



KEYNOTE AND OPENING ADDRESS

SECRETARY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INDONESIAN AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHOP

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN ASIA SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK: TOWARD STANDARDIZATION AND HARMONIZATION OF SOIL ANALYSIS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

Bogor, 20-25 November 2017

Assalaamu'alaikum Warahmatullaahi Wabarakaatuh,

Good morning and best wishes to all,

1. Dr. Lucrezia Caon, representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
2. Mr. Smith Thummachua, Counsellor at Thai ministry of Agriculture/Foreign affairs
3. Dr. Edmond Dounias, Representative of IRD for Indonesia and Timor Leste, and IRD focal point for ASEAN

Resources Person:

4. Mrs Nopmanee Suvannang, Technical Service Division, Land Development Department (LDD), Thailand
5. Dr Phil Moody, Soil Management Solutions, Nathan, Australia
6. Dr Christian Hartmann, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France
7. Delegations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippine, Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Japan and Indonesia
8. Echelon II and III officials of IAARD and our invited guests

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to Bogor, Indonesia. Thank you for FAO Representative, Sealnet Team, invited 32 participants from 19 countries and organizing committee of workshop on "Quality Improvement in Asian Soil Laboratory: towards standardization and harmonization of soil analysis and their interpretation".

Let me praise and thanks to God, the Almighty, who has bestowed His mercy and grace upon us, so that today we can meet here in good health.

As you may already have known, this first SEALNET workshop is conducted to improve connections between soil chemical laboratories in Asia such that we have a better standardized method of analysis and thus more communicable results under the umbrella of the Asian Soil Partnership (ASP) Program. With this partnership we hope that we can better exchange experience among laboratory managers and among soil scientists from various countries in Asia for harmonization of soil analysis methods, Quality Control (QC), Quality Assurance (QA), and data interpretation. Through this inter-laboratory collaboration, SEALNET members can follow the Proficiency Test at Australian Soil and Plant Analysis (ASPAC) which is an accredited international institution to certify soil chemistry laboratories in the world.

In an effort to integrate the SEALNET program with Asia Soil Partnership activities, there are several issues that need to be addressed. These include: (a) limited standardized soil test procedures, lack of harmonized soil analysis methods, lack of soil data interpretation guidelines, (b) facilities and equipment support facilities vary between soil laboratories so that comparing soil data is a challenge; (c) many laboratories may have not administered data quality control and quality assurance; (3) many laboratories have not established relationships with similar laboratories so that methods of analysis, equipment and data interpretation are based solely on their own practices and that the data can not be used regionally and globally. Therefore, networking with other soil laboratories and harmonization and standardization of methods of analysis and application of Quality Control and Quality Assurance test are necessary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD), which has the task of being a national agricultural research institute, has a mandate to develop superior agricultural innovation to support bio-industrial agriculture based on advanced technology and bioscience, and climate smart agricultural systems. Soil laboratories play a central role in our research and development. The result of soil analyses determines the direction of policy recommendation and farmers' practices. Recognizing the importance of laboratory lab, IAARD has developed reliable laboratories to support high quality research, so that the recommendation and data based truly answer the problems on the ground.

There have been many soil laboratories throughout the country, and they are mostly centered around research institutions and universities. Soil laboratory of the Indonesian Soil Research Institute (ISRI) is one of the oldest laboratories in Indonesia. This laboratory was initially established in 1905 and has evolved into the national reference laboratory. Indonesian Soil Research Institute's laboratory has continued to serve as a service lab for farmers and private

plantations and also support the research and development, not only for researchers in the Indonesian Soil Research Institutes, but also for several other research organizations.

Today, IAARD has 19 nationally accredited soil laboratories in accordance with the national standard SNI ISO / IEC 17025: 2008 with various soil chemical analysis testing capability. These soil laboratories are located at 7 Research Centers and 12 Assessment Institute of Agricultural Technology (AIAT). IAARD fully supports the activities of human resources improvement, equipment, facilities and infrastructure, accreditation, and application of laboratory information system. Through the Indonesian Soil Research Institute laboratory we periodically evaluate performance of other laboratories.

With the current status of our laboratory, we are available to exchange information and methods and we are happy to be a member of this SEALNET.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are happy to be the host of this meeting because we are aware of the importance of networking among ASP members. I understand that this Networking meeting will be conducted regularly through the coordination of Asian Soil Partnership Program of the FAO. We thank FAO for this leadership.

To the participants I would like to invite you all to make optimal use of this workshop such that in turn we will have improved soil management systems in this region that better address the soils' problems. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the instructors who will be sharing their knowledge and experience in this workshop.

Last but not least, I would also encourage you to look around the city of Bogor. Expect some rain in this rain city. There are several beautiful and culinary places that you can explore during your free time.

With that, I would like to declare the official opening of the workshop "Quality Improvement in Asia Soil Laboratory: Standardization and harmonization of soil analysis and their interpretation". I wish you all a fruitful workshop.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Bogor, 20 November 2017

Dr. Ir. M. Prama Yufdi, MSc

Secretary Director General of Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development