

First lab managers' meeting of the South-East Asia Laboratory NETwork (SEALNET 2.0)
Quality improvement in Asian soil laboratories: towards standardization and harmonization of
soil analyses and their interpretation
Opening of the meeting by Mr. Mark Smulders, FAO Representative for Indonesia and Timor-Leste
(Bogor, 20 November 2017)

Prof. Dr. Dedi Nursyamsi, Director of IICALRD

Dr. Muhammad Syakir, Director General of IAARD

Dr. Husnain, Director of ISRI

Mr. Smith Thummachua, Minister Counsellor (Agriculture), Office of Agricultural Affairs, Jakarta

Dr. Edmond Dounias, Representative of IRD for Indonesia and Timor Leste, and IRD focal point for ASEAN

Distinguished participants from 17 countries in Asia
Colleagues, fellow researchers

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the FAO Representative to Indonesia and Timor-Leste, Mr. Mark Smulders, allow me to thank the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development for co-organizing this meeting and for co-sponsoring it, as well. This reinforces our belief that the activities we are promoting in the region under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership are very timely and needed. Thank you!

Given FAO's mandate in food security and nutrition, sustainable soil management constitutes the basis for its achievement. Evidence-based decisions are requested for sustainable soil management. Harmonized soil data/information are the initial step towards sustainable soil management.

It is a pleasure for me to open the first meeting of the South-East Asia Laboratory NETwork, SEALNET. This network belongs to the Asian Soil Partnership's implementation plan for Pillar 5, which was endorsed by Asian member countries in December 2016. But it also links to GSP global priorities aiming to achieve that "appropriate methods and procedures used for analyzing the properties of soils are well defined and documented such that results from different analysis procedures can be translated and combined where necessary to provide globally consistent and harmonized data/information."

SEALNET is the Regional Soil Laboratory Network, RESOLAN, for Asia, and it falls under the umbrella of the GLOBal SOil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN), which was launched on 1 and 2 November 2017 at FAO HQ in Rome. GLOSOLAN will be the network that coordinates harmonization and standardization of soil analysis methodologies globally.

The goal of this network is to respond to the need for harmonizing soil analytical data in order to provide comparable information between countries and projects, and in order to allow the generation of new harmonized soil data sets.

To enable the sustainable management and protection of soil resources, it is crucial that soil data and information is gathered in a harmonized way in order to enable sharing and combining experiences.

Harmonization of methods, units and data and information is a crucial step when trying to work at national, regional and global levels. This is indeed in line to the implementation of the SDGs.

The objectives of this meeting are to (1) start defining calibration and harmonizing soil testing procedures and practices in reference laboratories in ASP countries, and (2) set up a regional inter-laboratory proficiency program to implement QA/QC procedures and processes

The agenda for this five days' workshop is packed and we would like to first learn from each participating country and then make some decisions for a work plan of SEALNET.

I wish you very fruitful deliberations and I hope that you will agree to the identification of forward-looking activities. The Secretariat is always available to support you on this.

Thank you – Terima Kasih!