



Royal Netherlands Embassy Jakarta

Press Release

For immediate release

Dutch Government Pledged €7.2 million New Grant for Sea Defence and Flood Protection for Aceh and Nias

JAKARTA, March 13, 2006 – An Arrangement for the development of a strategy for Sea Defence, Flood Protection, Refuges and Early Warning Strategy in Aceh and Nias (SDFP) worth EURO 7.2 million (Rp. 83 billion) was signed today by the Government of Netherlands and the Agency for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR) for Aceh and Nias, represented respectively by Dr. Nikolaos van Dam, Ambassador of the Netherlands for Indonesia, and by Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Director of BRR.

The request by BRR for the immediate provision Dutch expertise was inspired by the realization of the reconstruction agency that the lack of a sustainable coastal protection strategy would endanger the progress of the reconstruction, especially of the housing development. After due consultation, the Netherlands responded positively and has procured consultancy to provide the requested expertise. The Aceh - Nias Sea Defence and Flood Protection Consultancy will commence in March 2006 and last for two and half years.

Dr. Kuntoro stated, “Dutch expertise in the field of water management and coastal protection is the best in the world. We are delighted that the Dutch government is assisting us in this important part of protecting the Aceh and Nias populations.”

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Ambassador Nikolaos van Dam remarked, “The Dutch water sector is very committed to assist in the reconstruction of Aceh and Nias. Besides providing expertise on coastal protection, our experts are also supporting the rebuilding of the water supply in five areas in Aceh and reconstructing the Malahayati port. Proper water management and coastal protection are cornerstones of the Dutch society.”

The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from the Aceh and North Sumatra governments, as well as the Dutch consultancy firm, DHV, that will execute the program.

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