



*Indonesian Center for
Environmental Law*

Strengthening the Right to Information for People and Environment

Lessons Learned from Indonesia

**Indonesian Center for Environmental Law
The Access Initiative**

Background & Community Profile

Tubanan, Jebara, Central Java, and Coal Fired Power Plant Tanjung Jati B (TJB) 2 x 660 Mw



Background & Community Profile

Pontang, Serang, Banten and Ciujung River Pollution





A

B

1

Tangerang

Jakarta

Capital Region

Bogor

Bandung

Agrabinta

Semarang

Central Java

Surakarta

Yogyakarta

Kediri

Blitar

Malang

Surabaya

Banjar
Reg

Processes

- ▶ Workshop NGOs, community members
- ▶ NGOs and meeting with experts
- ▶ FOI and basic environmental training for community members
- ▶ Requesting information
 - Air: 4 Public bodies (national level), 13 Public bodies (local level)
 - Water: 4 Public bodies (national level), 14 Public Bodies (local level)
- ▶ Field assistance
- ▶ Analysis, discussions and follow up

FOI Requests Result – Air

Total requests: 20

Total appeal (internal & mediation) : 17

	Respond from Requests	Respond from Appeals
Granted	3	10
complete answer	1	6
incomplete answer	1	0
not comprehensible	1	4
Mute refusal	16	1
No information held	1	6
Pending/still in process	0	0
Refused	0	0

FOI Information category –Air

	Requested Information	Information Received
Standard setting	2	2
Initial assessment	7	0
Permitting	4	0
Monitoring	8	0
Enforcement and review	8	7
Pollution reduction	3	2
Community requests	15	4
Total	47	15

FOI Requests Result – Water

Total requests: 61

Total appeal (internal & mediation) : 11

	Respond from Requests	Respond from Appeals
Granted	27	2
complete answer	16	2
incomplete answer	5	0
not comprehensible	6	0
Mute refusal	25	9
No information held	7	0
Pending/still in process	0	0
Refused	0	0

FOI Information category –Water

	Requested Information	Information Received
Standard setting	18	6
Initial assessment	25	15
Permitting	12	3
Monitoring	24	9
Enforcement and review	12	6
Community requests	7	4
Total	98	43

Challenges

- ▶ Environmental information is not yet proactively released
 - ▶ Understanding raw information (e.g.technical data)
 - ▶ Asking for documents is easier than asking the information;
 - ▶ Environmental information is spreading across sectors (institutions) and in different authorities, in which they haven't identified which information should be published;
 - ▶ Public bodies not yet understand the essence of freedom of information and the procedure;
 - ▶ Community members are not yet aware of their right to information and have less knowledge on technical aspect;
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Preliminary Findings

- ▶ National environmental related regulations already mandate proactive release of information, FOIA is a momentum to encourage the implementation and system establishment;
- ▶ Gap between local and national institutions (e.g. human resources, and institutional capacity) in implementing FOIA
- ▶ Weak coordination within Public Bodies in terms of information management and dissemination to public;
- ▶ Community members have different level of knowledge related to the freedom of information, it influences their understanding to their right to information, existing mechanism and the importance to promote good information system;

Terima Kasih
Thank You

