

**IGES-LIPI WORKSHOP ON FOREST CONSERVATION:
DEVELOPING STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES FOR
INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES**

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WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Herman Hidayat*

Chairman of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and staffs, Leader of the Forest Conservation Project for Global Environment Studies (IGES) and staffs, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On the behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all attending this Forest Conservation Strategy Workshop, from the 29th to the 30th of June, 2000 at LIPI, Jakarta. This is one of a series of workshops that began with a meeting in Hayama, Kanagawa Prefecture in July 1998, followed by a workshop at the University of Tokyo in September 1999. These workshops have provided a forum for academics, researchers, government officials and NGOs from Southeast Asia, Russia, China, Korea, Australia and Japan to discuss and criticize the causes of deforestation in the Asia-Pacific region and formulate recommendations for future sustainable forest development.

During the twentieth century, the clearing of tropical forests has accelerated at an alarming rate. In the case of the Southeast Asian region, primary rainforest has been reduced from 250 million hectares in 1900, to less than 60 million hectares in 1989. Logging and population expansion are the primary forces driving deforestation in the Southeast Asian region. It has also been found that governments in search of quick sources of revenue encourage rapid timber exploitation has also increased the deforestation rate.

Forest resource management in Indonesia today has come under intense scrutiny. Many observers criticize forest management because the policies formed have benefited logging forest concessions (HPH) and industrial forest plantations (HTI) with greater facilities, leading to a negative impact on local people. The policies are linked with the idea that the HPH and HTI contribute greatly to government income. As a result, the government has not paid serious attention to the consequences of ecological degradation in forestry concession areas.

I would like to thank the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), for providing financial support in cooperation with the Center for Social and Cultural Studies, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) in order to organize the various sessions within this workshop.

I would also like to invite the participants from Japan, The Philippines and Indonesia here today to contribute their thoughts and ideas on forest conservation strategies for Indonesia and The Philippines.

I wish to thank all participants for their understanding and inputs to this workshop. I also wish to thank all members of the Steering Committee and Organizing Committee for their hard work, which started before and will continue far past the two days of this workshop.

* Chairman, Organizing Committee, researcher at the Center for Social and Cultural Studies, of Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

Prof. Hiroji Isozaki*

Thank you for the introduction.

The chairman of LIPI, Mr. Taufik Abdullah and staffs, and my colleagues in this forest conservation workshop, especially those from the Philippines.

On the behalf of the IGES president, I would like to say thank you to all here for attending.

You may find information concerning IGES in your workshop kit. This is a very brief outline of IGES. As you can see, IGES is a very young institute, just formed 2 years ago. We endeavor to conduct global environment strategic studies, especially from the Asian and Pacific perspectives.

There are four main functions of IGES, the most predominant being that of carrying out research. Strategic research is the current objective, with 7 main activities: climate change, as one of the most important global issues in the world at the moment; urban environment management, which is of course an important issue, not only for the world in general, but especially here in Asian countries with large urban populations; our project, namely forest conservation; environmental education; environmental governance; new development patterns and lastly applying results to policy decisions and actions. IGES is also trying to run capacity building training programs and promote awareness in the general public of environmental protection and sustainable management issues.

Based on these strategic research areas, the main purpose of IGES is to apply these results in actual policy decisions or viable actions for protection of the environment or to ensure sustainable development throughout the world.

As previously mentioned by Mr. Herman Hidayat, forest issues are very important in the world, particularly in Asian countries. Because of this, for the past two years we have researched protection and conservation of forest issues. We are now in the third year of the first phase of the IGES project, proceeding to summarize and identify the basic principles to be included in possible international instruments such as the World Forest Convention. The World Forest Convention has been discussed in UN forums such as the IPF (International Panel on Forests), its successor organization, the IFF (The International Forum on Forests) and the newly established UN Forum on Forests. The issues raised in the World Forest Convention are still under discussion. However, we think it is better to identify the basic principles to be included in international instruments, especially as there is concern from other regions such as Europe and America that very few ideas are derived from the Asian and Pacific perspectives. Therefore, we would like our activities to contribute to the Asia-Pacific perspective.

