

## **Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on The Bapedal Regional Monitoring Capacity Development Project**

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### **Relevance**

As elaborated in the sixth five year development plan (94/95-98/99) and PROPENAS (2000-2004), one of most serious problems that challenge Indonesia today, especially due to the rapid growth of population and industrialization, is the increasing environmental pollution. Some efforts have been taken by the government in reducing of environmental pollution. The establishment of the Environmental Impact Management Agency (BAPEDAL) in 1990 is meant to implement an integrated effort in controlling environmental pollution throughout Indonesia. Therefore, overall objective of the project was in line with the goal set in the National Development Planning agenda

Despite several amendments made to the regulations regarding environment, litigation efforts often stumbles on obstacles and failures particularly when it comes to scientific verification. This is caused more by the incomplete and inaccurate laboratory analysis data which can be used as the basis for such verification when environmental problems require settlement in courts. Different perceptions among the governmental institutions in the case of Teluk Buyat, the province of North Sulawesi (which is not included in the target of this project), in which PT. Newmount Minahasa Raya is now declared as the suspect, is a sample of actual case.

The monetary crisis (1997) which was followed with the changes in governance all the way from 1998 until 2001 and the implementation of the decentralization policy in early 2001 has eventually borne heavier load to the central and regional government financially and technically in controlling environmental pollution. The source of this problem is more because of the insufficient laboratory facilities, and the lack of competent human resources to conduct monitoring activities.

Although its completion has been delayed for 35 months from its previous target, this project provided great contribution in the development and establishment of the basis for a nation-wide environmental monitoring system, which is based on regional approach. Development and improvement of 39 laboratory facilities for water quality and 26 laboratories for air quality monitoring in 14 provinces is a significant achievement of the project. In this context, the objectives and outputs of the project are very relevant to the efforts, strategy and policies for the quality improvement of environment in Indonesia.

### **Sustainability**

The most essential challenge to measure the achievement of a project or activity that require large-scale investment is how to make it sustainable, especially its financial (O&M) and human resource. As detailed in the Ex-post Evaluation of this project in which BAPEDAL which was continued by the Ministry of Environment, has prepared the transfer process of ownership and management of laboratory assets of this project to the BAPEDALDA (under the coordination of the provincial government), strong commitment of the central government is still required in the form of financial subsidy in the financing and development of management to certain level in which BAPEDALDA would be able to manage the facilities and implementing good governance as their priority.

In addition to this, as managerial improvement process usually takes considerable time and cost, therefore for efficiency, establishment and development of cooperation with higher educational institutions in each region become the key to the success of this regional capacity development program in monitoring and controlling environmental problems in their own areas.