



5 Local Government Indonesia Joins Global Partnership to Promote Open Government

Jakarta, Indonesia – Five Local Government in Indonesia has been selected to join the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP), an organization that brings together governments and civil society leaders to create more transparent, inclusive, and participatory government. They are Banggai Regency, Central Sulawesi Province; Brebes Regency, Central Java Province; Semarang City, Central Java Province; and joint West Nusa Tenggara Province – West Sumbawa Regency. As a new member of OGP, They will work with local civil society organizations and other OGP members to advance the open government agenda locally and transform the way the government serves its citizens.

The Secretariat of CSO – OGP Indonesia, welcomed the addition of the **five local governments in Indonesia** to the Partnership and hopes to learn from OGP members at the national and local level to advance the open government movement. **Head of the Secretariat of CSO – OGP Indonesia, Darwanto** said *"Welcome to join the Open Government Partnership. As a new member of OGP, They **were expected** to scale up their innovations in partnership with local stakeholders and incorporate lessons learned from other OGP members"*.

Sugeng Bahagio, Director of International NGO Forum on Indonesia Development (INFID) who is also a member of CSO-OGP Indonesia said that *"The Open Government Partnership (OGP) principles that promotes transparency, participation, accountability and inclusiveness are very relevant to the five local government development missions. They are committed to improving better quality of public services, effective and efficient government management"*.

The inclusion of local governments in the Local OGP initiative is expected to mark the start of an open government initiative as a national movement in which the government is transparent and opens the widest possible space for participation for the community. Thus, it is hoped that state management will become more accountable.

Ahmad Faisol from **Perkumpulan Media Lintas Komunitas (Medialink)** who is also **the Indonesian CSO-OGP Secretariat** noted the importance of civil society and government

collaboration to create reforms that respond to the needs of citizens in **the Local Governments in Indonesia** and that OGP offers the right platform to achieve this. **Medialink** believes that joining Local OGP will get the opportunity to apply unusual and ambitious ways to improve public services. A more open and more participatory government management will result to accountability in government. The citizens will increasingly trust in the services provided to them. They can complain directly or indirectly to the services obtained. The government will respond and continue to make improvements to public services.

OGP is welcoming 55 other new local members composed of 64 local governments from 32 countries to join [OGP Local](#). This expansion, the largest in OGP history, comes at a critical moment as cities and local communities are at the forefront of efforts to respond to COVID-19 while also facing strained budgets and climate insecurity. The 56 new members were selected out of a pool of [112 applications](#).

Members of OGP Local have been at the forefront of innovation, taking bold steps to address persistent challenges. For example, in [Buenos Aires, Argentina](#), government and civil society partnered to ensure marginalized communities have access to reproductive health and, in [Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana](#), citizens can digitally access information on applications for infrastructure projects empowering them to fight corruption and illegal construction activities. Following the success of the first 20 OGP local members, the OGP Steering Committee agreed to expand the cohort in 2020.

Assessed by OGP and chosen by a diverse Selection Committee composed members of the OGP Steering Committee, current OGP Local members and civil society representatives. Banggai Regency, Central Sulawesi Province; Brebes Regency, Central Java Province; Semarang City, Central Java Province; and joint West Nusa Tenggara Province – West Sumbawa Regency, was selected based on the assessment of criteria outlined in the [call for proposals](#), as well as other factors considered to ensure a regionally diverse group, with different types and size of entities, and unique strengths to complement the objectives of OGP Local.

OGP received more than 100 joint applications from governments and civil society organizations at the local level in 2020 expressing their interest in joining OGP Local. All applicants have been invited to join OGP Local's Community of Practice and contribute to develop OGP's knowledge base of local open government and participate in OGP peer exchange activities to scale up reforms at the national and local levels for all OGP members.