Cases studies
Noted by Faculty of economics, TU team
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Dr. Pradhan - Nepal
- Drivers towards poverty
  - Earthquake destroy local irrigation system
  - Based on 5 types of resources, the natural resources were disturbed, physical infrastructure destroyed, financial capital is disrupted. However, human capital and local capacity, as well as social capital were still operating.
  - If they have external support, they can depend on themselves. The support such as well as rehabilitation of the irrigation system.
  - His organization supports some seeding money for the community to rehabilitate the irrigation system, using local traditional knowledge and capacities.
  - Money won’t bring change in them unless they have organizational capacity.
  - So we have to strengthen their capacity, provide them decision making process skills, technologies, and how to implement them.

Ms. Suki – the Philippines
- Land rights and Philippines experiences
  - PH is quite ahead in terms of land rights for IP. We now observe both positive and negative consequences of the law, both short and long term.
  - Ex. The Institutionalized Free Prior Inform Consent delayed the bureaucratic process even further. (unclear)
  - The FPIC meaning was damaged. In Longer term, we need to supervise what happen on the ground.
  - To assess the impact of the law on the community, it must be assessed not only the impact on that community but also on other communities nearby.
  - Land reform laws. Very good intention to distribute land to the landless and small farmers. Its negative effect is a decade or two later, the small holders were not able to make the land productive, and they were forced to sell the land.
  - There should be other type of support to make sure that the intention of the law is succeeded.

Hoa (Vietnam)
- Land grabbing - Rubber plantation grabbing the local land.
  - Local Tai ethnic just received land rights. Rubber company illegally encroached the newly granted community land. It destroyed local forests and its NTFP to make the rubber plantation. The local were very angry because their livelihood was affected.
  - So they started movement and participatory process with all stakeholders. But the company did not accept the agreement of the meeting. So the villagers wrote letter to the official. Then the official sent a letter to the rubber company. The company did not respond, for a long time. The destruction happened in wide area, not only in one but several communities. Conflicts among communities and between the communities and the company occurred more often. As time passed, the communities were exhausted.
  - Forest People Network then started our own action research. We now investigated who was behind the rubber plantation, using Follow Money Approach. We also initiated lobbying process to stop the company’s illegal land grabbing.
Jackie – the Philippines

- Securing land use
  - In the Philippines, several local land and forest land areas were encroached by Private sector and turned them into mineral mines, touristic places and other commercial uses.
  - If it is a watershed zone, it should remain as a watershed. If it is an ancestral domain tenure, it should be for indigenous people. No conversion of land use to other commercial purpose.
  - How can we secure land use for the local people and preserve the forest?
- EIA of Big projects like Dam.
  - We need to go back and assess the real impact of the project on the community

Sengkam – Laos PDR

- Land grabbing is not only in Vietnam. Rubber plantation also invaded southern part of Laos. The area is 500,000 hectares. According the concession law, only degraded land can be allocated for the concession. But in fact, the natural forest land was turned into a concession land for the rubber plantation.
- Land law, and investment promotion policy are the main drivers. The investors pay after 5 years and the private cost, which is the government revenue, is only $10 per hectare. This is not the real cost of the land use. The government revenue from the concession is far less than the environmental damage caused by the concession, e.g. the loss of biodiversity. Therefore, big companies were induced to invest in Laos.
- Complementing ajarn from Chiang Mai (this comment was made after aj. Nathitakarn comment)
  - The CP model is implemented in the Northern province of Laos as well, along the border, causing haze pollution and deforestation.
  - This platform should send message to the Thai big private company. They should not look for profit only but should be socially responsible too. Their activities indirectly degraded the environment.

Ms. Zeva Aulia Sudana - Indonesia

- Palm oil problem
  - It is hard to eradicate the palm oil company. So we tried to make them operate more sustainable, making their supply chain greener, through grant or loans. ESG criteria is used to regulate the companies.
  - It’s not always easy to deal with them. So we need to also work with NGOs.
  - A sum of money was funded by private sector. This money would be used for the communities and small-holders, research, and also funding NGOs.
- Slash and burn incidence also connected to independent small holders. How can we educate them? They don't have capacity to fund their activities on the ground. What we're trying to do is to give them loan, and also working with banking institution as well as aid agencies to make the locals able to get loans.
- Getting into the mind of private sector, of the locals, of the government officers. Well-being of the farmers should be put at the center.
- Renewable energy sector, now promoted in Indonesia, is important to provide basic infrastructure like lighting for the vulnerable groups.
- Blended finance...private sector invests in the renewable energy sector.
- The government (PLN) should let go the energy sector more to the private sector, but not without monitoring or control. The private sector has better technology. We need win-win solution for all groups.
• Waste management - Waste-to-energy power plant. Recycling system is very poor. Rural areas or poor area of Jakarta or Bali still lack efficient waste management system. Waste-to-energy could be one of the solution to waste management.
• One Map policy using GIS technology - with consultation of the IP and NGOs.

