Inception Meeting of the Project on Low-Carbon and Environmentally Sustainable City Planning in Surabaya, Indonesia

Background

Surabaya City, well-known for its successful solid waste management strategy with an active promotion of organic waste composting, has started new projects in the areas of energy and water treatment. However the city’s own activities still remain at an experimental level which require further up-scaling efforts to see tangible impacts, such as conducting studies on the demand and potential of energy saving in the city and implementation of demonstration projects.

Globally, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction is recognised an urgent issue and in response to that, the Government of Indonesia has pledged to reduce 26% of its GHG emissions by 2020 compared to the business-as-usual level in 2009, and in line with that, developed a National Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction (RAN-GRK), as well as a Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction (RAD-GRK) which provides guidance to local governments in their mitigation efforts.

The Government of Japan is assisting ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) activities through the establishment of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and sponsoring the High Level Seminar on ESC. Japan is planning further assistance through a project which will introduce advanced Japanese technologies to Asian countries with a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)\(^1\) or Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism (BOCM) approach which provides crediting opportunities for implementers of mitigation projects in a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) manner. Such action will also help Japan and its partners maximize co-benefits with local environmental improvement occurring alongside global climate change mitigation. There are plenty of opportunities to realize GHG reduction across local government services such as waste management, water supply, water treatment, transport and so on.

This project is one of several such projects to be implemented in Surabaya City, Indonesia, where the City Government’s commitment and capacity to develop a green and clean city is well recognised following a decade-long history of cooperation with Kitakyushu City, Japan\(^2\).

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\(^1\) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM): A carbon crediting mechanism proposed by the Government of Japan which facilitates carbon trade or offset between developed and developing countries through establishing a measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) system of the GHG emission reductions resulting from projects which use low-carbon technologies, products, systems, services and infrastructure from Japan.

\(^2\) The City of Surabaya, Indonesia and City of Kitakyushu, Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as Green Sister Cities in November 2012 to further enhance their environmental cooperation.
Objectives

The project aims to assist Surabaya in its efforts to transform into a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable city by targeting four sectors: energy management; transport and traffic management; solid waste management; and water and wastewater management. Through this, the project also aims to identify potential large-scale demonstration projects which can be implemented from 2014, as well as establishing a measurement, reporting and verifying (MRV) system for measuring the impact of GHG emissions reduction.

This inception meeting intends to raise understanding of the project by sharing the overview of the project framework and the planned activities for this year.