

# Country Update Indonesia

April 2020

## Foreword

Dear Members of the Indonesia network,

We hereby present you with the first country update for Indonesia in 2020. In parallel with a state visit of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima to Indonesia, a 180-strong Dutch economic mission took place from 9-13 March 2020. In this edition, we would like to inform you about the highlights of the visit relating to the water sector, including developments on the MoU Water, seminars on urban resilience and coastal development in Jakarta and on river basin management in Surabaya, and the implications and potential opportunities for the Dutch water sector.

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## 1. Newcomers Regieteam

### New Delegated Representative Water – Dr. Rien A.C. Dam

As per 1 April 2020, Rien Dam assumed the position of Delegated Representative (DR) in Jakarta, succeeding Hans van Poppel who returned to Netherlands after a 3-year term as DR Indonesia.

Dr. Rien A.C. Dam

**Delegated Representative Water – Indonesia**

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Rien Dam (1961, The Netherlands) is an experienced international technical cooperation expert with a solid basis in water and environmental management, environmental geosciences and hydrogeology. He has over 30 years of experience in multiple countries in Asia and Africa working as a senior project expert on urban and regional water management issues, water technology, integrated water resources management and environmental protection. He has worked extensively with diverse (non) government organizations, knowledge sector (universities) and the private sector (consulting, technology-IT companies and start-up companies). As an independent thinker and actor (during the past 10 years and at this very moment), he is active in the centre of the Netherlands International Water Ambition (NIWA), motivated by challenges related to the transition from traditional ODA to more innovative, broader forms of cooperation involving government, private sector, knowledge institutes, NGO's and international partners. In this challenging new assignment he is looking forward to supporting the existing collaborations and seeking new alliances and added-value for the water sector in Indonesia. He will look to new business opportunities in Indonesia beyond Java, and in the water-food-energy-climate fields, as well as to water and maritime-related infrastructure and knowledge challenges.

Rien will be based in Jakarta as soon as travel restrictions allow and is looking forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, he can be contacted at [rien.dam@rvo.nl](mailto:rien.dam@rvo.nl) or Skype: rien.dam1

### New Project Manager Asia, Netherlands Water Partnership - Simone Sweerts

Simone Sweerts joined NWP in January 2020 as Project Manager Asia. She officially assumed the Indonesia dossier responsibility from Daniel van Dijk mid-March. Simone has spent the first 15 years of her career in the field of finance (across research and business development roles) both in Europe (London, Brussels) and Asia (Hong Kong, Shanghai). A number of years ago she took a conscious decision to step out of the finance sector. She first turned to the renewable energy sector with a short stint as international market developer at European Photovoltaic Industry Association in Brussels. This was followed by a move into international development, where as a freelancer, she worked between Brussels and East and West Africa on agriculture-related projects with foundations, aid agencies, consulting firms and research institutes. Simone can be reached at [s.sweerts@nwp.nl](mailto:s.sweerts@nwp.nl) or via Skype: simonesweerts



## 2. Corona virus impact

The Indonesian economy has not escaped the wrath of the novel corona virus. After initially downplaying the impact, Indonesia has now also introduced measures similar to those taken by the Netherlands to stem further spreading. Unfortunately this comes just at a time when the NCICD project was picking up steam again with a good dynamic between the two leading Ministries, PUPR and Bappenas, having also received the backing of the 2 main coordinating ministries. To read more on the latest developments also highlighted during the seminar in Jakarta, click [here](#)<sup>1</sup> (in Dutch). Netherlands in Business has carried out a cross-sectoral survey, including one for Indonesia with 55 Dutch and Indonesian respondents, to assess the impact of the pandemic on their businesses. The survey reveals that 85% of respondents have introduced remote working with significant implications on their operational efficiency, and over 1/3 pointed out the unlikelihood of re-opening their business before May. In addition to this, companies find current government business support policies ineffective and very difficult to comply with. For details of the survey, pls. click [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## 3. Outcomes of the Joint Steering Committee + Developments in the MoU Water Netherlands-Indonesia



