

Report on the Explorer Program

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I visited Makassar in Indonesia through the Explorer program, with assistance from JASSO. The primary purpose of this travel to Indonesia was the acquisition of the Indonesian language, because language skills are essential in fieldwork. As a secondary purpose, I set out to do some preliminary research during the visit. My aim was to obtain information about the progress of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries)ⁱ, along with the social, economic, and ecological background of sites that I can get only in the field.

I studied the Indonesian language for two months in Makassar in south Sulawesi. I had already taken Indonesian language classes in my graduate school, where I had learnt some basic grammar and words. Therefore, I tried to acquire more practical words and expressions while I was in Indonesia, and also tried to improve my speaking skills. I studied Indonesian in Hasanuddhin University with an Indonesian student, introduced by Prof. Andi Amri, who was my counterpart there. I was able to learn many expressions, and I improved my communication skills with her through practicing easy conversations from text books. Additionally, I developed my speaking and listening skills through having conversations with Indonesian friends and my host family. It was very good to put myself in an environment where I could practice dairy words and expressions. As a result, I have improved my skills to the point where I can understand everyday conversation in Indonesian.

As for the second purpose, I did preliminary research around Palangka Raya, which is a provincial capital in Central Kalimantan. I had discussions with staff of the joint secretariat of REDD+ and visited 3 villages where REDD+ has been implemented, which provided me with very useful information on the progress of REDD+, along with background information on the field. There was a different project in each of the villages, i.e., “Technology development for community rubber plantations” at Jabiren village, “Rattan handicraft training for women” at Henda village, and “Development of oyster mushroom cultivation” at Mentaren Dua village. At each project site, I obtained information about the content, the forms of participation, and the recognition of the REDD+ projects. At the same time, I sought information on the general background of each of the villages, i.e., the population, ethnic composition, livelihoods, and ways to utilize or manage the land and resources. In addition to information about the three

villages, I heard that another REDD+ project, whose name is “Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP),” was discontinued because a conflict with a local community had occurred, regarding land tenure and land use. This had seriously impacted on the project and caused a number of delays. This has become key information for the development of my research, because I want to study the negative impact of REDD+ on local communities and how to prevent this happening. Therefore, I am going to make a study of this conflict and analyze the background factors and processes which made conflict come to the surface.

ⁱ REDD+ is a new mechanism that was first suggested as “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries”, i.e., REDD, in 2005 at COP11 (Conference of the Parties) of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Then, at COP13, the concepts that the conservation of forest carbon stocks, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries were added to REDD, and so REDD became REDD+. (From the REDD Research and Development Center)



Photo 1. The researcher with Prof. Andi Amri)



Photo 2. The university



Photo 3. The researcher with Indonesian friends at Hasanuddin University



Photo 4. With my host family



Photo 5. With a head of Henda village in central Kalimantan