This workshop shall run today and tomorrow and it is our hope that very important experiences and lessons learnt in this region will be exposed, especially from Indonesia and the Philippines. These explanations will take place in group discussions from this afternoon until tomorrow morning. I hope these experiences will also be useful for each of the local forest experts to learn about the activities or experiences of other local areas.

At this point I would like to make one request: that all participants please keep in mind the concept of participatory forest management, even though participatory management activities are not new. Although participatory forest management has been emphasized for the last ten to fifteen years, we are still seeking to attain a strong participatory management system, so please keep in mind the problems with efforts, experiences or methods used in the past ten

* *Leader of Forest Conservation Project, IGES*

years and consider how to improve upon these in order to realize effective, actual forest management policies at the local level.

I hope, based on such considerations, fruitful and successful discussions will occur throughout today and tomorrow. Thank you for your attention.

Prof. Dr. Taufik Abdullah*

Ladies and Gentlemen, wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and good morning. First of all I would like to welcome our foreign participants from Japan and the Philippines and also the Indonesians from outside LIPI.

I still remember back in 1997, only about two months after we were hit by the so-called Asian Monetary Crisis, I went with some friends to Copenhagen, a lovely city, some of you may already have visited Copenhagen. One night we all went to a Chinese restaurant and soon after dinner, I went to the toilet. On the way back to the table, I met the cook, a Chinese lady who just happened to be from Malaysia and she asked me where I came from, because I look Asian. I said that I came from Indonesia. She said she was from Malaysia and said, "Indonesia, yes, the Smoke". Indonesia had become famous, not because of how beautiful our county is, how prosperous our people are, but because of the Haze and Smoke.

In 1997, Indonesia was famous all over the world. Every day, people read in the newspapers, about how the haze from Indonesia (Sumatra and Kalimantan), clouded the skies all over Southeast Asia to the extent that Singapore had to reschedule flights and people in Kuala Lumpur were beginning to wear masks. And then, for the first time in history, Asian countries started to say, 'you have made a mistake'. Usually, we Asians never accuse each other, but 1997 was the year that people from Thailand and the newspapers in Singapore and Malaysia were condemning, cajoling and ridiculing Indonesia. For the simple reason of the smoke and the haze.

And then, people within Indonesia began accusing each other. Perhaps the culprits were the squatters, perhaps the real culprits were those still engaged in slash and burn cultivation. Oh no, perhaps it was the large, irresponsible companies who do not replant after logging. So then we not only had smoke and haze, but we were also quarreling among ourselves. This is one of the reasons why I strongly support this workshop. The stakes are simply too high.

Forest haze is not only dangerous because it clouds the sky and makes breathing difficult, but it also destroys the flora and fauna of the forests and may change the climate. The forest is not only a world in itself, but also a part of our world.

In 1997, we also began to point our finger at the government concerning forest management in general. There are still stories on the television or in the papers about tons of logs that have been confiscated and then left to rot. Someone stole logs without permission or the proper letters. Tons of logs were put on a small island in Sumatra and gradually rotted because the police did not know what to do with them, wasting millions of dollars. So, in one incident, we have two losses: first, the illegal logging and then the rotten logs. We might ask ourselves, why doesn't the government have some kind of plan on handling confiscated logs? We should have alternative plans for issues such as this.

That, I guess, is why the main emphasis of this workshop is participatory forest management. Particularly at this moment in time, we can no longer entirely depend on our government. Our government is burdened with so many riots, not only in Ambon, but here in Jakarta as well. We have to gradually develop a new kind of society and state relationship. To

* *Chairman of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)*

do this, we must first increase people's participation and then revise local patterns of leadership and lastly return authority to the government. Forest management is one possible area for this strategy to work, and this is why I like the concept of participatory forest management. Let's do it together. By doing it together, we can gradually create a different type of leadership.

