

Possible Role of a Donor toward Appropriate Environmental Management of Dam Projects - A Case Study in Indonesia

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Kotapanjang dam was constructed in Sumatra Island in Indonesia for hydropower generation in mid 1990's by the National Power Company (PLN). Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), which was later became Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JIBC) extended a concessional yen loan to the project.

Environmental monitoring on the project area was to be carried out based on the Environmental Management Plan (RKL) and the Environmental Monitoring Plan (RPL) adopted by the Indonesian Government. While five national agencies and relevant local governments were involved in environmental monitoring and management, there seems to be no substantive coordination. BAPEDAL (Agency of Environmental Management), which is in charge of overall environmental issues including monitoring and EIA in Indonesia, has not been involved in this project. Almost no substantive action was reported to be undertaken in terms of sedimentation, vegetation, and land use planning. Major factor causing this poor environmental management and monitoring seems to be lack of mechanism to undertake necessary measures.

The ultimate responsibility of the environmental management should be taken by the government of the project site, namely Indonesian Government. However, the Japanese Government could support NPL through its technical assistance projects. For example, the Japanese Government established Environmental Management Center (EMC) near Jakarta and had provided technical assistance regarding pollution control since the mid-1990s. Several Japanese experts on environmental monitoring had been stationed and trained Indonesian officers. If this center would have been involved in the dam project, the monitoring would be adequately implemented. In order to make it possible for the EMC, the scope of its work has to be amended based on the agreement concluded between Japanese and Indonesian Government. Japanese Government could also dispatch an expert to the site solely to support the monitoring activity.

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