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PRESS RELEASE

Top national and local government representatives sign agreement to jointly organize Better Air Quality 2006

JAKARTA, 25 November 2005.

Rachmat Witoelar, Honorable State Minister of the Ministry of Environment; Sultan Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, Governor of the Yogyakarta Special Region represented by Paku Alam IX, Vice Governor of Yogyakarta; Herry Zudianto, Mayor of Yogyakarta City; and Cornie Huizenga, Head of the Secretariat of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) signed a memorandum of understanding today, 25 November 2005, at the Bida Kara Convention Center in Jakarta launching the **Better Air Quality 2006** workshop. The parties agreed to jointly organize the Better Air Quality 2006 workshop in Yogyakarta in 13-15 September 2006.

With over 800 participants BAQ 2006 workshop is expected to be the biggest regional event on air quality management in Asia in 2006. BAQ 2006 will bring together air quality policymakers, experts, and scientists from Asia and the rest of the world to explore new ways to prevent and reduce air pollution in their respective cities and countries. The workshop will focus on urban air pollution from mobile, stationary and area sources but will also discuss how transboundary air pollution affects air quality in the cities of Asia. BAQ 2006 will assess how climate change mitigation measures and urban air quality can be combined to increase the effectiveness of both approaches.

The importance of local efforts by cities and communities to prevent or control air pollution will be showcased in a "Best Practices in Air Quality Management" Exhibition, which will showcase success stories in air quality management in Asia.

Planning is also ongoing for the organization of the first Asian Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality in Asia. This governmental meeting, which is scheduled to be conducted in conjunction with BAQ 2006, will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Environment Program and CAI-Asia.

BAQ 2006 is a good opportunity for the Government of Indonesia, its provinces, and cities to disseminate information about its efforts to improve air quality and to share its successes in promoting sustainable urban transport through projects such as the Transjakarta busway in Jakarta. Many other cities in Jakarta are implementing air quality management projects. Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Surabaya, and several other cities are actively involved in a project of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which assists these cities in formulating a Strategy and Action Plan and an Investment Plan for improved air quality management.

Further information on BAQ 2006 can be found on the BAQ 2006 website, www.baq2006.org, which was also launched today.

For further information on BAQ 2006, please contact:

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