

Science and Innovation Project British Council Jakarta

Project Title: Transformation of Degraded Lands to Productive Landscape

UK Coordinator: Dr Morag McDonald

Indonesia Coordinator: Dr Irdika Mansur

UK Institutions:

- Bangor University
- Aberystwyth University

Indonesian Institutions:

- IPB
- SEAMEO BIOTROP
- Mulawarman University
- Sam Ratulangi University
- Diponegoro University
- Brawijaya University
- University of Lampung
- Bangka Belitung University
- Padjadjaran University
- Pattimura University
- Andalas University
- PT Bukit Asam
- Riset Perkebunan Nusantara
- World Agroforestry
- Tropenbos Indonesia

During the Science and Innovation Conference organized by the British Council Jakarta in Jakarta from 17-19 September 2013, a working group for environment has been formed. The member of the group is listed above, that consisted of 2 representative of universities from the UK, 12 universities and research centre in Indonesia, 1 state mining company, and 2 international NGO's. The group agreed to collaborate on an umbrella research topic "Transformation of Degraded Lands to Productive Landscape". Research would be conducted at the ex-mine site of PT Bukit Asam, a state coal mining company operating at Tanjung Enim, South Sumatera Province. The company has earlier signed an MoU with IPB and SEAMEO BIOTROP to develop a Centre for Mine Reclamation Studies. The collaborative research funded by the British Government through the British Council would certainly strengthen the work of the Centre. The presence of universities from the UK and Indonesia, research centres and International NGO's with various background is expected to give significant contributions to the development of better mine reclamation practices specially at PT Bukit Asam, and Indonesia in general.

Mining due to the nature of operation is usually associated with degraded land and without proper planning and management, mining will leave a massive degraded unproductive land. Therefore, to ensure sustainable development of

the area after mining operation completed, series of research need to be done to find suitable yet affordable technologies to transform degraded land into productive landscape. The term "productive" is not only mean economic productivity, but also ecological/environmental, and social productivities. The ex-mine site would be transformed into productive forest or farm, agroforestry, silvopasture, aquaculture, or for conservation of threatened local flora. Potential negative environmental impact, especially low soil fertility and acid mine drainage should be overcome with affordable technology using available local materials.

To prepare a working collaborative proposal, the British Council provides initial budget of £ 10,000. This budget would be allocated to visit the site of PT Bukit Asam at Tanjung Enim, South Sumatera province. Site visit is very important for the team members to observe the conditions of the research site, to identify problems and priority research programmes. During the site visit the team would meet the management of the company to help setting the research priority. The site visit would be followed with a workshop to finalized proposal for the second year (2014/2015). It is expected that all group members could attend the workshop. The site visit has been planned to be conducted on 24-26 March 2014 and followed by the workshop on 27-28 March in SEAMEO BIOTROP, Bogor.