



## **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA STRESSES SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD IN INDONESIA DURING THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE IN BERLIN**



Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Anton Apriyantono, underlined Indonesia's attainment of self-sufficiency in food in 2008 and also its assistance given to fellow developing countries of Gambia, Tanzania, Timor Leste and the Western Pacific countries in enhancing their agricultural capacities. This was stated by the Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia during the 1<sup>st</sup> Berlin Summit of Agricultural Ministers on 17 January 2009.

The meeting was attended by 26 ministers of agriculture from Asia, Africa and Europe, and was held within the world agricultural fair, Green Week, in Berlin from 15 – 26 January 2009. The attending ministers acknowledged the necessity of taking joint measures to enhance global sustainability of food, including : capacity to increase food production, investment in agriculture, development of rural areas, research in agriculture, and appeal for involvement by donor countries.

During his visit in Berlin from 16 – 18 January 2009, the Minister also conducted a bilateral talk with the State Secretary of the German Ministry of Agriculture, Ursula Heinen, and met with German business representatives with stakes in palm oil to elaborate on the Indonesian policy concerning palm oil in view of the negative report concerning palm oil by European NGOs and the EU Directives on Renewable Energy in effect establishing the sustainable criteria for palm oil products. In the meeting, the German Government agreed to cooperate with Indonesia in the efforts to facilitate certificates for palm oil in the future.

The Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia also met with the Indonesian community at the aula of the Indonesian Embassy on 16 January 2009. During that meeting, the Minister explained some achievements of Indonesia so far, in particular the

attainment of food self-sufficiency amidst the global food crisis. The Minister urged the Indonesian community to be self-confident and trust in the ability of Indonesia to produce the best agricultural products and to actively help overcome global food problems.

The chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Berlin, Wajid Fauzi, stated that the attainment of food self-sufficiency by Indonesia will strengthen the diplomatic efforts of the country on a number of international stages. The attendance of the Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia at the Meeting of Agricultural Ministers in Berlin was timely to demonstrate the achievements and the role of Indonesia in the multilateral arena and to mend the distorted perceptions of the agricultural policy of Indonesia.

Berlin, 17 January 2009