



World Ocean Conference 2009 (WOC'09)

11-15 May, 2009, Manado, Indonesia

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Indonesia has taken the initiative of holding WOC'09 on May 11-15 in Manado, North Sulawesi. The overall goals of the conference are:

1. To increase the understanding of climate change and its implications for the livelihoods of coastal people and the ecological conditions of the oceans and coastal zones
2. To better understand the role of the oceans in determining climate change
3. To pursue the need for mitigation and adaptation measures concerning climate change.

Within the WOC'09 framework, a number of side events were organized:

1. A symposium on ocean science, technology and policy (in which LOICZ SSC members participated as invited speaker);
2. An international marine exhibition;
3. The declaration of Bunaken as one of the *World Natural Heritage Sites* in Indonesia;
4. Cooperation in the marine ecosystem conservation between the *Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME)*;
5. A summit meeting of the heads of nations forming the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), conceived by Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

1 Contributions

The International Ocean Science, Technology, and Policy Symposium 2009 consisted of 32 sessions. These sessions covered a whole day, each.

Session #30 was organized by A.H. Purnomo, Agency of Marine and Fisheries Research, and by L. Adrianto, Bogor Agricultural University. International speakers covered themes dealing with vulnerability and resilience of ocean and coastal resource system, adaptive and integrated ocean and coastal governance, disaster management, sustainable fisheries and resource uses. The geographical focus was on different regions in Indonesia.

Session #32 was organized by SPICE (Science for the Protection of Indonesian Coastal Ecosystems), a German-Indonesian research project. The SPICE clusters featured Indonesian and German partners as speakers and presented their various scientific themes, including coral reef research, sedimentation, aquaculture, marine geology, and governance and management of coastal social-ecological systems. Project sites are in southwest Java, South Sulawesi and North Sumatra.

Cluster 6, governance and management of coastal social-ecological systems (coordinated by LOICZ SSC member M. Glaser, ZMT Bremen), is the most recent cluster. Its scope is interdisciplinary and links the social and natural sciences. A 20 minute DVD was shown which presented the social science research in Spermonde Archipelago, off Makassar in



South Sulawesi. The coral islands featured are threatened by sea level rise and storm surges, by hazardous fishing methods (bomb and cyanide fishing), dying coral ecosystems and by depleted fish stocks.

B. Glaeser contributed a presentation to session #30 "Social ecological systems analysis in ocean and coastal governance" as an invited speaker and to session #32 "Showcase Indonesia - Germany". M. Glaser presented in Session #30, also as an invited speaker.

2 Remarks

Politically, something very important happened. This WOC'09 has become an entirely Indonesian event: hosted, led and inspired by the Indonesian government. This includes explicitly the so-called "World Ocean Conference Side Event: the International Symposium on Ocean Science, Technology and Policy". Indonesia is actually taking the lead in global environmental policy by linking coasts and oceans to global warming and by telling the world that Indonesia is the world's most important archipelagic country. Science is incorporated.

The keynote was presented by E. Salim, former Minister of the Environment. His concluding remarks were: "Indonesia must give the world a sense of direction because it is the largest archipelago. This meeting is the beginning of a changing world." And before: It is necessary to develop an ocean science that answers the questions that relate to the interaction between atmosphere and oceans: what drives the heat and salt thermo-haline circulation?

Selected scientific conclusions: Politics is taking over from small scientific circles/communities, as in similar environmental policy cases previously. This is a challenge and a chance for coastal and coastal management researchers because LOICZ is now at the forefront of the coast and ocean issues.

Selected political conclusions: Unfortunately, local fishermen and fisher representatives were not invited to participate in any of the conference meetings. They were, in fact, kept out. Fishermen on wooden boats protested because they felt that the World Ocean Conference did not sufficiently deal with the needs of the fisher community. They claimed that it did not touch illegal fishing and the need to protect traditional fishermen from big fish companies (The Jakarta Post, May 12, 2009: 1). Some of the protesters were arrested, among them NGO leaders, e.g. Indonesian Friends of the Earth, and kept in prison for a month. Filipino fishermen were deported whereas Indonesian fishers were sent home (personal communication with several Indonesian conference participants and local observers who prefer to remain anonymous). Such treatment of protesting stakeholders actually is an anachronism. It has become a common procedure in international meetings elsewhere to include stakeholders and minority groups and let them speak out, such as the "first nations" in Canada. Indonesia is a young democracy. Some democratic awareness and practice need to be internalized, as yet.
