

[Official Translation]

LEARNING FORUM

**IPLHI (INDONESIAN PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS
ASSOCIATION) ON SIDOARDJO MUD**

Jakarta, 21 September 2006

On Thursday 21st September 2006, IPLHI (Indonesian Professional Environmentalists Association) held a Seminar on "Learning Forum on Sidoardjo Mud". The meeting was held in Bumikarsa Hotel and attended by 60 people.

There were three speakers in the forum, namely:

1. State Minister of Environment, Ir. Rachmat Witoelar;
2. Dr. Ir. Rudi Rubini, former Chairman of Independent Investigation Team for Sidoardjo Mud;
3. Dr. Eddy Sunardi, Director of Education IPLHI (Indonesian Professional Environmentalists Association)

P.L. Coutrier, Chairman for Experts Council of IPLHI (Indonesian Professional Environmentalists Association) was acting as Moderator for the three speakers.

In his keynote speech, Ir Rahmat Witoelar, conveyed a number of important messages, including:

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- It was acknowledged and admitted that Sidoardjo Mud (LUSI) Issue has developed into environment impact problem that is very significant and extensive as the efforts to stop the mud overflow have yet to show any significant indicators of success in stopping the flows. Therefore, Ministry of Environment (KLH) proposed to the Government to take over the handling process of such case.

- Ministry of Environment (KLH) would propose a series of actions that are guided by the assumption that such mud overflow cannot be stopped. Therefore, various different important actions can be taken. The actions, if done in "business as usual" manner, are difficult to be accounted for. If it appears that in the future, Mitigation Technical Team for Sidoardjo Mud (LUSI) turns out to be successful and able to stop the mud overflow, then it can be regarded as "bonus". These significant actions include sending the local communities who are living in "critically about to drown" ("*rawan tenggelam*") to shelter places or refuge, channeling the mud water and mud to the ocean, and others.

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- It was also acknowledged and admitted that there is controversy among the people about these alternatives and therefore, Ministry of Environment (KLH) requested inputs or suggestions from IPLHI (Indonesian Professional Environmentalists Association) and the participants of the forum as to how to deal with and tackle the problems encountered. Hopefully, the inputs and suggestions can be collected or obtained within the next three years.

In the same opportunity mentioned above, there was also question-and-answer session between Mister Rachmat Witoelar and the participants.

The second speaker was Mr. Dr. Ir. Rudy Rubini, former Chairman of Independent Investigation Team for Sidoardjo Mud; who in principles expressed the following opinions:

- LUSI or Sidoardjo Mud overflow may still be stopped. Until today, the efforts experience and encounter many obstacles due to lack of facilities available as per the schedule; logistics obstacles and bureaucracy as well as the community perception which have hindered the implementation of time schedule of the mitigation

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of LUSI or Sidoardjo Mud. A lot of time has been wasted owing to such impediments.

- After the failing mitigation alternatives 1 and 2, then today mitigation alternative 3 is being carried out, namely applying Relief Well (RW). By constructing three RW simultaneously, Dr. Rudy is still optimistic that with these three relief wells, LUSI overflow still can be controlled. The problem is that we are racing with the time as the objective is to make the three relief wells fully operational before the rainy season.
- Other significant opinion given by Dr Rudy is that the mud is produced from the water originated from the depth of between 9290 ft and 8000 ft/6200 ft which later skids or washes away the soil/solid part existing at around 6100 ft to 1700 ft and subsequently, it comes out to the surface in form of mud. Geothermal expert group also thinks that the hot water comes from geothermal hot water layer.
- Anyhow, these expert groups support under ground blow out (UGBO) phenomenon that has taken place.
- Dr Rudy's Team is still optimistic that the overflow can be tackled as long as the government and the communities give their assistance for the smooth

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running of installation and operations of the Relief Wells.

Third Speaker was Dr. Eddy Naradi from IAGI (Indonesian Geologists Association). There are some significant questions namely:

- IAGI (Indonesian Geologists Association) Team has studied by applying geological and geophysics methods in evaluating seismic data, paleontology data, petrographic data, field data as well as reviewing previous reports, the following conclusions are drawn:
 - An eruption of mud volcano is currently taking place in the area. Certain hills or mounds have been formed as a result of mud extrusion.
 - Gas bubbles coming out simultaneously with the mud and salty water overflow show that there are fractures and faults being created. The age of the mud is not older than 4.9 million years which has been settled or sedimented in the ocean environment.
 - The team thinks that there have been mud volcano eruptions that have taken place several times in the vicinity of Sidoarjo, such as Purwodadi, Bangkalan, Sangiran, Karang Anyar, (1936) and today in Porong (2006).

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- The picture shows the correlation of various different locations that have the potency for the creation of other mud volcanoes.
- The experts gave their opinion that the mud overflow will continue to flow for indefinite period of time.

The developing discussion in the forum continued until after 18.00.

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