

KONFERENZBERICHTE

Environmental Transformation, Ethnicity and Gender in Kalimantan, Indonesia

Workshop at the Chair of Comparative Development and Cultural Studies – Focus Southeast Asia, University of Passau, June 10–12, 2015

The workshop, which brought together 20 researchers from Indonesia, Germany and England, covered four topics: 1. Development and natural resource use in Indonesia, 2. Ethnicity and identity politics in the context of ecological transformation, 3. Gender in the context of socio-ecological change, and 4. Transdisciplinarity in socio-ecological research.

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In her key note speech, Suraya Afiff (University of Indonesia, UI) focused on Indonesia's presidential government agenda related to land and forest issues and the difficulties in implementing the policy to improve the land tenure security for rural communities.

In the cluster on development, Adiwibowo (Bogor Agricultural University, IPB) talked about territorialization and its effect on land use changes and rural differentiation in Kalimantan. Land use change was also the topic addressed by Heiko Faust (University of Göttingen) who presented results of the Collaborative Research Centre 990 on socio-cultural and institutional transformation processes in rural Indonesia. Katriani Puspita Ayu (University of Palangkaraya, UNPAR) gave insights into her research on the political ecology of deforestation in the district of Kota Waringin Timur, Central Kalimantan. Suraya Afiff dealt in her talk with new emerging forms of control over large tracts of land for environmental purposes in Indonesia — “green grabbing”. Satyawan Sunito (Bogor Agricultural University, IPB) sees the need to support strategies of self-development of villages that refuse to be integrated into the system of large scale corporate activities. Local level responses to changes in national politics were addressed by Semiarto Aji Purwanto (University of Indonesia, UI) through an analysis of the changing trend of artisanal gold mining activity in Kalimantan, characterized by a move from the riverbanks to the forest areas. Oliver Pye (University of Bonn) presented key findings emerging from research on the political ecology of the Kapuas River.

In the cluster on ethnicity, a case study presented by Stefanie Steinebach (University of Göttingen) displayed the limits of indigenous land titling as means to regain authority over customary land. Marko Mahin (Christian University Palangkaraya) provided insights into his research on the construction and transformation of identity of the Dayak in Central Kalimantan associated with the change of ownership and spatial territory. Kristina Großmann (University of Passau) presented results of her research in two villages in the district of Murung Raya, Central Kalimantan. She argues that government, environmental organizations, and companies use essentialized constructs of an “indigenous nature-close villager” in order to push their political and economic agenda. The study is integrated in a planned transdisciplinary research project on ethnicity, gender and environmental transformation in Central Kalimantan (University of Passau) which was briefly introduced by Katharina v. Braun (University of Passau), who subsequently presented a sub-project on Central Kalimantan coal mining governance.

