

IPB - South Korea Officially Opens Microalgae Laboratory in Pelabuhan Ratu

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First Model of Raceway Pond in Indonesia

POSCO-RIST (Research Institute of Science and Technology) of South Korea in collaboration with IPB builds laboratory facilities and raceway ponds for a semi-mass production of microalgae biomass, Tuesday (27/8) at the Field Station of Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences of IPB (FPIK), Pelabuhanratu, Sukabumi, West Java. The laboratory facilities and raceway ponds will be used for research and educational activities.

The team leader, Dr. Ir. Mujizat Kawaroe, M.Sc., a microalgae and lecturer of Marine Science and Technology (ITK) IPB FPIK, said in the official opening of Algae Laboratory and Pilot Plant FPIK that this is the first model of raceway ponds in Indonesia. "This cooperation is very important for IPB because it is the first model of raceway pond in Indonesia," he said.

Dr Mujizat hopes the cooperation with South Korea by selecting a location in Pelabuhanratu with the hottest sunray after California will increase growth, oil content and productivity of microalgae.

Meanwhile, Dean of FPIK, Prof.Dr.Ir. Indra Jaya, after the inauguration said that the partnership is in line with the vision of IPB to be an international college. "We must intensify international cooperation, as it will trigger the development of science and technology. For FPIK this is one of the future commodities, particularly in the setting up of alternative energy needs," he said.

Dean said in addition to alternative energy, microalgae can also be used for food and feed supplements.

This lab was inaugurated by the Vice-Rector for Research and Cooperation, Prof. Dr.Ir. H.Anas M.Fauzi, MSc, and Vice President of Rist Posco, Korea, Dr. Hee Dong Chun, accompanied the team leader, and Dean of FPIK IPB. The lab will conduct some activities such as culturing, drying, weighing and extracting oil. (Mtd)