The workshop has three objectives: to present ideas on forest conservation strategies for Indonesia and the Philippines, the two most notorious countries as far as forest management is concerned; to collect information and comments from participants from different fields and experiences and discuss how to make the strategies appropriate and relevant to country situations as well as international conservation standards. They are all good, noble objectives.

I hope this workshop will manage to help people stop accusing each other. Let's stop accusing those who still conduct shifting cultivation or log illegally and work out together, once and for all, how to deal with these problems.

I hope this workshop will define what the real enemies of forest management are and how we can work together to deal with the problem, because the forest is our future. I will wish the workshop well, and hope it produces fruitful discussions and conclusions.

Thank you very much.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Riwanto Tirtosudarmo*

I must wear my bureaucratic jacket now. I don't think I will say much in this closing remark because we are all expecting an excursion after this workshop.

The workshop has been dynamic, opening up many new ideas and I really enjoyed participating in it. Firstly, I would like to congratulate all participants for this very fruitful discussions and again I would like to say thank you to IGES for its support in the organization of this workshop. I know that this is only one of several steps and I think the discussions have really enriched and in some ways also criticized the prepared drafts. I think everybody should be happy with the results because, as Professor Taufik Abdullah said, it is easier to find the problems, but more difficult to find the solutions and I think in this workshop we have tried very hard to do both, to find the problems and also to develop a strategy to solve these problems.

Hopefully we shall soon see what the next steps will be in order to formulate viable and sustainable strategies for forest conservation both in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific. To participants from abroad, I would like to say goodbye and wish you a safe journey.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to apologize for any limitations in our service to you and I think the final word, of course, is that we would like to see more collaboration in the future. To be frank, this kind of issue, forest management, is relatively new in Indonesia compared to the Philippines, but I think that this workshop will strengthen the capacity of Indonesian Institute of Sciences researchers to deal with forestry issues in Indonesia. Thank you very much and I hope you enjoy the last program of this workshop, organized by my very energetic colleague, Mr. Herman Hidayat, who will accompany all of you to Bogor for some food and dancing.

* *Director, Center for Social and Cultural Studies, Indonesian Institute of Sciences*

Prof. Hiroji Isozaki*

At the end of this workshop I would like to say thank you to all for your very enthusiastic discussions and reports. We obtained very useful suggestions, opinions, comments and questions. Based on these suggestions and opinions, we are going to revise our drafts and also compile our elements. As you know, our project is composed of four units: the structure analysis unit; timber trade analysis unit; participatory forest management unit and legal and administrative measures unit. We understand that to compile the results of these four units is essential, and we will compile our results, based on your comments, for the next four months.

We also intend to hold a similar workshop at the beginning of August in Vientiane, Laos, where we will discuss the experiences, lessons and actions for Laos and Vietnam. In addition to these countries, we will also discuss the experience of Thailand at Bangkok. Once we have collected all these lessons, we will finalize our drafts around September, October this year. So, during the entire refinement and compilation of draft recommendations process, we would like to ask you for further comments and opinions concerning our revised draft strategies.

At the end of this workshop, on the behalf of all members of IGES, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our colleagues, especially our collaborators, Mr. Herman Hidayat, other members of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Director Riwanto. Without your help we would not have been able to hold this kind of workshop here. I would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to participants from the Philippines for your reports and discussions as well as members from Indonesia. Some might be from Jakarta, but other members are from regions far from here. So, to all of these members I would like to say thank you and, as both Dr. Riwanto and I said before, forestry activities shall continue to be an issue, so I'd like to say, see you again soon, hopefully in the Asian region, for more discussions on the problems and hopefully successes in forest conservation.

Thank you and see you again. Goodbye.

* *Leader of Forest Conservation Project, IGES.*