

## **Riaupulp honored for poverty reduction effort**

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Despite the numerous allegations of illegal logging made against PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (Riaupulp) -- none ever proven -- the company continues to endeavor to gain certification and recognition for its sustainable development efforts from domestic and international organizations.

The latest bit of recognition for the company was an award for its poverty alleviation work. Riaupulp was honored by the Manila-based Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility for the integrated farming system the company introduced in Riau province in 1999.

Riaupulp's CSR director, Amru Mahalli (right in photo) , who received the award during the closing session of the sixth Asian Forum on CSR in Ho Chi Minh City on Friday evening, said the poverty alleviation program integrated farming, animal husbandry and fisheries, and had thus far reached more than 4,100 farming families in 103 villages.

"This is one of the community empowerment programs we have been implementing to realize the basic business philosophy of our founder, Sukanto Tanoto," Amru said after receiving the honor.

Of 14 firms in five categories, Riaupulp was the only Indonesian company to receive an award for excellence.

The honorees were selected by an international panel of 15 judges, including Ali Darwin, director of Indonesia's National Center for Sustainability Reporting, and Tjahjono Soerjodibroto, director of Indonesia's PPM Institute of Management.

At the fourth Asian Forum on CSR in Jakarta in 2005, Riaupulp received a similar award for outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

This June, the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development accepted Riaupulp, through its holding company Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings (APRIL), as one of its about 200 member countries from around the world.

Riaupulp is Indonesia's first and only company to be accepted by the sustainable development council.

The council only admits companies that show a strong commitment to the core principles of sustainable development.

It brings companies together with civil society organizations to promote, within their sphere of influence, the core values in the areas of human rights, labor standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

Earlier this year, Riaupulp was the first company to attain certification from the Indonesian Ecolabeling Institute for Sustainable Forest Plantation Management.

"By voluntarily joining these sustainable development organizations, we constantly put our operations under their scrutiny. Certainly, we will be expelled or lose our certification if we fail to honor their codes," Riaupulp president Rudy Fajar said.