

RI 'should become' low-carbon economy

The UN Collaborative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) is committed to transforming Indonesia into a competitive low-carbon economy, a UN senior official says.

El-Mostafa Benlamlih, resident coordinator of the United Nations System in Indonesia, said Tuesday that UN-REDD was not only an initiative on how to tackle global warming and save the planet.

“Indonesia would not be able to compete in the future if it didn’t work in the low-carbon economy sector by either curbing greenhouse gases within its industry or increasing the carbon storage of its peatlands,” he told The Jakarta Post.

Indonesia, he said, should work a new environmentally friendly business and production process in the industrial sector, so it would have a better position in the global low-carbon economy in the future.

Indonesia has been chosen as a UN-REDD Pilot Country with eight other countries: Bolivia, Congo, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia.

The UN grants US\$5.6 million for its REDD program in Indonesia, of which US\$2.95 million is managed by the UN-REDD Programme Indonesia with the assistance of three UN agencies: FAO, UNEP and UNDP.

The UN-REDD Programme Indonesia is a collaborative initiative between the Forestry Ministry, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

It assists the implementation of REDD plus projects carried out by the Indonesian government.

The Central Sulawesi pilot was launched on Oct. 13, 2010 as the main pilot province of the UN-REDD Programme Indonesia. The province was chosen because it has a vast dry forest area with communities living either inside or outside the area.

Benlamlih said the global market had better linked to the environmentally friendly production process. “We have seen that more access to the global market is tightly linked to whether you are environmentally friendly or whether you are using sustainable production processes,” he said.

Global industrial players are currently facing more pressure on their forest-related sectors whether it is the oil palm industry or timber. **(ebf)**