



Turning Points and Towering Plans: The Project Convenes Its 1st Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting

Rooting Vision in Practice

On July 22, 2025, as Zoom screens lit up from Riau, South Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, Tokyo, and Hokkaido, and as participants gathered in person, something quietly consequential unfolded. It was more than a procedural meeting—it was the planting of a long-awaited seed.

The **LULUCF Project** convened its **first Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)** meeting, uniting **38 representatives** from the Ministry of Environment (MoE), JICA, BRIN, provincial governments, universities, and the Embassy of Japan. Behind the formal affiliations was a shared commitment: **translating Indonesia’s climate pledges into grounded, measurable action in the LULUCF sector.**

Setting the Tone: Remarks and Realignment

The meeting opened with a strong reaffirmation from Ir. Ary Sudijanto, Deputy for Climate Change Control and Chair of the JCC, who emphasized the project’s alignment with Indonesia’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He underscored the **urgent need to address critical gaps in MRV** (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) while **promoting green innovation** through collaborative partnerships with BRIN, relevant directorates, ministries, and regional environmental control centers. His closing note was one of gratitude for Japan’s enduring support, and a call for action that would resonate beyond 2027.

Speaking from Tokyo, JICA’s Co-Chair Ms. Akane Hanai echoed these priorities. With the construction of the flux tower underway and the AeroHydro Culture (AHC) program expanding, the Co-Chair stressed that **clear communication, mutual understanding, and collaboration** will be indispensable.



Remarks by Ms. Hanai



Landmarks in Motion

The **LULUCF Project** Team presented core technical updates that mark a turning point in the project’s trajectory:

- **AeroHydro Culture (AHC) experiments** are ongoing in **Riau** and will soon expand to **South Sumatra and Central Kalimantan**. The trials focus on enhancing plant-microbe synergy and groundwater retention in degraded peatlands.
- The **Flux Tower**, a key component of Indonesia’s **Tier 3 MRV system**, is slated for installation in **OKI Regency, South Sumatra**. Administrative approvals are currently in process.
- Collaboration with **BRIN** has begun to **model real-time data** from **Groundwater Level (GWL)** and **Net Ecosystem Exchange (NEE)**—enabling precise, continuous monitoring of peatland carbon dynamics.

Deliberations That Mattered

The discussion sessions were not merely academic—they were directional.

- Emphasized the importance of building pathways for **post-project sustainability** and encouraged **showcasing outcomes at COP30**.
- Raised essential strategic questions: Who will manage the flux tower after the project ends in 2027.
- Academic representatives reinforced **the urgency of institutionalizing results** and **ensuring long-term operational continuity**.

Decisions that Shape the Road Ahead

By the meeting’s conclusion, the Committee had reached three key agreements:

- Approval of the revised Project Design Matrix (PDM), now inclusive of additional provinces, revised indicators, and updated activities.
- Endorsement of the Monitoring Sheet, detailing activities through June 2025.
- Commitment to further dialogue on long-term flux tower management, particularly regarding its post-project custodianship.



The Soil Speaks, the System Listens

As the meeting drew to a close, Dr. Mitta Ratna Djuwita, Director of GHG Inventory and MRV, called for **financial preparedness** alongside institutional commitment and encouraged the replication of project activities in other peatland regions beyond the current target areas. She noted that discussions on flux tower site approval would continue with the goal of finalizing permits by year-end, and recommended that the Joint Coordination Committee meet regularly to ensure sustained progress.

Looking Ahead: Toward COP30 and Beyond

The JCC meeting did not conclude with formalities—it opened a runway.

With **COP30** on the horizon, the **LULUCF Project** positions itself not as a pilot, but as a prototype: a model for how **knowledge, ecological design, and multi-stakeholder cooperation can transform climate goals into operational realities**. This is not change designed in conference rooms—it is cultivated in the carbon-rich soils of Indonesia’s peatlands.



Group Photo of in-person participants