

**Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategies (APEIS)
Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO)
Good Practices Inventory**

**Jaringan Pendidikan Lingkungan (JPL)—
“NGO Environmental Education Network in Indonesia”**

Summary of the Practice

Keywords: NGO, network

Strategy: Promoting environmental education by NGOs

Environmental areas: Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, Urban environment, Rural environment

Critical instruments: Partnerships

Country: Indonesia

Location: Nation-wide activity

Participants: NGOs

Duration: 1996 - ongoing

Funding:

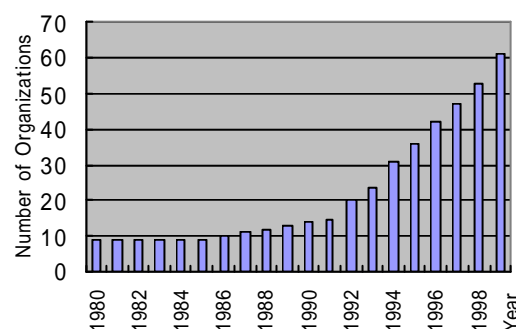
- ODA: MoFA Japan (meeting), JICA (training, making directory, meeting, technical advice), DFID (meeting), etc
- Foreign funding agencies: Keidanren Nature Fund (meeting), Hanns-Seidel Foundation (meeting) Field Study Council (training), SPARK-VSO (training, meeting), etc
- Domestic funding agencies: Kehati (meeting), WWF-Indonesia (meeting), etc

Background:

Increase in the significance and activities of Environmental Education (EE) by NGOs: Initiatives by NGOs have been an increasingly important element of environmental education in Asia, a situation arising from the growth of NGOs, as well as the insufficient resources within the formal education sector in the region. NGOs engaging in EE have increased rapidly in the last decade in Indonesia (see Graph 1).

Geographical and social needs of networking: Indonesia has an extensive land area with varied living conditions. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic nation, consisting of more than 17,000 islands, extending over 5,200 km from east to west, and 1,900 km from north to south. It is a multiethnic nation, consisting over 250 ethnic groups, and more than eighty percent of the people speak languages other than Indonesian, the national language, in their everyday lives. These geographical features and the diversity of people in Indonesia are an impediment to information dissemination. In promoting EE in such an extensive and diversified country, it is very important to create relationships with as many relevant groups as possible, and to effectively share information, human and other resources.

NGO needs of networking: The present condition of Indonesian NGOs can help us understand what the existence of networks means for NGOs and their EE activities. There are four challenges NGOs are facing in Indonesia: (1) capacity-building, (2) improvement of information-dissemination systems, (3) coping with political conditions, and (4) addressing diversified problems involved in the nation's social and economic development (Nomura and Abe, 2001a). Networking can help cope with this situation due to its three potential benefits, namely (1) improvements in communication and sharing of resources



Graph 1. NGO members - Environmental Education Network of Indonesia
Source: Nomura and Abe (2001a)

among members; (2) improvements in external relations; (3) promotion of social learning (Nomura and Abe, 2001a).

Objectives:

The objective of *Jaringan Pendidikan Lingkungan (JPL)* (In English, “Environmental Education Network in Indonesia”) is to promote NGO-based environmental education activities by (1) improving communication and sharing of resources among network members; (2) improving external relations (e.g., with other NGOs, donor agencies, governmental bodies, the community and other stakeholders); and (3) promoting social learning.¹

Description of the activity:

JPL is a nationwide NGO network on EE in Indonesia, established in 1996 by local NGOs and some individuals. It expanded especially after the Japan-United States Common Agenda Round Table (CART) started providing support for JPL’s annual meetings in 1998 (support continued until 2000).² In five years, the membership increased from 27 NGOs in 1996 to more than 100.

The major activities of JPL are as follows.

Annual meeting: National meeting is annually held to discuss the management of the network, make strategic plans for promoting EE, and enhance the capacity of member organisations.

Training: JPL has conducted various trainings for its members in collaboration with foreign agencies as well as member organisations. Examples include trainings provided from 1998 to 2001 by the Field Studies Council–UK (in association with PPLH, a member NGO), and from 1999 to 2002 by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

E-mail list: JPL established e-mail list in 1998 as a tool to facilitate communication among members. It has also been utilised by third parties to distribute related information.

