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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



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CLOSING CEREMONY

THE STRENGTHENING OF **SUSTAINABLE** **DEVELOPMENT GOALS** (SDGs) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



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Sari Pacific Hotel - Jakarta, Indonesia
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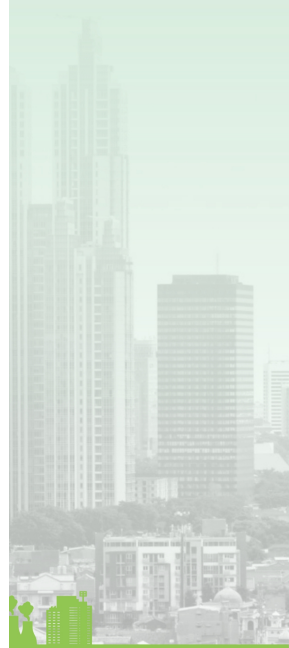


Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University



Strengthening Sciences Interconnectivity to reach for Sustainable Development Goals

Professor Emil Salim



- We are meeting in this conference today to discuss issues of environmental science and social sciences in relation to sustainable development.
- Environmental science is an interdisciplinary sciences to understand and analyse the complex and dynamic interaction in environmental system. This is being analysed and develop within the context of social science.
- It provide a frame for analysing sustainable development that is aimed to reach 17 goals, embracing, social, economic and environmental goals.

- The crucial issue at stake is to properly interconnect the three prong approach of economic, social, and environmental development to reach for sustainable development goals. When the proper and balance interconnection of economic, social, and environmental process is not achieved then dissatisfaction and failure of the sustainable development is forthcoming.

- It is in this context that I appreciate the excellent work of Professor M. Nadarajah chair professor of Xavier University Bhubaneswar, India in his paper "Living in a Broken World (a Cry of the earth, a Cry of the poor/destructive desire, Disconnected Disciplinary and Disruptive Deschooling.)"
- "All our efforts - including the Sustainable Development Goals -focussed on the desire for "growth" and the falls certainty/clarity of "disciplinary silo thingking " are not helping us much."

- “Disciplinary silo thinking” disregard interconnected thinking, it stimulate intresectoral disconnected thinking and will leads to unsustainable growth.
- To implement the three strong approach of economic, social, environment in sustainable development it is perhaps much easier to formulate rather than to implement. And this is demonstrated in decades time of research done faithfully by Prof. Yoko Hayami, Kyoto University in her paper “A field-based humnistic understanding of environment and sustainability”. A research by the Center for South East Asia Studies at Kyoto University.

- Significant conclusion from Prof. Yoko Hayami study in environmental issue are entrenched in social cultural and political context of power relation.
- The SDG's spell out that reducing inequality and poverty must go together with environmental issues.
- In order to do this, there needs to be a fine balance between a layer institutional understanding in the one hand and an understanding of the local perspective and good dialogs among the various groups with local perspective.

- This is the reason why it is crucial to emphasize the need for interdisciplinary approaches in studies of sustainable development.
- It calls for attacking the problems of SD in the field. from an interconnective multidisciplinary economic-social and experimental approach.
- Indonesia has similar experiences. Indonesia is currently facing a serious forest fires covering many hectares of land in the region of Riau, Jambi and South Sumatera in Sumatera and Central Kalimantan in Borneo.

- The most painful facts are that these areas are the victims of Indonesia forest fire in 2015. And now in 2019 experiences the same disaster of forest fire.
- Underlying these forest fires are the clashes between short term economic gain through plantation that requires drying the wetland soil of peatland, as against eco-friendly peatland resources management.

- The difference in obtained financial yields are higher in drying wetland peat as against maintaining its ecosystem.age
- When “high profit” speak it dominates the political sector and through “state as well as local political capture” it sets the direction into peatland resource exploitation.

- Once the tip of the ecological imbalance is recorded - it explodes into unstoppable forest fire.
- From the scientific perspective – what caused this drama is the breakdown of the unsustained interconnectivity between economic, social and environmental lives.
- It also indicates that a coherent of institutional arrangement of interconnection within the economic, social, environmental ingredients of sustainable development is missing.

- Taking into account as Prof. M. Nadarajah criticism on the simplified disciplinary silo thinking and Prof. Yoko Hayami experience on her long term research on the Karen people in Thailand and Myanmar and realizing the disconnection of economic with environment and social factors in Indonesia development that lead toward masive forest fires in 2015 – 2019, taught us a lesson of the crucial role of connecting economic, social and environmental approach of sustainable development.

- The silo approach of thinking needs to be broken down. A smooth inter-flow of economic, social, and environmental of thinking needs to be developed.
- We need a new approach of scientific thinking which is more conducive and apt to meet the challenge of sustainable development.
- Let us hope that this conference provide the spark for future dialogue to strengthen interconnectivity of economic, social and environmental dimensions in sustainable development



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Thank You

