



METI EKAYANI

**COMPARISON OF DISCOURSES IN GLOBAL &
INDONESIAN MEDIA AND STAKEHOLDERS'
PERSPECTIVES ON FOREST FIRE**

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COMPARISON OF DISCOURSES IN GLOBAL & INDONESIAN MEDIA AND STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVES ON FOREST FIRE

Dissertation

zur Erlangung des Doktorgrades
der Fakultät fuer Forstwissenschaften und Waldoekologie
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vorgelegt von

Meti Ekayani

geboren in Semarang, Indonesien

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Meti Ekayani

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GLOSSARY

AKECOP	= ASEAN Korea Environmental Cooperation
ASEAN	= Association of South East Asian Nations
BAPPEDA	= <i>Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah</i> , Regional Development Planning Board
BKSDA	= <i>Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam</i> , Natural Resources Conservation Office
BLHD	= <i>Badan Lingkungan Hidup Daerah</i> , Regional Environmental Board
BPDAS	= <i>Badan Pengelola Daerah Aliran Sungai</i> , Watershed Management Board
BPK	= <i>Buletin Penelitian Kehutanan</i> , Journal of Forestry Research – a National Journal
BPKH	= <i>Balai Pemantapan Kawasan Hutan</i> , Forest Area Arrangement Office
CIFOR	= Center for International Forestry Research
CJFR	= Canadian Journal of Forest Research
DISHUT	= <i>Dinas Kehutanan</i> , Forestry Service at province and regency
ENSO	= El-Nino Southern Oscillation
FEM	= Journal of Forest Ecology and Management
FORDA	= Forestry Research and Development Agency
FS	= Journal of Forest Science
GPMC	= Global Fire Monitoring Center
HPH	= <i>Hak Pengusahaan Hutan</i> , Forest Concession
HTI	= <i>Hutan Tanaman Industri</i> , Timber Estate

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ICRAF

= International Centre for Research on Agroforestry,
World Agroforestry Centre

IFFN

= International Forest Fire News

IHT

= International Herald Tribune

INPA

= *Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia*

IPB

= *Institut Pertanian Bogor, Bogor Agricultural*

University

JF

= Journal of Forestry

JMHT

= *Jurnal Manajemen Hutan Tropika, Journal of
Tropical Forest Management – a National
Journal*

KBT

= *Kemakmuran Berkah Timber, a forest concession*

KL

= *Kiani Lestari, a forest concession*

KLH

= *Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup, Ministry of
Environment*

LATIN

= *Lembaga Alam Tropika Indonesia, a National
Environmental NGO*

MoF

= Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia

NRC

= National Research Council (Canada)

PERHUTANI

= State-Owned Forest Enterprise in Java island

PK

= *Panca Karya, a forest concession*

SEAMEO BIOTROP
Biology

= Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Tropical

TM

= Time Magazine

UNDAC
Coordination

= United Nations Disaster Assessment and

UNEP

= United Nations Environmental Programme

UNMUL

= *Universitas Mulawarman, University of
Mulawarman at Samarinda East Kalimantan*

WWF

= World Wildlife Fund

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The study focused on examining forest fire discourses in news media (global and national media), scientific media (international and national journals) and stakeholders' perceptions (international, regional, national, and local organizations). There are several important tasks of this study, i.e. understanding the interest position of actors by investigating common and different features of forest fire discourses in media as well as stakeholders' perceptions; examining imbalance perspectives between national and global media discourses; evaluating the role of scientists in influencing policy-making process; and identifying asymmetrical perspectives concerning forest fire issues in media discourses and stakeholders' perceptions. Several asymmetrical perspectives concerning forest fire issues in media discourses and stakeholders' perceptions were identified. This study pointed out that stakeholders perceived that forest fire were mostly caused "intentionally", for instance, fire setting for preparing plantation and shifting cultivation, or slash and burn agriculture. In contrast to stakeholders' perceptions, many causes of forest fire according to global media discourses were identified as "accidental", due to natural factors such as long drought period or natural burning coal under peat surfaces. Although both media and stakeholders pointed „praxis" as the most important solution in addressing forest fire, they emphasized different matters. Stakeholders emphasized application of „zero burning" in land clearing activities and involvement of forest communities in forest management as the most effective solution to prevent and combat forest fire. Global news media, however, pointed to direct efforts to address forest fires, such as extinguishing fires with water shooters or spraying water by using airplanes as the most frequent solutions. Meanwhile, scientific journals usually emphasized on preventive efforts as solutions, e.g. implementation of better silvicultural techniques or appropriate harvesting system that can prevent fires. There were also some asymmetrical perspectives between stakeholders' perceptions and media discourses in defining the problem of forest fires. Stakeholders perceived that forest fires were closely related to „economic problems", but media usually discussed forest fires on the perspective of "ecological concerns". Measuring the asymmetrical perspective of media and stakeholders is primarily important because basically media could play important role in directing opinions of the society as well as influencing policy-making processes.

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