Wakatobi Regency held a kick-off meeting for the titled JICA Partnership Program project, to promote Community Based Sustainable Tourism (CBST), on May 29 (Mon) 2017 at Wanci, Wangi-Wangi Island. The Meeting was attended by Mr. Yudi Hermawan (Head of Sub-directorate of Natural Resources Development of Rural Development and Area 4*, Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration of Republic of Indonesia (Kemendesa)) and Mr. Akira Okuyama (Regional Development Policy Advisor for Sulawesi Region, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)) as the visiting guests, joining with Ms. Ilmiati Daud (Vice Regent of Wakatobi), Mr. Saediman (Head of BAPPEDA), Mr. Nadar (Head of Tourism Department (DISPAR)), Ms. Asako Yamamoto (Project Coordinator from Okinawa Environment Club (OEC)) and other related people including the Village Heads in the Patuno Raya Area. The delegates presented welcoming speeches in the morning, and visit Patuno Raya (target area) in Wangi-Wangi Island in the afternoon.

The 3 years Project will be implemented by BAPPEDA and OEC, facilitating promoting CBST in the target area, in cooperation with DISPAR, Department of Cooperative and Village Community Empowerment Agency. OEC is a non-profit organization (NPO) based in Naha, Okinawa, in the south part of Japan, where the climate and natural environment is quite similar with those in Wakatobi.

Located in the middle of Coral Triangle, renown with the diverse and rich corals and other marine lives, Wakatobi became a Marine National Park in 1997. It became a UNESCO world biosphere reserve area in 2012, and was listed as one of the 10 priority tourist destination by the government of Indonesia in 2016. Wakatobi has various Natural and Cultural attractions including Liya Fort, sea gypsy villages and many diving and snorkeling spots scattered in the 4 main islands. The Project was agreed and signed by Kemendesa and JICA in February 2017. Wakatobi was previously one of the field sites of JICA Sulawesi Capacity Development Project (CDP, 2007-2012).

* Kasubdit Pengembangan Sumber Daya Alam Kawasan Perdesaan Wilayah 4
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[Photo]

Group Photo on Kick-Off Meeting of JICA Partnership Program, entitled “Promotion of Community Based Sustainable Tourism Development in Wakatobi Regency, South-East Sulawesi”