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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Supporting Reconstruction Process, Provincial Government and ILO hold Rural Infrastructure Clinic in Banda Aceh**

**BANDA ACEH (Joint Press Release):** To support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province, the Provincial Government of NAD in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) will hold a Rural Infrastructure Clinic, at Aula Dinas Prasarana Wilayah, Banda Aceh, from 10 – 12 September 2005. The Clinic is expected to be opened by the Acting Governor of NAD, Ir. H. Azwar Abubakar

The aim of the Clinic is to review how the experience gained by local government in other areas of Indonesia with rural infrastructure planning (using Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning approach), small-scale contracting and community contracts and rural infrastructure maintenance management (using Labour-based Technology approach) can be of use in NAD.

The materials to be presented are based on work carried out over the past five years in a partnership with the Centre for Rural Infrastructure Development at the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, a network of Universities around the country and the ILO. Similar clinics have already been conducted in, among others, Bandung, D.I. Yogyakarta, Denpasar, Mataram, Makassar and Padang, and it was felt that Aceh could also benefit from this approach, which aims to strengthen the capacity of local government, contractors and other actors involved with rural infrastructure.

“In the post-crisis context of Aceh, the development and rehabilitation of rural infrastructure is essential for employment creation, income generation and improved living conditions. As a major construction drive has just started, the Clinic will provide support to accelerate the reconstruction efforts in NAD,” said Alan Boulton, Country Director of the ILO in Indonesia.

The other aims of the Clinic are to provide and demonstrate practical techniques required in handling rural infrastructure development, starting from the bottom-up planning process, the preparation of contract documents, and the implementation of the infrastructure constructions; to demonstrate the conceptual basis and the implementation of LBT approach through field visits; and to initiate wider implementation in both NAD and Nias Island.

According to Roberto Akyuwen, coordinating the organisation of the Clinic on behalf of ILO, adopting a labour-intensive technology for rural infrastructure can generate jobs and income quickly while rebuilding basic infrastructure. “It is also an important bridge between those immediate needs and longer-term reconstruction and development, and has been implemented for more than 10 years in countries around the world.”

The Clinic will be attended by around 75 participants from the BRR, provincial and district governments of NAD and Nias, contractors and organisation involved in infrastructure development. It will be guided by a team of national rural infrastructure experts and staff from the Provincial Department of Public Works.