

KEBUN RAYA CHARTER
CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND CONSERVATION
Kebun Raya Bogor (Bogor Botanical Garden), December 18, 2002

- The worsened problem of environmental degradation and imbalance in Indonesia will likely to threaten the livelihood there. Although there has been six approaches used to tackle this problem: policy, institutional/law, political, management, social and market, the environmental degradation keeps increased. The degradation is due to changes in human activities that accentuate short-term material/economic gain approach.
- In order (to organize efforts) to (prevent) and mitigate the natural and environmental degradation also to increase the value of life in (this) world, so t Conference on Religion and Conservation was held by The Center of Biology Research-LIPI in Kebun Raya Bogor on December 18th, 2002. The conference was attended by approximately 80 people (from various backgrounds) such as: representatives of religious groups and their leaders, religious scholars, researchers and academia, and also representatives from various NGOs. They agreed on several ideas as follows:
 - 1) In this conference, all religions stated that (within each religion) there exist scriptural verses or teachings regarding caring for and safeguarding the environment.
 - 2) In the metaphysical dimension, a human is only a part of (larger) Life in the world, so efforts to take care of the environment should not be done through mere procedural or accidental endeavors, but needing principle efforts and consistently strong commitments on the part of individuals and the community.
 - 3) Conference attendants agreed to adapt the moral foundation of their own particular religion, so they can contextually apply it (when facing) practical (environmental) challenges and being actual/real in dealing with environmental degradation problems.
 - 4) Therefore the roles of the Ulemas or Religious leaders, Public and Cultural figures and scholars, are needed to actualize the positive values of religious teachings or the cultural wisdoms, in mitigating environmental degradations caused by short-term economic policy.
 - 5) The attendants agreed to work together (by promoting) inter-religious partnership in searching practical and actual activities that can be used as pilot project to realize the efforts of caring and safeguarding the ecological balance and sustainable livelihood.
 - 6) There is a need to do an Action Plan to enrich the activities that have been done or will be done by many religious communities such as Pesantrens, Churches, Sunday Schools, Banjars, etc; also, to document the concrete experiences which inspired by religious (values) of the environment.
 - 7) Promoting efforts to develop rational and adaptive system in solving urgent environmental problems.
 - 8) The attendants agreed to appoint LIPI as facilitator in realizing this Kebun Raya Charter. A more detailed formulation of this Kebun Raya Charter will be done by a working group based on the results of the Conference in Café De Daunan at Kebun Raya Bogor.

Bogor, December 18, 2002