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Assalaammualaikum wr.wb.

Good morning Ladies, gentlemen and friends,

Please apologize me because I cannot be there in Mataram to be with you all due to my UK visa problem. I am glad that this workshop can be implemented as we planned although I could not participate directly.

This workshop is made happening in Mataram with the support and cooperation from many parties. In the last 5 years, we have observed that the ASGM issues in Indonesia as well as worldwide became more critical and create more negative impacts than its positive impacts.

In Indonesia, in the last 5 years, the numbers of ASGM *hotspots* were doubled. From independent research we have conducted in 2009 until 2010, through media clippings, interviews, data from the field and various studies, about 900 hotspots identified. This activity involved more than 250,000 miners, included women and children under 18, which earned approx. USD 2-10 per day. More than 1 million population relied their livelihood from this sector. They did not realized that they were contributing to the social and environmental production of suffering.

Whenever the ASGM exist, most likely the nearby villages will became a new economic and development center. Shortly, the village's economy increased significantly but the effect was superficial because almost all the economic benefits did not enjoyed by the locals rather by migrants, visitors and non-locals. Inflation in the gold rush villages, made the incomes from the ASGM activities less significant, because the miners would spend it for alcohol, prostitution, gambling and other consumptions which were more expensive than in a normal village.

Various studies in Indonesia revealed that in a week, it was predicted that each miner could produce minimum 5-10 gram of gold. It means, in a year, the gold produced from ASGM sector was approximately 65-130 ton, almost equal with the large scale gold mining sector, about 127 ton per year (2011).

Almost in every ASGM sites, mercury was used to extract gold and burned. Large scale gold mining do not use mercury in their process. Mercury was added in the pan, sluice boxes, and

ball-mills. From these processes, at least 10 gram of mercury per gram gold will be released to the environment. Mercury vapor will stay in the atmosphere for 1,5 years and then dispositioned in a place far from it source. Mercury released to water and soil accumulated in fish and plants consumed by people.

Ladie, gentlemen and friends, you all might be aware about the Minamata tragedy in Japan in the 50s. After 50 years, the remaining Minamata victims live in pain and unrecovered. Most of them have not received the compensation from the polluters and do not received decent health care treatment from teh government of Japan. In the last 50 years more Minamata cases also found surrounding the ASGM sites all over the world. In Indonesia, not many cases revealed to public, but they are happening and exist.

ASGM might provide job opportunity, livelihood and short term economic gain for community as well as local governments. But in long term, this activity create irreversible environmental, social and health impacts. The cost to recover all these damages far more higher than the price of gold produced.

ASGM problem is multi-dimension which should be solved using holiciti and integrated approach. At the global level, the issue have been discussed seriously by UN agencies. At the local and national level, this is stomach, livelihood, and environment which need to be rethink and sustainable alternatives should be introduced.

I hope you enjoy the workshop, exchange thoughts and new informations. I also hope this workshop can be useful for another productive and constructive steps.

Wassalam wr.wb.