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THE INDONESIAN NEWS AGENCY

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Indonesia Hosts Asia Europe Environment Forum Conference

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Jakarta, (ANTARA NEWS) - Indonesian Minister for the Environment Rachmat Witoelar officially opened the Asia Europe Environment Forum (AEEF) conference here on Wednesday saying he hoped the meeting would be a good start for developing cooperation between Asia and Europe in the field.

Around 250 participants from various countries in Asia and Europe such as Japan, France, Britain, South Korea, Palestine and China attended the conference that will last until Friday.

"This is a good start for developing Asia-Europe environment cooperation strategy so that each party is aware of its position or even aware that environmental destruction in Asia can also affect Europe," he said after opening the conference which was themed "1/3 of Our Planet: What Can Asia and Europe Do for Sustainable Development."

He said environmental degradation had become a problem for all countries and environmental destruction in one country would automatically affect other countries.

He said during the conference experts would exchange information and share experience with regard to formulating a strategy that could effectively influence production of policies with environment outlook in the countries concerned.

He said it was time for all countries to learn from mistakes and start cooperating on an equal footing.

"Everything is negotiable no matter how difficult it is and in view of that an opportunity to conduct cooperation and reach consensus is always open," he said. (*)

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