MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

PRESS STATEMENT

ASEAN AND DIALOGUE PARTNERS STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE COOPERATION

The 36th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (AOEN-36) held today, included a series of dialogues with regional partners:

- *19th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation*
- *5th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change*
- *ASEAN-European Union (EU) High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change*

These dialogues serve as strategic platforms to reinforce regional collaboration between ASEAN member states and dialogue partners in advancing a unified and effective approach to environmental and climate change issues.

The main issues highlighted during the discussion included the progress of the Strategic Program for ASEAN Environment and Climate (SPACE). This initiative was developed to address three critical environmental challenges in the ASEAN region: Climate Change, Pollution Control and Biodiversity Conservation.

The dialogue led to the identification of several programmes and initiatives aimed at supporting SPACE's implementation and promoting sustainable regional development. These include the Regional Knowledge Center for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) (ERIA) and the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (ACCSAP).

The meetings also focused on controlling marine litter pollution through cooperative programmes under Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

(RAP-MALI). This action plan entails the commitment and close collaboration among ASEAN nations to enhance integrated marine waste management initiatives regionally.

As part of efforts to reinforce regional collaboration towards a circular economy transition, the ASEAN Circular Economy Forum (ACEF) 2025 will be hosted in Malaysia in October 2025. This event is organized with the collaboration of the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), serving as a strategic platform to outline and coordinate approaches for transitioning to a circular economy through national policies and regional initiatives aligned with sustainable development goals.

Malaysia actively participated in today's discussions and expressed appreciation for the support provided by ASEAN's dialogue partners. Malaysia hopes this active collaboration will continue to foster capacity building, technical capabilities and information sharing platforms to address climate change, waste management, environmental education, sustainable urban development, plastic pollution and biodiversity conservation.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (NRES)
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