



## TNI's Environmental Defence at World Urban Forum 5 Rio de Janeiro (22 – 26 Maret 2010)



### Background

The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations through UN-Habitat, to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor's access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

The first session of unified World Urban Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002. Since, the forum has been held biannually in Barcelona, Vancouver, Nanjing, and recently in Rio de Janeiro, attended by around 6000 participants from a wide range of partners, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments.



It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities and develop sound environment for community settlement from the village to metropolitan cities.



## **TNI Introduces Environmental Defence at Rio WUF 5**

The Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI) feels privileged to have been given the chance to introduce its Environmental Defence program during the Rio World Urban Forum. The presentation took place on March 24, 2010 from 16:30 to 18:30 on a Special Session of South – South Cooperation “The Right to the City – Bridging Urban Divide”

It is also highlighted, the fact that Indonesia had initiated the South-South Cooperation by organizing the first Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung, West Java in 1955. While TNI, when launching the Environmental Defence for World Friendship on 17th October 2009 at Kota Baru Parahyangan by Lake Saguling, West Java, also prioritized the presence of ambassadors or representatives of the South-South Cooperation countries.

The South-South Cooperation, especially among developing countries such as Indonesia and those in Africa and South America, is expected to give added economic value and scrutinized the exploitation of natural resources for the sake of sustainable national development and prosperity of urban and rural communities activities aimed at protecting their surroundings and hinterlands.

During the dialogue, participants regarded TNI’s Environmental Defence activities as profound initiative they would like to find out more and apply in their respective countries in order to ensure that both rural and urban development programs adhere to environmental principles.

The participants also displayed genuine interest in TNI’s civic engagements which promote community devotion and social engagement in their environmental defence programs, fully realizing that urban development and infrastructure constructions are closely related to good discipline towards the nation’s environmental resilience.

The participants also displayed genuine interest in TNI’s civic engagements which promote community devotion and social engagement in their environmental defence programs, fully realizing that urban development and infrastructure constructions are closely related to good discipline towards the nation’s environmental resilience.

## **Relationship between USI and UN-Habitat**

The Urban Solution Institute (USI) is affiliate with UN-Habitat, initiator of the World Urban Forum. USI’s involvement in TNI’s Environmental Defence will of no doubt contributes support to UN-Habitat’s programs of helping underprivileged communities, especially those living along river banks or encroaching on green zones that threaten environmental conservation.

UN-Habitat plays active roles in rehabilitation and reconstruction of disaster-struck areas around the world, including Aceh in 2004, where UN-Habitat Director Anna Tibajuka, accompanied by USI founder Nico Barito, directly witnessed how TNI personnel played a vital role in post-tsunami reconstruction works.





## Future Plans

1. Ministers participating in the discussion proposed that TNI's Environmental Defence program be introduced to their respective military forces;
2. USI will consider to co-organize a world Environmental Defence forum based on the South-South Cooperation.



(From left to right) Nico Barito during a Breakfast Meeting organized by Coca Cola Brazil on March 23, 2010, together with Ugandan Minister for Local Government Adolf Mwesige, Minister of Tanzanian Minister for Land Housing and Human Settlements Development Tanzania John Chiligati, India's Minister of Urban Development Saugata Roy, Jamaican Minister for Water and Housing Clifford Warmington, and Brazil's Minister of Cities Marcio Fortes de Almeida.

## Notes

Chief Executive of USI, Nico Barito has co-hosted & co-sponsored following UN-Habitat international activities in Indonesia:

1. **Lake Toba Summit** (March 22 to 25, 2005) at Lake Toba, North Sumatra.  
*Inaugurated by President of The Republic of Indonesia, the summit brought together governors and sub-national leaders from around the world to discuss Sustainable Development, particularly cooperation among regional governments in rehabilitation and reconstruction of post-tsunami for Aceh and Nias;*
2. **World Habitat Day** (October 4, 2005) at Muara Angke, North Jakarta.  
*The World Habitat Day is UN-Habitat's annual activity and is organized at different cities – and different themes – around the world. The 2005 World Habitat Day was officiated by The President of The Republic of Indonesia and was followed by presentations by UN-Habitat Director Dr. Anna Tibajuka, and Nico Barito at the time Expert Council for Association of Provincial Governments of Indonesia, The Asean Secretary General, Minister of Public Works, People's Minister of Housing, and Jakarta Governor (who also served as chairman of the Association of Indonesia's Provincial Governments of Indonesia). The celebration was concluded with the presentation of UN-Habitat Schroll of Honor, UN's highest award for urban and residential developments, to recipients from around the world, including then Metropolitan of Jakarta received by Governor Sutiyoso.*