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Press Release

Joint Press Release

Jakarta and Berlin stand together in pandemic times

Today, 5 November 2020, Jakarta Provincial Government has received a donation of medical supplies from the State Government of Berlin, supporting healthcare professionals in Jakarta who stand in the frontline fighting the pandemic.

The coronavirus pandemic poses an enormous challenge for urban areas, transforming city life, digital infrastructure, disrupting global supply chains and intensifying mental health challenges. Especially the dialogue and an exchange of experience are one key to winning the fight against this virus and its rapid spread.

Both cities have been intensifying their exchange during the pandemic through the implementation of the EU funded project "Smart Change", to develop innovative solutions for urban sustainability by promoting economic growth and job creation in Jakarta. It is forging stronger ties between partners in Germany, Indonesia and Thailand, to boost the exchange of ideas between businesses, and to develop feasible Smart City solutions, especially for the post pandemic era.

Anies Baswedan, Governor of Jakarta, stated that "*Jakarta is grateful to accept medical supplies donation from the State Government of Berlin. This crisis has opened up*

opportunities for cities to learn from and help each other, strengthening partnerships and working hand-in-hand to beat a pandemic that spreads beyond borders.

Berlin is no stranger to Jakarta. This year mark our 26th year of sister-city partnership. This donation from the people of Berlin to Jakarta's frontline health workers will serve as another reminder of the strong bond between the two cities. Together we will beat this pandemic and will move forward to a brighter future”.

Michael Müller, Governing Major of Berlin stated that *“Berlin is engaged in a very active exchange with Jakarta, so of course it’s natural that we would want to help our partner city in these difficult pandemic times. Because of their high population density, cities are especially affected by the pandemic. This is yet another thing that Berlin has in common with its partner cities, and Berlin is responding to the current situation with initiatives like videoconferences that give the mayors of our partner cities the chance to exchange experiences. Solidarity is especially important right now, since we will get through this global crisis only by working together.”*

Thomas Graf, Chargé d’Affairs of the German Embassy says: *“These are difficult times for all of us – Germany as well as Indonesia, Berlin as well as Jakarta. By handing over masks and medical supply today, we are happy and proud to be able to support Governor Anies Baswedan and his team in their fight against the pandemic. It underlines how important it is for us, to stand together towards this global challenge.”*

Since the beginning of the partnership in 1994, Jakarta and Berlin have focused primarily on culture and sports. In 2016, the focus shifted to connecting their start-up ecosystems. Through the programme “Experts for municipal partnerships worldwide” by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), an integrated expert from Berlin was seconded to work at the Jakarta Provincial Government in 2019 to support the partnership. This joint activity initiated by both Jakarta and Berlin is supported by German development cooperation.

ABOUT SMART CHANGE

Smart Change “STRENGTHENING URBAN GOVERNANCE, PROSPERITY AND INNOVATION IN JAKARTA”, funded by the European Union, is implemented jointly by the Jakarta Provincial Government and the State Government of Berlin. It is promoting good governance and sustainable urban development in Jakarta following the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development through the sister city partnership between Jakarta and Berlin as well as supporting the triangular cooperation with Bangkok.
