greenbury, Managing Director of Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement at APP said, “For there to be meaningful progress on Indonesia’s development agenda, we need strong conservation efforts and collaboration with all stakeholders, which is why APP has always encouraged multi-stakeholder collaboration to protect Indonesia’s forests and key species. We are committed to fully supporting the initiatives by the Provincial Governments of South Sumatra and West Kalimantan as part of wider efforts to support sustainable development in Indonesia.”
As a part of its Forest Conservation Policy, APP and its suppliers have implemented various forest protection initiatives, such as the implementation of Peatland Best Practice Management Plan in stages. As of April 2016, APP and its pulpwood suppliers have built more than 5,000 dams in the perimeter canals of the pulpwood supplier’s plantation area in four provinces in Indonesia.

APP also recognise the important role that local communities play in sustainable landscape management. As such, APP and its suppliers are implementing the Integrated Forestry & Farming System (IFFS) focusing on sustainable agroforestry with an aim to build capacity to improve community welfare and reduce dependency on forests. APP has committed USD$10 million to implement the programme in 500 villages in five provinces over the next five years.

For more information, please contact:
Renaldy T Salim
Head of Communications, Global Communications Unit
Asia Pulp & Paper
E: Renaldy_T_Salim@app.co.id
M: (62) 81311223659

Notes to Editor:

About Asia Pulp and Paper
Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP) is a trade name for a group of pulp and paper manufacturing companies. APP is responsible for delivering quality products to meet the growing global demand for tissue, packaging and paper. On any given day, our products find their way into the hands of consumers in various branded forms all over the world.

Maintaining the integrity of our supply chain is crucial to APP’s operations. APP launched its Sustainability Roadmap Vision 2020 in June 2012 and its Forest Conservation Policy in February 2013, to further improve its environmental performance, biodiversity conservation, and protection of community rights. Key objectives of this roadmap are to ensure that its pulpwood suppliers adopt High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) protection, peatland protection, and be 100% Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certified by 2020.

In April 2014, APP launched its commitment to support the protection and restoration of one million hectares of forest in Indonesia. In line with that commitment, by 2015 APP and its suppliers have allocated approximately 600,000 hectares for conservation within its suppliers’ concessions and for ecosystem restoration.
Learn more about APP’s path to operational excellence by reading our Sustainability Reports and Forest Conservation Policy on: [www.asiapulppaper.com](http://www.asiapulppaper.com)

**About the Belantara Foundation**
The Belantara Foundation has been formed by Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP) to secure and manage funding to support wide-ranging landscape scale conservation projects in Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia. It aims to help ensure a careful balance is found in the region between sustainable economic development, the livelihoods of people in local communities and environmental conservation. This involves overseeing natural forest restoration and endangered species protection, protecting endangered animals, and studies to strengthen sustainable landscape management, as well as engaging in community empowerment and local economic development, especially for those that rely heavily on natural resources.