

TOWARD NATIONAL DIALOGUES ON NEW INDONESIAN AGRARIAN REFORM POLICY

The Samdhana Institute supported a national agrarian reform coalition, *Konsorsium Pembaruan Agraria* (KPA), to initiate dialogue on the the plan to implement the People Assembly Decree No. IX/MPR RI/2001 on Agrarian Reform with the head of the National Land Agency (NLA), Joyo Winoto, Ph.D . in Bandung , Jatinangor, from 11 to 12 May 2008. The dialogue was lead by Dr. Yuswanda Temenggung (Deputy of Land Control Regulation), and Usep Setiawan (Secretary General of KPA). After Joyo Winoto presented the grand design of agrarian reform implementation and regulation and its current political contexts, various activists from Banten, West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta and East Java commented and asked about the plan and its consequences for the role of rural movement organizations and the status of their occupied lands in the local areas. The dialogue was witnessed also by the heads of the NLA's District Offices and Provincial Office in West Java. According to Usep Setiawan, this dialogue had helped KPA's network to strategize the ways in which they seized this new political opportunity and critically collaborated with the National Land Agencies to improve access to land for the landless and poor rural people through the NLA's agrarian reform program.

The new Samdhana initiative is to support the Center for Agrarian Studies – Bogor Agricultural Institute (PKA-IPB) to discuss the agrarian reform program between two Indonesia land authorities at the national level, i.e. The National Land Agency (NLA) and the Ministry of Forestry (MoF). The NLA has planned to redistribute 8.15 million hectares of land within the forest zone, which is under the jurisdiction of the MoF. This discussion is planned as part of a series of national dialogues to identify and find new ways to solve institutional constraints to the agrarian reform program. The discussion will start with an outline by the NLA's Land Reform Director about the way in which they produce the plan, and its status in government policy processes. Then, MoF officers from the Planning Board will provide their views on the plan, and institutional constraints related to the various land right demands to the MoF, including the NLA's plan. This discussion is not aimed at consensus or to set up a common platform to solve the problem, but to open a dialogue to share the agendas and institutional problems between agrarian reform related institutions. The discussion will be continued to deepen the problems, to expand government and civil society institutions that take responsibility fot making agrarian reform a success and possibly to scale up the dialogue to a higher level of government officials.

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