



*Indonesian Center for
Environmental Law*

Lessons Learned from STRIPE Study Tour

Indonesian Center for Environmental Law
The Access Initiative

Background

- ▶ Study case in two locations (Ciujung River Pollution in Banten Province and Coal Power Plant operation in Tubanan, Central Java)
- ▶ Requesting environmental information to public bodies
 - to know the existing condition of FOI implementation related to air and water issue
 - to encourage communities to know about the quality of air and water pollution in their areas, the standard , and also the impact to their health
- ▶ Collaborate with local NGOs and communities in two locations

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;

Lessons Learned from the Study Tour

- ▶ Proactive release of information is essential, as it increases accountability of the facility operations and government, also important for environmental protection;
- ▶ Important points to promote proactive release of information:
 - 1) Strong data & information system: management system, mechanism of collecting valid data and data inventarization, data processing;
 - 2) Information release mechanism: the medium and “package” in proactively release it to public (what information, the media, the language, etc);
- ▶ Capacity building for communities is important to make them aware to their right to information, the importance of environmental information and how to use it effectively, to protect their health and environment