Waste Becomes a Common Problem

FUKUOKA, KOMPAS - Waste is a problem faced by all cities in the world. In addition to reducing waste, technology is needed to process it so that negative impacts on the environment become minimal. This was revealed in the 9th Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting which was held by Habitat United Nations (UN) in Fukuoka, Japan, Tuesday (11/27/2018). In the forum, present academics, practitioners, private sector, and policy makers from a number of cities in the world, including in Indonesia, Nepal, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

Waste problems are experienced by all cities in the world. In Fukuoka, garbage has become a problem since the 1970s. Open landfills that are not managed on a sustainable basis create air, soil or water pollution. One of the processing methods developed in the city of Fukuoka is to speed up decomposition by combining aerobic and anaerobic techniques. According to academics from the University of Fukuoka, Yasushi Matsufuji, the application of the "Fukuoka method" makes waste disposal sites useful for other purposes in the future, such as green open spaces or parks. The method has been adopted in Malaysia, Iran, Vietnam and Kenya. "The key to waste management is in human resources, besides the facilities," Matsufuji said.

In order for the process of decomposition of waste at the disposal site to be maximal, according to the Chief Recycling Based Society Planning Section of Fukuoka City Hiromi Hayashi, sorting waste must be done from the beginning or from the household. The movement to reduce waste, reuse items that can still be used, and recycle waste (3R) must be the basis of waste management. Waste sorting is done by community or location. Flammable waste, such as plastic, is taken to a burning facility owned by an institution such as a regional government-owned enterprise (BUMD).

In his presentation, Head of the Banjarmasin Infrastructure and Regional Development Planning Division Windiasti Kartika Abdurrahman said, Banjarmasin had banned the use of plastic bags at minimarkets since June 2016. The challenge of waste management is the still low public awareness and limited funding. The same thing was expressed by Deputy Head, Pollution Control and Cleansing Department, Yangon City Development Committee Saw, Win Maung. According to Maung, in order to speed up the waste management process in his country, technology transfer is needed.
Collaboration Needed to be Sustainable

FUKUOKA, KOMPAS - Cooperation is absolutely necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Not only between governments or institutions, collaboration needs to be established with the private sector. However, the needs of each country vary. This is the conclusion of the presentation and discussion of the second day of the 9th UN Habitat Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting on Wednesday (11/28/2018), in Fukuoka, Japan. The forum was attended by representatives from the private sector, local government, and UN Habitat officials.

According to Habitat Program Manager for Nepal Padma Joshi, the approach to implementing SDGs must be different compared to the global agreement on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The difference is that the private sector must be more involved.

In his presentation, CEO of SDGs Partners Inc. Kazuo Tase said, basically the private sector remained profit oriented. However, it does not mean that the efforts made by the private sector cannot accommodate SDGs. For example, many financial institutions are interested in funding programs that have wider social impact, not just programs. Thus the benefits of a business are felt by more people.

"The Sustainable Development Goals have 17 aspects that are related to each other. Actually, collaborating a policy from the government can affect other aspects," said Tase.

Tase gave an example, in Okinawa, Japan, the local government wanted to protect and expand the coral reefs in the sea. Then, the central government together with the private sector supported by focusing on developing tourism in the form of resorts. Residents who were originally fishermen could then depend on the tourism sector.

However, the need to apply every aspect of the SDGs varies from country to region. According to the Country Program Manager for Myanmar Bijay Karmacharya, although there are countries that have implemented it, on the other hand there are still many countries that have to struggle to fulfill their basic needs. In countries where there are still conflicts, for example, it is certainly difficult to fulfill that commitment.

The application of the SDGs is adjusted to the conditions of each country. Regional Office Director for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) –UN Habitat Atsushi Koresawa exemplifies Japan. Even though it is economically strong, Japan faces an aging population. Therefore, many policies are adjusted to deal with these trends.