



WALIKOTA SEMARANG

Semarang, 25 September 2020

Number : B / 3730 / 193 / IX / 2020
Subject : Letter of Support on Local OGP

To whom it may concern: Local Open Government Partnership (Local OGP) Programme Team

Dear Sir / Madame,

On behalf of the Government and as the Mayor of the Semarang City, I would like to express of my willingness to join with the Local OGP programme. I am deeply honoured to receive information that Semarang City became one the cities selected to send a letter of support. I believe that transparency and public participation is one of key successes to encourage the development of a better future.

Semarang city with a population of 1.8 million and GDP in 2019 which is measured at the constant price of IDR 191,55 trillion or 14.1% of the total GDP of Central Java Province of Indonesia . This situation provides an opportunity as well as a challenge for the Semarang City to develop an inclusive development to create welfare for its citizens. Since the last 5 years, Semarang City has made a tremendous effort to ensure that we are open to our citizens. Our programme on planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation always considers civil society inputs and recommendations. Therefore, the Government of Semarang City received an award from the Ministry of National Planning Agency as the best of city-level development planning for two consecutive years, namely 2019 and 2020.

In order to achieve the openness and inclusiveness, we have been implementing reform measures to enhance transparency, accountability and citizen participation within our local government.

1. To develop a planning programme, we use a deliberated forum starting from sub-district level until the city level. And it's very inclusive from public or citizens participation. We also try to migrate the offline process into an online process, so that the citizens can monitor their aspirations through the website (http://semarangkota.go.id/p/470/musrenbang_kecamatan_semarang_tengah_). Especially with support from Pattiro Semarang, a CSO-based in Semarang City, the Government and citizens also develop a "Musrenbang Perempuan", a planning and budgeting forum based on women participation (<https://www.suamamerdeka.com/smcetak/baca/209790/kali-pertama-pra-musrenbang-perempuan>). In 2017 ago, the Government of Semarang City working with Pattiro Semarang and Transparency International Indonesia have been implemented the Local Integrity System, a co-creation platform among stakeholder to promoting integrity and preventing the fraud and corruption during development process.

2. On the other hand, we are aware that our citizens have a high expectation of open government processes. In the last five years we develop an online platform where citizens can send the report through online and social media. We develop *LaporHendi* (<http://laporhendi.semarangkota.go.id>) as a public complaint and reporting channel. To support the complaint channel, we also develop call center 112 to handle the emergency response.
3. Our government is committed to open government. On March 2019, in the context of implementing Open Government Week 2019, the Government of Semarang City in collaboration with Transparency International Indonesia (TII), PATTIRO Semarang, National Secretariat of Open Government Indonesia, HIVOS, carried out a series of activities with the theme "Learning the Implementation of Open Government in Semarang City". This activity was attended by several Ministries, Local Governments Agency, development partners, civil society and media.
4. Government of Semarang City was attended on various overseas Seminars on OGP theme. For example, Local Open Contracting Initiative in Ottawa, Canada on 2019. With INFID also attended on Human Rights Seminar in Gwangju, South Korea on 2019 as well.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, Semarang City declared a commitment in the form of a concrete action plan to strive for transparency, participation and accountability in various public service sectors. There is some initiative that can be related with OGP themes on Open Response and Open Recovery. The two initiatives are "Siaga Corona" and "Gulo Asem".

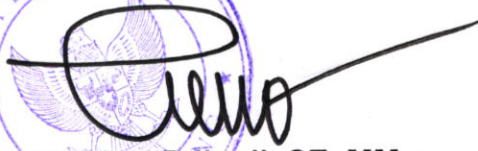
1. On March 19, 2020, the Government of Semarang City officially launched the corona alert website, www.siagacorona.semarangkota.go.id, in an effort to provide an overview and the latest information related to Covid-19. This corona alert website was launched to respond and can share various information related to medical and non-medical treatment on pandemic. This website also contains information on covid distribution data, the availability of referral hospitals or health facilities for Covid-19, to data on communities receiving social assistance. So that when citizens in Semarang City need information about Covid-19, they can refer to the website. In addition, this website also has and is connected to a public complaint channel that makes it easy for every public report related to Covid-19, both in the medical and non-medical sectors. So that the citizens do not easily believe the hoax news that has been rife in recent days, both through WhatsApp messages and via other social media.
2. In relation to open recovery, especially economic recovery, during a pandemic, it has changed citizens' consumption behavior and accelerated digital transformation in the Indonesian economy, including in the Semarang City. In economic recovery, the Government of Semarang City provides a platform as a forum for Small-scale and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), namely the "Gerai Usaha Mikro Lokal Online Asli Semarang (Gulo Asem)" - Semarang Originally Online Local Micro Business Outlet (<http://guloasem.semarangkota.go.id>). These policies and breakthroughs help the business ecosystem, especially SMEs, to marketing their products through the online platform digitally. "Gulo Asem" is a marketplace that connects producers from SMEs in Semarang City with their consumers. According to Alexa, this marketplace has been visited by at least 2500 visitors and with an average duration of 9 minutes per visitor. "Gulo Asem" is expected to be a digital bridge between SME producers and consumers and of course bring benefits in terms of economic benefits. So that investment stretches and economic growth can recover in the same pandemic. Through "Gulo Asem" is to create jobs, increase creativity through innovation, and increase income for SMEs.

The spirit of openness and inclusive community involvement is a commitment from the Government of Semarang City. Together with all civil society organizations such as Pattiro Semarang and Transparency International Indonesia, the Government of Semarang City is committed to continuing and developing the principles of open government. Because our main goal in joining OGP Local is to become a more prosperous, open and advanced community in Semarang. The Government of Semarang City was declared as a smart-city, as the front guard in providing public services, facilitates Semarang City residents to achieve these common goals. In ensuring that the program of openness and participation of the Government of Semarang City has actually involved the community directly in all government processes.

The Government of Semarang City is actively involved in the OGP effort in Indonesia. The Government of Semarang City is also together with our central government, The Government of Indonesia (GOI), in the same energy and spirit to promote transparency, accountability and citizen involvement through the development of joint action plans that directly respond to citizen's needs. By becoming part of the Local OGP, we hope we can share our good experiences and jointly build good practice in the global community, and at the same time, to learn from our colleagues and other development partners in the international open government space in the public sector reforms that will bring our government closer to our citizens.

At last but not least, I am very happy to be part of the Local OGP program. Therefore, I would like to express my deep gratitude for considering us to be part of Local OGP. If you have any questions or concerns about our application, please do not hesitate to contact our staff-in-charge from Regional Autonomy Section, Mrs. Dewi Sadtyaji at otda@semarangkota.go.id or otda.semarangkota@gmail.com. With respect, we also refer to our colleagues Widi Nugroho as the Director of Pattiro Semarang and Danang Widoyoko as the Secretary General of Transparency International Indonesia, who in this application are very helpful in the journey of open government in Semarang City. Finally, if you would like to know more about the city of Semarang, please visit our website, <http://www.semarangkota.go.id/>.

Yours Sincerely,



Hendrar Prihadi, SE, MM
Mayor of Semarang