Thi Thi Thien – Myanmar
• Tourism for natural resources and poverty reduction in Myanmar
  ○ After the change in political situation, there was a widespread land use change throughout the country by foreign investments and that affected the environment and local livelihood.
  ○ Community-based tourism was used as an approach to protect the environment and improve well-being of the local.
  ○ Natural resource extraction, esp. sand mining (by private construction company). We deal with the problem through tourism perspective, i.e. doing this can affect tourism. We also use multi-stakeholder dialogue to drive this sustainable tourism and deal with the environmental problems.

Nathitakarn (Chiang Mai University)
• Haze problem
  ○ Hill tribe people grew corn/maze on Mae Cham, Chiang Mai province. They got seeds from big private company to produce corn for livestock feed. They grow corn 3 times a year, the process is easy and not so costly. This increased deforestation. She is not so sure why the deforestation cannot be controlled. It might be because of the political factors. Alternative plant is not an option because of the lack of water.
  ○ Their practice is not sustainable as they burnt for everything, from changing crop cycle to harvesting other non-timber forest products. This is still a problem for Northern Thailand.

Wichitra Chusakul (Surin province, Thailand)
• Biomass power plant
  ○ Biomass power plant was promoted by the government. But why is it a problem?
  ○ These plants are 9 megawatt, so they don't have to do the EIA. The impact to the local is the dust as well as water pollution.
  ○ Sugar cane is used for the power plant. The sugar cane needs a lot of chemical and therefore affects the environment and degrades natural resources.
  ○ The local used to promote renewable energy. But when the private sector came, it became a problem. If the community did not participate in the process, it could be problematic for the area. The lack of community participation might be attributed to the legal condition that the EIA is not mandatory for the less than 10 MWatt power plant.
  ○ CHIA (Community health impact assessment) was developed and implemented by the community. Data were collected and presented to the private sector and the government. We need this approach because the EIA is done by the company, but CHIA is done by the community.

Solany from Cambodia
• Hydropower dam affecting IP.
  ○ 100 MWatt Hydropower, built on a river in the Mekong river basin, requires 60,000 hectares of land for the reservoir.
  ○ The construction lacks full consultation with the communities in the process of EIA. The communities didn't have the capacity to provide input for the company's EIA.
- The compensation to the community is not working. Some communities don't want to move to the new settlement.

Mr. Biondi Sanda Sima from Indonesia
- Natural disasters in Indonesia are extremely frequent.
  - Vulnerabilities to shock (natural disaster) can make the poor to fall back to extreme poverty.
  - A study suggests that $1 investment in risk mitigation can prevent very costly damage.
  - Government needs to increase the local capacity to mitigate risks, decrease their vulnerabilities from shocks, and increase resilience. Social safety net is one of the instruments to increase community resilience.
  - Data and analytic tools will help the local authorities to deal with the problem more efficiently and accurately. We develop a free and open source technology (Q-GIS) for the local government, so they can predict the effects of the disasters and thus able to prepare and deal with the after effect. Data proficiency is needed to increase efficiency of the tools.

Gustavo
- Tools from the Netherlands - Environmental impact assessment
  - Municipality's EIA needs to be submitted to provincial authorities before any action, during the planning stages
  - Collaborative planning approach, using map-table GIS, dynamic maps technology. All actors can come together and see the impacts of the project, in real time. They can change scenarios to see different impacts. Different discipline will use in the same language.

Dr. Pradhan
- Summarizing
  - Land ownership is the main issue.
  - Invasion of the private enterprises, and this changes the relationship between the community and individual farmers.
  - Land tenure and land use need government intervention.
- Policies
  - Need to come from the local needs.
  - Infrastructure development damages natural resources and the communities. Benefit sharing must be defined, with all stakeholders.
- Accelerating factors
  - Natural disasters can accelerate poverty in rural areas.
  - Mitigation is necessary.
- Strengthening Social capital, and recognize, protect, and develop traditional knowledge.