



The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Rights-based Sustainable Development

A Southeast Asia Forum on the Challenges & Opportunities with Indigenous Knowledge, Systems & Practices
and Rights-based Sustainable Development

October 8-9, 2019
Westlake Resort, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Synthesis for Day 1

Prepared by:

Mbak. Lakshmi Savitri

Samdhana Institute

- Very difficult task to weave a very rich & complex experiences that being shared, including absorbing insightful messages that spread across the room
- Please bear any impressions of simplification and reduction, because it wasn't meant to be

Key arguments 1

- IKS&P is facing a threat of extinction: *loss of culture loss of identity, loss of food knowledge system, loss of sovereignty*
- 1. IK is about all aspects of IP life, recognition of IP's rights to maintain their IKS is an acknowledgement of human survival within this ever changing climate, and if it isn't achieved, the IP will be vanished
 - Challenging Conditions:
 - a) while HR recognizes IP rights & give bases for the role of IK&P, international instruments are not enough, and national government continues be undecided, IP continuously being lied due to investment policies that excludes and expels IPs from land and territory, and environmental destruction continues;
 - b) the promotion of IKS&P through mainstream media and engagement with business sector has its limitations; market and politics compromises the types of issues being raised or business practice that is inclusive to local knowledge

Key arguments 2

- Young generation is the key to IKS existence in the future regarding culture, values and identity
 1. Education of cultural values/philosophy of life is manifestation of NEVER FORGETTING history: a form of 'Back to the root' education
 - Aspects of knowledge: Knowledge of ecology, of education, of spirituality and reciprocity
 2. Rediscover history and culture, reposition the traditions, and disseminate it with aim to construct a wise and creative resistance
 3. Unity without uniformity is a key to accept cultural diversity, because defending cultural identity without empathy will create conflicts

Key arguments 3

- Food sovereignty requires a secure rights to land and territory, protection of local seeds and genetic resources from domination of industrial agriculture and dominant culture of consumption
 - Challenging conditions: loss of local food varieties, eroding local knowledge on farming practices

Challenging questions

- International instruments are there, but how to strengthen and support IKS&P at the national level?
- Why national government is reluctant to give recognition to IKS & Practice? How to make sure that government will consider IP rights upon the issuance of concession permits?

Recommendations

- Denial to the importance of IKSP is a reflection of historical discrimination of IP as primitive, uneducated and ignorance, therefore:
 1. The duty of government is to set priorities: profit for future, for community interests and next generation or profit for elite's interests?
 2. IP needs to defend the environment for the prosperity of global community
 3. IP needs to build a culture of solidarity, maintain diversity without fragmentation, because IP's struggle is struggle of all
 4. *Sekolah Adat* or school of living traditions and family should be the main educator of IP's values and culture, incl. urban-rural youth learning and exchange
 5. The state should take responsibility of the eroding local language by taking necessary protection measures and support its revival through formal education system
 6. Equal state support for every ethnic groups
 7. FPIC should be correctly implemented
 8. Ensure food sovereignty by reviving the local farming practice and local food consumption
 9. Plant and grow local seeds and crops as a resistance to import food domination and protection of local genetic resources