

CASE STUDY

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IM4DC Program:
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Closure Study Tour,
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Tell us about what you have been doing since you returned to work and the experiences you have had since you attended the program.

I have given a presentation, 'Learnings from the Australian Mine Closure Study Tour' to my colleagues in the Department of Agronomy at the University of Bengkulu, Indonesia. The audience was very enthusiastic and asked interesting questions. I am also satisfied because I have introduced such an important aspect in mine business, providing my colleagues with knowledge about mine closure.

I was invited by the Office of the Energy and Mineral Resources of the Regency of the Central Bengkulu to a meeting which discussed a mine closure plan document prepared by a coal mine company operating in the area. This was my first full official attendance in a discussion on mine closure and it was the first presentation on mine closure planning ever held in the province of Bengkulu. I met various stakeholders, including people from company, local and regional government offices, and community representatives.

I am also working on a project regarding estimation of carbon stock in the reclaimed lands in two active coal mine companies in South Sumatra and East Kalimantan.

To what extent have you been able to implement your return to work project, or skills learned, to your situation?

I now have a better understanding about how a soil scientist could be actively involved in preparing a mine closure plan.

However, at the moment, most mine companies in Indonesia have not been very open to academia at universities, so it is not easy for a scientist to be intensively involved in mine business, eg preparing mine closure plans. I have tried to talk to management of some companies, offering any collaboration, but there has been no response as yet.

What have been your successes?

Officials in the Offices of the Department of Energy and Mineral Resources and several other stakeholders have become more aware of the importance of involving researchers/academia in a forum like mine closure planning discussions.

What have been the challenges involved?

Mine closure has become one of important issues in Indonesia. Several regulations have also been established, however, only very few companies have really met or implemented mine closure plans.

What are your future plans and the ultimate goal of your project/work?

I am glad if I can be more technically involved in overcoming environmental problems due to mine activities. Environmental problems are apparent and will be there for many years to come.

I hope I can contribute in preventing land and water degradation due to human activities, including mining.