Environmental Rights Academy
Concept Note

Background:

About ERA Indonesia

Environmental Rights Alliance (ERA) Indonesia is a community within Feminist for Climate and Health Equity (FEquity), established with the support of Women of the South Speak Out (WOSSO), Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), and ASEAN Youth Forum (AYF). It aims to become a diverse community of youth environmental human rights defenders (EHRD) who champion environmental rights in Indonesia. ERA seeks to facilitate the youth EHRDs to meaningfully engage in environmental governance and equip them with capacity-building such as advocacy skills, and deepen their knowledge of environmental rights through a gender lens.

As its primary focus, ERA Indonesia will act as an active community to monitor and support the development of ASEAN's first environmental rights instrument at both the national and Southeast Asian levels. Since 2022, ASEAN has been developing a declaration on the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, which will be the first environmental rights instrument that can promote greater protection of EHRDs by guaranteeing procedural rights such as access to information, public participation, & access to justice. This policymaking process has been a complex discussion, lacking adequate stakeholder participation since the beginning, particularly the inclusion of marginalized groups' voices in the deliberations. Public participation is essential to monitor the process, starting with involve in consultations, and supporting the declaration's adoption. Therefore to support this effort, the Environmental Rights Academy was established to facilitate knowledge transfer and consolidate power in this environmental governance process.

About the ASEAN declaration on environmental rights

The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) established a cross-sectoral working group in 2022 to support the development of a regional framework on environmental rights to enhance rights-based environmental decision-making in ASEAN. The instrument would support ASEAN Member States on the delivery of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) commitments to "a safe, clean and sustainable environment", "freedom of opinion and expression, including the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information" and "rights to an effective and enforceable remedy for acts violating the rights granted to that person by the constitution or by law", among other relevant provisions.

In this opportunity, the CSO, relevant UN Agencies, and experts develop together a regional framework on environmental rights which will be submitted for consideration and eventual adoption by leaders of ASEAN. The ASEAN Environmental Rights Working Group (AER WG) was established by the AICHR to support the preparation of this framework on environmental rights in ASEAN, consult with relevant bodies, and facilitate the implementation of its functions. It comprises AICHR representatives, ASEAN sectoral bodies, UN agencies, experts, and civil society groups.

The working group's mandate concluded in July 2024 at their fifth meeting, and its primary output was a draft of the ASEAN declaration on environmental rights. This environmental rights instrument is now expected to proceed through the adoption or ratification process by ASEAN Member States via the AICHR framework.

Objectives:

a. To equip the youth EHRDs from marginalized groups with capacity building for environmental rights and leverage their participation in national and regional environmental governance.
b. To establish a national alliance that consists of a strong youth EHRD community from marginalized groups across Indonesia.
c. To analyze the gaps and opportunities of the 'ASEAN declaration on environmental rights'.
d. To develop advocacy materials about environmental rights in the first quarter of 2025.

Targets:

Our first cohort will consist of 15 youth EHRDs from marginalized and underrepresented groups in Indonesia.

Program duration:

The training will be conducted virtually on 17-19 January 2025. The sessions will be delivered in Indonesian language, with some sessions will be conducted in English.

Timeline:

1. Application launch: 16 December 2024 - 4 January 2025
2. Application review process: 5 - 11 January 2025
3. Selected participants announcement: 12 January 2025
4. Environmental Rights Academy: 17-19 January 2025
5. Joint Letter Launch: 25 January 2025
6. Advocacy Meet-Up with AICHR Indonesia: 4th week of January (TBC)
7. February - March 2025:

- Stakeholder consultation for the public draft of the ASEAN Declaration on environmental rights.
- Develop Environmental Rights toolkit and webinar launch.

Training structure*:

Day	Session
1	**Session 1** - Environmental Rights 101 **Session 2** - Disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation on marginalized groups **Session 3** - Learning from experience: why does inclusion matter?
2	**Session 4** - Gender and Environmental Rights **Session 5** - Gender and Climate Change **Session 6** - Share and Learn: Advocacy & Policy Paper **Session 7** - Safe Advocacy **FGD** for the development of the joint letter 'Indonesia EHRD's Demands on environmental rights.'
3	**Session 8** - Fireside chat: Dialogue with AICHR Indonesia **Session 9** - Way forward and what's next **FGD** to finalize the joint letter 'Indonesia EHRD's Demands on environmental rights.'

*sessions are subject to change at any time

Requirements:

1. Indonesian youth aged 18-35 years old
2. Have a passion for environment and climate justice
3. We strongly encourage applications from underrepresented groups, including but not limited to:
    a. Environmental feminists
    b. Women environmental human rights defenders
    c. Indigenous youth
    d. Youth with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)

e. Youth with disabilities
f. Youth from rural or underserved communities

4. Commit to participate in all stages of programs (training and advocacy).
5. Some sessions will be conducted in English; therefore, basic English comprehension is recommended but not mandatory. Support will be provided if needed.
6. Have access to the device and Internet that is reliable for the video conference platform (Zoom). (Note: internet allowance will be provided, terms and conditions applied).
7. We are committed to ensuring this program is accessible to all participants. Please inform us of any specific needs or accommodations required to participate fully.

Incentives:

Upon completion, participants will automatically become members of ERA Indonesia and will be entitled to participate in environmental rights advocacy at both national and Southeast Asian levels. Participants will also receive a certificate, internet allowance, and networking opportunities with the environmental rights alliance at the regional space.

Contact Us:

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