

Mining in Indonesia: Present and Future challenges

Organizers:

Dr. Laurens Bakker, University of Amsterdam

Dr. Muhamad Muhdar, Mulawarman University

Mohamad Nasir S.H., Balikpapan University

format

We aim for a double session panel. Our point in doing so is that there is a variety of research –in terms of disciplinary approaches, location and resource - being carried out on mining in Indonesia. We aim for this panel to be the basis of a ‘state of the art’ and comparative work illustrating and analyzing this variety and –possibly- establishing a joint research agenda for monitoring the development of the industry. For this reason we wish to involve a larger group of researchers in the panel, which a double session would allow for.

Abstract

The extraction of mined resources -such as coal, bauxite and gold- is a major pillar of the Indonesian economy. It is also of great societal and environmental impact: mining operations take priority over other forms of land usage -which means that mining rights overrule plantation, farming or even settlement rights- and pollution from mining activities impacts land- and water quality in the broad vicinity of mines. Mining brings considerable wealth but it also causes problems. Our interest in this panel lies in how these two work out in relation to each other and we solicit contributions addressing this matter from one or more of the following approaches. 1) How do people involved ‘make do’ with mining? Ranging from local communities, miners and corporations, how do people make a living in (or despite of) mining? 2) How does the regulation of mining work out in practice? Legislation pertaining to mining is one of the most dynamic fields in Indonesia’s governance. What are its effects, how does it come into effect in controlling mining on the ground? 3) With phasing out of fossil fuels an increasingly urgent reality, what future is being perceived for (coal) mining areas?