

Tingkatkan Kemitraan

Perkuat Asia-Eropa untuk Pembangunan Berkelanjutan

JAKARTA, KOMPAS — Tingkat kerusakan lingkungan di berbagai belahan dunia kian parah seiring dengan pesatnya perkembangan industri. Untuk mensinergikan kepentingan ekonomi dan pelestarian lingkungan, perlu ada kerja sama antarnegara di kawasan Asia dan Eropa dengan melibatkan semua pihak.

"Perubahan lingkungan yang sangat cepat menimbulkan isu global berkaitan dengan kerusakan lingkungan di satu negara yang berdampak pada negara-negara lain," kata Menteri Negara Lingkungan Hidup Rachmat Witoelar, dalam Konferensi Forum Lingkungan Asia-Eropa, Rabu (23/11), di Jakarta.

"Belajar dari kesalahan, konsep pembangunan berkelanjutan dapat diimplementasikan dengan lebih baik," ujarnya.

Kemitraan antarnegara maupun antarkawasan dapat mengembangkan akuntabilitas perusahaan, memfasilitasi dialog berbagai pihak yang berkepentingan, mengembangkan kapasitas pemimpin lokal dan memdayakan komunitas lokal mengelola sumber daya alam.

Semangat untuk saling meng-

membangunkan jaringan dan berbagi pengalaman mengenai kondisi lingkungan di negara mereka. "Ini juga peluang bagi masyarakat sipil Asia dan Eropa untuk mengeluarkan rekomendasi yang dapat memengaruhi kebijakan pemerintah," ujar Fort.

Perlu dialog

Pihaknya berharap ada dialog antara pemerintah dan masyarakat sipil maupun berbagai pihak yang berkepentingan untuk merumuskan kebijakan di sektor lingkungan, terutama mengenai energi, ilmu pengetahuan, dan teknologi. "Ini juga untuk memperkuat jaringan Asia-Eropa dalam melaksanakan pembangunan berkelanjutan, terutama di bidang bioteknologi, perubahan iklim dan Clean Development Mechanisme (CDM)," tambahnya.

Menurut Fort, penanggulangan masalah lingkungan seperti efek rumah kaca tidak akan sukses tanpa kekuatan kerja sama Asia dan Eropa.

Perwakilan dari berbagai negara di Asia dan Eropa dapat saling bertukar pengalaman mengenai teknologi ramah lingkungan maupun proyek investasi

dan program pembangunan, terutama pemanfaatan energi.

"Kami berharap ada kemitraan yang saling menguntungkan. Pihak pemerintah harus siap menerima masukan masyarakat dan pelaku bisnis mengenai pembangunan lingkungan," kata Fort.

Kepala International Cooperation European Environmental Agency Dr David Stanner menuturkan, pertemuan ini sangat penting artinya bagi masyarakat Eropa karena kondisi ekologis di kawasan itu sangat tergantung pada kondisi lingkungan di kawasan lain.

"Perlu ada kerja sama global dalam menggunakan sumber daya alam dan pemanfaatan lahan produktif. Apalagi tingkat konsumsi masyarakat Eropa terus meningkat," ujarnya.

Prof Sachihiko Harashina dari Tokyo Institute of Technology menambahkan, dengan kekayaan pengalaman negara-negara di Eropa dalam menanggulangi kerusakan lingkungan, diharapkan ada transfer teknologi kepada negara-negara di Asia. "Kerusakan lingkungan dipicu oleh pesatnya industri dan perubahan gaya hidup," tuturnya. (EVY)

Name of Media : Kompas Daily Newspaper, Indonesia

Date of Article : 24 November 2005

Author : -

Pages : 3 (1 pg original and 2 pgs translation by ASEF)

Notes : Article on Asia-Europe Environment Forum 2005

Enhance Partnership

Strengthen Asia-Europe for Sustainable Development

Jakarta, Kompas

The level of environmental damages in many parts of the world is worsening along with the rapid industrial development. In order to build a synergy between economic and environmental interest, multilateral cooperation is needed between the Asian and European regions, involving all related parties.

“Rapid environment changes have caused global issues related to the environmental deterioration in one country, which impacts others,” State Minister for the Environment of Indonesia, Rachmat Witoelar, said at the Asia-Europe Environment Forum, Wednesday (23/11) in Jakarta.

“Learning from past mistakes, the concept of sustainable development could be better implemented,” he said.

Partnerships between countries or regions would allow the expansion of corporate accountability, facilitate dialogues between related actors, develop local leaders’ ability, and utilise local communities in managing natural resources.

The spirit to respect and support the partnerships is crucial in this sustainable development mechanism. “All involved actors must have equal position, so that they will be able to negotiate matters related to environmental issue for the benefit of human beings,” he said.

According to Bertrand Fort – Director of Intellectual Exchange of **Asia-Europe Foundation** and the coordinator for Asia-Europe Environment Forum – there are some underlying reasons for the existence of this Forum. One reason is to allow discussions on main issues on environment and its impacts to the future of the world, specifically in Asia and Europe.

The gathering of at least 300 people from different background and who share similar concern on the sustainable development in Asia and Europe is expected to cultivate networking and experience-sharing on environmental issues in each country. “This is also a chance for people of Asia and Europe to come out with recommendations that may affects government’s policies,” he said.

Dialogue needed

Fort hoped that there would be dialogues between governments, communities, and other parties with interests in formulating policies in environment sector, especially concerning energy, science and technology. “This is also to strengthen the Asia-Europe network in implementing sustainable development, especially those related to biotechnology, climate changing, and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM),” he said further.

He added that works to eradicate environmental problems like greenhouse effect would not be successful without strong cooperation between Asia and Europe.

Representatives from many countries in Asia and Europe could exchange their experience on environmentally-friendly technology or investment projects and development programs mainly on energy utilisation.

“We hope there is a win-win partnership. Government has to be ready to accept inputs from the society and business players on environmental development,” Fort said.

Translation

Head of International Cooperation European Environmental Agency Dr David Stanner said this meeting is very important for the people of Europe, since its ecological condition is very dependent to that of other regions.

“Global cooperation in utilising natural resources and productive cultivation are needed, especially since the level of consumption of European communities is increasing,” he said.

Prof Sachihiko Harashima of Tokyo Institute of Technology added that with the huge experience of European countries in encountering environmental damages, there would hopefully be technology transfer to Asian countries. “Environmental damages are triggered by the rapid industrial development and lifestyle change,” he said. (EVY)