
MoU ON ACCELERATED SUNDA STRAIT BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION SIGNED

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Lampung Governor Sjachroedin ZP and his Banten counterpart Ratu Atut Chosiyah signed a memorandum of understanding on accelerated construction of the Sunda Strait Bridge project. A similar MoU was already signed on December 7, 2004. The new MoU aimed at reaching a joint perception on the importance of the mega project, is effective for five years. The MoU is also aimed at seeking central government support to the realization of the project. The Sunda Strait Bridge would be the first bridge linking the two big islands in Indonesia. The MoU is also aimed at seeking local and foreign investor support to the mega project. Governor of Lampung Sjachroedin ZP has asked his Banten counterpart to have the project included in the programs of the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas). "Lampung and Banten are both serving as Sumatra's gate to Java, and the other way around, so that the project should be handled and built on a national basis," he said. The MoU was also signed by Lampung legislative council chairman Indra Karyadi and Banten council chairman Ady Suryadarma. In 1960, Prof Sedyatmo of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) proposed the construction of bridges linking Sumatra, Java and Bali. In 1965, ITB made an experimental design of such project over the Sunda Strait. In 1986, President Soeharto appointed the National Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) to conduct a study of the natural condition and the relevant technical development, while the public works ministry will study the socio-economic aspects of the project, especially demands regarding to traffic. In 1997, Prof Dr Wiratman conducted a preliminary study and made a recommendation that a long and extended bridge would be the best option compared to an underground or floating tunnel. In 2002, the Ministry of Settlements and Regional Infrastructure signed an MoU with the Chinese Ministry of Transportation on a specific technological study and geological investigation of the Sunda Strait Bridge project. Later, several studies and surveys were conducted by local and foreign experts, like those from Japan. On March 16, 2007, the Banten council conducted a working visit to Lampung for discussion on cooperation in building the Sunda Strait Bridge. And on May 11, 2007, the Lampung governor and Lampung council chairman visited to hold an exposition on the project and received support from the executive and legislative authorities of the two provinces.