



European Tour by Indonesian Forest Activists

9-30 November 2012

Summary report

Objective

The tour was organised by the European Environmental Paper Network to educate a wide range of key European actors about the social and ecological impacts of the pulp industry in Indonesia. We wanted allow the voices of Indonesian people with experience of the effects of paper production on the ground to be heard in Europe by paper buyers, government officials and past and potential investors in Indonesian paper companies. The delegation from Indonesia consisted of three grassroots activists from the regions most heavily affected by pulp companies in Sumatra: Aidil Fitri (Wabana Bumi Hijau), Hariansyah Usman (Walhi Riau) and Muslim (Jikalahari).

Itinerary

The delegation visited nine European cities in three weeks.

- ⤴ In Berlin they met European non-governmental organisation (NGO) activists and gave a presentation at a public meeting.
- ⤴ In London they had discussions with paper merchants, gave a presentation to a large meeting of paper and printing industry executives and met a group of donors interested in forest issues.
- ⤴ In Brussels they met with some key members of the European Parliament to discuss the new EU Timber Regulation.
- ⤴ In Barcelona they presented to a group of publishers and had talks with the Printers Federation.
- ⤴ In Rome they had talks with the Italian export credit agency (ECA) and with some of the country's largest paper buyers. They also met with a group of NGOs.
- ⤴ In Vienna, they met the Austrian ECA and some other financial institutions.
- ⤴ In Dusseldorf they spoke at a meeting of major paper consumers and met with the German ECA.
- ⤴ In Helsinki they met with international donors and journalists.
- ⤴ In Zurich they gave presentations to some Swiss banks involved in Indonesian investment.

Outcomes

A detailed report of outcomes and follow-up action points is available from Sergio Baffoni (sergio.baffoni@environmentalpaper.eu) on request.

- ⤴ **NGOs:** The delegation had a lot of inspiring meetings with NGOs, including the German network Papierwende and a network involved in an EU project on forests and climate, with whom they had fruitful discussions about the climate change impacts of peatland-forest conversion to pulp plantations. The European tour involved many groups and the delegation

- had the opportunity to get to know and to make contact with a wide range of new colleagues with varying expertise, and to educate many people about the situation in Indonesia. There will undoubtedly be considerably better-informed and well-targeted campaigning activities as a result of this tour. A key outcome is the establishment of an emergency response network to take urgent action when Indonesian activists and communities are under threat of violence or persecution as a result of their stance to oppose pulp industry developments.
- ⤴ **Market:** The presentations to the paper and printing industry and public procurement officials during the tour impressed their audiences, and vividly communicated the risks involved in dealing with Indonesian paper, particularly in light of the tighter regulations coming for trading paper of dubious legality.
 - ⤴ **ECAs:** The Indonesian delegation met the German, Austrian and Italian export credit agencies (ECAs). These countries are crucial because of machinery producer companies which may be involved in future trade with Indonesian companies for new pulp mills. It was useful to remind the ECAs about the debt default by APP and to explain why they should offer no further trade guarantees for Indonesian pulp industry developments. Some interesting new information was revealed about what happened to some of the bad debts from APP's default and some political actions that could be taken to ensure this is not repeated.
 - ⤴ **Banks:** The delegation were able to follow-up the joint letter to banks asking them to ensure that they would not invest in new pulp mills in Indonesia. They held several meetings with banks in which they were able to explain some of the reputational risks of investment in the Indonesian pulp industry. These approaches are clearly making an impact.
 - ⤴ **Politics:** The main political issue addressed by the delegation was the new European Timber Regulation that will come into force in 2013. They were able to educate NGOs, politicians and paper buyers about the weaknesses of the Indonesian legality standard (SVLK), and about specific problems with paper made from mixed tropical hardwood fibre, the illegality issues of logging concessions on deep peat soil, and the legal challenges to concessions by communities seeking their own land rights.
 - ⤴ **Donors:** The delegation had several useful meetings with donors, making some new contacts and helping to explain some of the priority work in Indonesia that requires financial support, such as supporting local communities in their struggle for land rights.

Acknowledgements

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