On 9th March, prior to the official start of the State visit and Economic Mission to Indonesia, a Joint Steering Committee Meeting on the bilateral cooperation in the field of water was held. The meeting was chaired by Secretary-General of the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works, Anita Firmanti, and co-chaired by Secretary-General of the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Lidewijde Ongering. Both their kickoff speeches were future oriented, mentioning that Indonesia now is a middle-income country and the importance of shifting the framework of cooperation from aid to trade creating a partnership that is mutually beneficial. The meeting was attended by several stakeholding ministries and partners, all of whom participated in a constructive atmosphere. The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry did not participate as they expressed the wish to discontinue the cooperation under the MoU Water in their field of responsibility: the regulation and monitoring of water quality. The bilateral cooperation in this field has been transferred to the newly signed MoU on waste management, circular economy and water quality.

<sup>1</sup> <https://mail.nwp.nl/extranet/Indonesie/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mail.nwp.nl/extranet/Indonesie/>  
Global impact in urban deltas



Based on recommendations from the Working Groups, decisions were taken regarding ongoing projects under the existing MoU Water 2015-2020 (expiring in May 2020). One of the important outcomes, is that the Joint Steering Committee agreed upon the development of a cooperation between the East Java Province and the Netherlands on river basin management. Two projects have been approved aiming at (1) the development of an integral masterplan for the Welang river with a focus on future flood prevention and (2) a 'Healthy River' challenge for students, to engage young people in the issues of the Welang river and harness their creativity in developing solutions for clean rivers. Furthermore, an agreement was made on the framework, governance and proposed new projects during the transition period towards the new MoU Water 2020-2025.

A Letter of Intent was signed by Minister Basuki of the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works and Minister Van Nieuwenhuizen of the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement on 10th March agreeing to continue the cooperation on a more strategic level and to bridge the period between May 2020 and the signing of the new MoU, expected before the end of 2020. The focus of the new MoU aims at 4 areas: i) Resilient cities; ii) Integrated water management (including river basin management); iii) Smart water; and iv) Water governance.

#### 4. Economic Mission – Highlights from the Water sector

The Netherlands Economic Mission to Indonesia, which took place from 9-13 March in Jakarta and Surabaya, was attended by nearly 180 representatives of 112 Dutch businesses, organisations and knowledge institutions. Water was one of 4 focus sectors, and was split along 2 tracks: namely, Maritime and Integrated Coastal and Water Management as well as Waste Management, Circular Economy and Water Technology. NWP was contracted by RVO (The Netherlands Enterprise Agency) to develop the program content on behalf of the Water sector. Half day seminars were organised in both Jakarta and Surabaya with a focus on urban resilience and coastal development in Jakarta, and river basin management in Surabaya. In addition to this, 3 field visits (2 in Jakarta and 1 in Surabaya) were organized. In total c. 15 Dutch water partners actively contributed to the seminars and related field visits with an equally impressive and strategic line-up of key stakeholders from the Indonesian side, all of which resulted in dynamic and constructive discussions. An overview of the program can be found [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. Presentations can be requested through Simone Sweerts ([s.sweerts@nwp.nl](mailto:s.sweerts@nwp.nl)).

##### Jakarta



<sup>3</sup> <https://mail.nwp.nl/extranet/Indonesie/>  
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On 10 January in Jakarta, Deputy Minister Kennedy from BAPPENAS presented the challenges Indonesia faces in the areas of urban resilience and coastal protection and provided insights into its new 5 Year-Plan (RPJMN 2020-2024) and the potential cooperation and investment opportunities for the Dutch Water Sector. Among the plans of national strategic importance is the Pantura project, focused on the restoration of environmental degradation and socio-economic development in 5 urban areas along the North Coast of Java. Dutch partners including Witteveen & Bos, Wetlands International, Bureau Waardenburg, Royal HaskoningDHV, Drainblock, Deltares and Wageningen University shared their experiences of existing projects, including green-grey infrastructure solutions already being or that can be applied in the Indonesian context. The second half of the seminar was facilitated by Principal Advisor NCICD Koos Wieriks and zoomed in on NCICD project plans and potential areas of cooperation once the tripartite agreement expires in September this year. Presentations were made by senior officials from PUPR and DKI Jakarta and Netherlands consultants Rebel Group and Royal HaskoningDHV. Both PUPR and Bappenas clearly expressed not just the desire for but also the necessity of continued cooperation with the Dutch Water Sector going forward. An integrated approach and one with multiple solutions and inclusivity are key focal points for NCICD II. The seminar and ensuing networking lunch offered both sides an excellent opportunity to become better acquainted or forge new relationships.