Directory and website: JPL has been publishing a printed directory of its members, and also provides an electronic version on a website, which was established to enhance external relations (www.jpl.or.id).

Publications: JPL has published a newsletter titled “Kulit Pisang.”

Collaborative work: JPL has promoted collaborative work with external institutes as well as member NGOs. A variety of collaboration has been made so far, including a joint project with *Mitra Kebun Raya Indonesia* (a member NGO) to promote the recycling of drinking water bottles of at the Bogor Botanical Garden.



JPL Annual Meeting in 1999

¹ JPL itself has identified its objectives as follows: (1) improving people’s awareness and responsibility for environmental sustainability; (2) supporting the development of environmental education methods, materials, and models; and (3) accelerating the dissemination process of information on environmental education. See *Profil Anggota -Jaringan Pendidikan Lingkungan Indonesia* (Members’ Profile- Environmental Education Network of Indonesia): 1999 – 2000.

² The case of CART suggests the applicability of efforts to establish EE network as an ODA project. See Nomura and Abe (2001b) for details.

Critical Instruments

Overview

JPL is innovative in partnership creating. It has constructed NGO network specifically on EE, which has linked NGOs concerned as well as other actors in this sector, and made a significant contribution to the promotion of EE activities.

Partnerships

JPL Annual Meeting

JPL has organized the national JPL meeting since 1998. It has promoted information sharing and communication, which are core-networking functions. It has also provided an opportunity for external actors, such as funding agencies, to get to know NGOs in the EE sector.

Directory, Website and E-mail List

The members' directory, e-mailing list, and website have been established as daily communication tools for JPL members. These tools have helped to enhance relationships not only inside JPL but also with external actors. Many of funding and aid-implementing agencies have utilised these tools to enhance their partnerships with JPL members.

Training

Some foreign agencies, such as JICA and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), have conducted trainings for JPL, which resulted in capacity building of the member NGOs. Such collaborative works with international agencies are regarded as a key instrument to make JPL successful.

Impacts

Major Impacts of JPL on the promotion of NGO EE activities are as follows:

Improved external relations (e.g., increased resources): JPL contributed to the increase in the international support to NGO EE activities in Indonesia (see Nomura and Abe 2001a, 2001b for details). According to a questionnaire survey, most of the members feel that JPL has helped to increase the activities of each member organisation (see Nomura and Abe 2001a, 2001b). It resulted in increases in JPL membership and resources, which expanded JPL's contributions to promote the EE movement. The budget of JPL increased from 407,000 rupiah in 1996, and 3,205,000 in 1997, to 178,031,500 in 1999. The number of members increased from 27 in 1996, and 37 in 1997, to 85 in 1999, and JPL evolved into a nationwide NGO network on environmental education. JPL's improved external relations and increases in resources have made a significant contribution to the promotion of EE by NGOs in Indonesia (see Nomura and Abe 2001a, 2001b for details).

Improved internal relations (e.g., better communications and resource sharing): JPL has helped to improve relations within the country, including communications and resource sharing. The questionnaire survey mentioned above showed that more than 70 percent of JPL members recognized improvement in communications and sharing of resources among members. This benefit has increased the quantity and quality EE activities by NGOs (see Nomura and Abe 2001a, 2001b for details).

Lessons Learned

NGO EE Network is a powerful tool to promote EE by NGOs: As mentioned in the section on impacts, JPL has proved that an NGO EE network can promote NGO EE activities.

Initiation of an NGO-based environmental education network is a relatively low-cost action: Considering the initial cost to establish the JPL in relation to the costs of typical official development

assistance (ODA) projects, projects such as this one can be implemented with a very low budget³

The existence of good entrepreneur/facilitator is a key to success: Based on the observation survey by the reviewer, the existence of good entrepreneur/ facilitator is a key to success. The experience of JPL steering committee needs to be learned by local practitioners if projects of this kind are to be implemented in the other countries.

Potential for Application

NGO EE network can be established where there are NGOs with interests in EE. This project has little difficulty in applying to the other areas.

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*The photo in this document is taken by the case reviewer.

³ Calculating from the CART project budget, the costs of supporting JPL activities (i.e., conducting annual meeting, running secretariat, and creating an e-mail list, website and directory) would amount to only 3 million to 4 million yen per year (about U.S.\$25,000 to \$33,000) in a country with conditions similar to Indonesia.