

**DRRAA establishes MOU with BPPT of Indonesia, to develop alternative technology for mitigating drought and natural disasters, and suppressing forest fire and smog.**

The Department of Royal Rainmaking and Agricultural Aviation (DRRAA), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand and the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) of Indonesia signed the MOU on Weather Modification Technology, focusing on effectiveness enhancement of weather modification, to cope with socio-economic losses, caused by the climate variation, and ultimately bring the well-being to the people of both countries

On 17 March 2021, via virtual ceremony, Dr. Surasri Kidtimonton, DRRAA Director-General and Dr. Hammam Riza, BPPT Chairman, signed the MOU aiming at exchange of knowledge and experiences on weather modification as well as capacity building for implementing joint research with the validity of 3 years (17 March 2021– 16 March 2024).

Dr. Surasri Kidtimonton, DRRAA Director-General stated that the collaboration on weather modification between Thailand and Indonesia started in 1976 when Indonesia requested Thailand for Royal Rainmaking technology transfer, then sent scientists to join the Applied Atmospheric Resources Research Program in Thailand, and later on established the National Laboratory for Weather Modification Technology under BPPT. Later, there was an exchange of information and experiences on weather modification of both countries in the ASEAN Workshop on Weather Modification 2018 and ASEAN Training 2019 in Thailand. Meanwhile, DRRAA representatives also made a study visit to Indonesia to observe weather modification for rain enhancement to reservoirs, cultivated areas and peat swamp forests, as well as suppress forest fire and smoke which is same as DRRAA mission. Realizing the importance of weather modification with alternative technology that both sides have been developed to get the most effective approach and best

practices which could be applied for similar topography and climates to alleviate the major challenges of climate change in a long term, we agreed to establish cooperation MOU to deal with the impact of climate variation, in the year ahead.

Dr. Surasri Kidtimonton, concluded that the cooperation implementation conforms to the DRRAA 20-year weather modification operation plan in area of weather modification effectiveness enhancement by promoting both internal and international cooperation. This would result in weather modification knowledge development and best practices of technology to achieve the goals and utmost benefit to the nation.

Source : Department of Royal Rainmaking and Agricultural Aviation, 17 March 2021