



MEDIA RELEASE

PT RAPP SUCCESSFULLY SUPPRESSES FIRE THROUGH FIRE FREE VILLAGE PROGRAM OVER PAST FOUR YEARS

- *PT RAPP commemorates the fourth year of the implementation of the Free Fire Village Program and its success in suppressing fire and haze incidents*
- *PT RAPP continuously involves local communities to raise awareness of the dangers of fire and to create an environment free of fire and haze.*

Pangkalan Kerinci, July 26, 2018 - PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP) commemorated the fourth year of the implementation of the Fire Free Village Programme (FFVP) at a ceremony in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau Province, Sumatra, Indonesia.

The event was attended by Mr. Wan Thamrin Hasyim, Vice Governor of Riau, Inspector General Drs. Nandang MH, Chief of Provincial Police, Riau, and Mr. Rudi Fajar, Director, PT. Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper.

A number of achievements by FFVP, as one of the programs directly involving the community in an effort to prevent forest and land fires (*karhutla*), were highlighted at the event.

Initiated in 2014, the FFVP is a breakthrough program from PT RAPP to prevent fire by engaging and cultivating the awareness of people living in villages around the area of their concessions about the dangers and impacts of fire, in particular the risks of using slash-and-burn methods to open agricultural land.

“Since its implementation in 2014, through collaboration between all stakeholders, FFVP has successfully raised awareness of fire prevention among local communities. Besides supporting government programs, FFVP also has significantly reduced the number of hot spots in Riau and is evidence of PT RAPP’s concrete commitment to support the 2018 Asian Games,” said Sihol P. Aritonang, President Director, PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper.

During the last four years of FFVP’s implementation, PT RAPP has applied several approaches and collaborated with local stakeholders to effectively raise zero-fire awareness. Among other things, the company has provided agricultural assistance to villagers, including tree seedlings, facilities and infrastructure such as provision tractors, as well as educating them on alternative land clearing methods.

PT RAPP also cooperates with local religious leaders such as Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI), the Religious Communications Forum, and a number of NGOs and environmental-concerned civil communities, such as Laskar Alam Foundation, Kelompok Pecinta Lingkungan (KPL), and Perkumpulan Tapak.

As a result, FFVP continues to report progress, in terms of the number of participating villages in the program. In 2014, four villages are listed as participants. By 2015, the number of rural villages participating jumped to 18 villages. Meanwhile, in 2017 and 2018, the program was followed by 18

villages and 9 villages respectively. In total, 27 villages in five districts have been involved in this program since it was first initiated.

The success of other FFVPs is evident in the dramatically reduced number of fire incidents. By 2014, burned areas reached up to 0.18% of the total area covered. Meanwhile, in 2015, 2016, and 2017, the numbers fell to 0.01%, 0.07%, and 0.03% respectively.

On this occasion, Mr. Wan Thamrin Hasyim appreciated the effort of PT RAPP in suppressing the number of *karhutla* incidents in Riau and its impact on the local community. He also hoped that FFVP could be continued and inspire other companies to adopt such programs.

FFVP is evidence of PT RAPP's concrete commitment that *karhutla* can effectively be prevented if all elements are involved in its implementation. PT RAPP seeks to instill awareness of the dangers and impacts of fire in the local community which is a form of long-term investment in creating an environment free from *karhutla*.

About APRIL Group

APRIL Group is a leading producer of fibre, pulp and paper with manufacturing operations in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau Province, Indonesia. APRIL is a pioneer in the implementation of sustainability best practices in Indonesia's pulp and paper industry, including the elimination of deforestation from its supply chain. APRIL Group is working towards conserving, protecting and restoring one hectare of high value conservation forest for every hectare of renewable plantation concession. Today, APRIL Group conserves more than 250,000 hectares with a further 150,000 hectares undergoing ecosystem restoration. For more information, visit www.aprilasia.com and follow Twitter @aprilpulp.

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