The field visit the following day represented an opportune follow-on from the seminar, going into more depth on NCICD. Delegates visited the old harbour area Sunda Kelapa and Kampung Aquarium and saw first hand the extreme extent to which the city has been sinking as well as the opportunities this presents for coastal and urban development. The visit ended at Pelindo II with a focus on green port development. For the other field visit, delegates were taken to Multi Bintang Brewery (Heineken Group) and given an insight into industrial practises for water and waste water treatment, responsible water use by Alliance for Water Stewardship as well as a tour of the brewery. This was followed by a visit, together with Minister Kaag, to the Ocean Cleanup Interceptor in the framework of the top priority the government has given to finding solutions for surface water quality issues.

### Surabaya



On 12th March, a well-attended seminar was held in Surabaya on the topic River Basin Management. The first part of the discussion focused on river quality and waste water with presentations from Kepala Bappeda (East Java Regional Development Planning Agency), Jasa Tirta 1 and the East Java Province Environmental Agency from the Indonesian side and from RHDHV, WUR and The Water Agency on the Netherlands side. The session was closed with inspiring words from both Minister Cora van Nieuwenhuizen (I&W) and Vice Governor Dardak of East Java Province.

The Vice Governor cited urgent problems of not only flood control but also the question of how to ensure sufficient water resources during the dry season. Sedimentation is also an issue and there is an urgent need to invest in human resource development to keep abreast of the latest technologies. The Province of East Java has expressly requested the expertise and innovative solutions from the Netherlands for these challenges of river water quality, water retention and flood control, the latter which was the subject of the second part of the discussion (with a focus on the Welang river). Here Dutch partners including RHDHV, HZ University of Applied Sciences (Living Labs with ITS), IHE Delft, Wetlands International and Witteveen+Bos shared their experience in Indonesia and offered potential solutions in areas including Building with Nature, education, and wastewater treatment.

On 13th March, the last day of the Economic Mission, the Water group paid a visit to Jasa Tirta 1 (responsible for the management of the Brantas River and introduced during the seminar a day earlier) and SIER, an industrial complex in Surabaya looking at further expansion of its complexes and the introduction of a more circular approach to water and waste management. The Dutch delegation was received with exceptional warmth, generosity and professionalism. Importantly, the visits also provided a good visual representation of the types of challenges faced by and described during the seminar the day before as well as the opportunity to discuss possible areas of cooperation in more depth.

## 5. Events calendar

The last Indonesia Platform Meeting was held at RVO in October 2018. Depending on developments regarding Corona the intention is to organize a Platform Meeting in the fall this year.

**Indowater 2020 in Surabaya 27-29 August 2020 (NEW DATES):**



**Singapore International Water Week 2020 has been cancelled. The next SIWW will be 20-24 June 2021.**



**The UN Climate Summit in Glasgow was scheduled for 9-20 November 2020 and will be postponed until further notice.**



**The Climate Adaptation Summit of the Global Commission on Adaptation was scheduled for October 22nd 2020 and will be postponed until further notice.**





## **PARTNERS VOOR WATER**

*For more information or suggestions for the next Country Update Indonesia, pls. contact Simone Sweerts, Project Manager Asia: +32470105785, [s.sweerts@nwp.nl](mailto:s.sweerts@nwp.nl)*

*If you would like to share information and remain informed by other partners of the Indonesia Network, kindly register at the NWP Indonesia Platform LinkedIn page [here](#)<sup>4</sup>.*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4627834/>  
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