

Expectation for PAWEES activity in Indonesia

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1. Introduction

The International Society of Paddy and Water Engineering (PAWEES) was introduced to Indonesia soon as it was founded in 2003, along the PAWEES' journal of Paddy and Water Environment (PWE). There were only few to several scientists that involved in the society and the journal at that time, and unfortunately up to now there are no significant increase of this number. This is even though the focus of the society is rice and water, in which Indonesia is actually possessed in plenty.

As an agricultural country there should be enough development in science and technology, and their implementation towards advancing the agriculture, food supply and bio-environment protection. This should be supported by good quality of human resources, the professional, scientists, educator and even the farmers, with regards on the governments policy. Beside that, there are also needs of scientific communication, information and work exchange among those who work in the same fields, which can be in a form of joining a specific society nationally or internationally. Therefore the existence of a society such as PAWEES and to actively join and contribute to such community is very important.

2. PAWEES in Indonesia

With its relatively young in age, PAWEES is not comparable to the famous senior CIGR or ASABE, but beside of its focus on paddy and water environment, it was not originated in Europe or America not but in the region that rice fields and its water-related practices are common. So this is a reason why PAWEES is indeed having its uniqueness, then it should be also become popular among Indonesian scientists and professional in this fields. But this does not seem to happen, yet.

Actually Indonesia also faces problems with human resource. Initially, there were less people intention to take merit from actively joining a scientific society and making publication with many reasons. This condition was worsening by crisis that came after another since the monetary crisis several years ago. Most of time is used for focusing solving problems or getting additional fund for continuing the activities rather than writing publication or conducting exchange. There are so many problems that they are not to be explained here in details, that in Indonesia some societies are working hard to recover and promotes the scientific and professional activities. One of them is the Indonesian Society of Agricultural Engineering (ISAE) which is also publishing quarterly its own journal cooperating with Department of Agricultural Engineering, Bogor Agricultural

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ISAE possesses all specific field in Agricultural Engineering including food process, machinery and, soil and water engineering just like CIGR or ASABE, but there is no division or commission of each specific field yet. Recently, the plan to form commission for Land and Water Resource Engineering was initiated and hopefully it will be established in the near future. When it is officially formed, it will be a good opportunity for this commission to also actively joins and contributes to PAWEES. With JSIDRE in Japan, KRE in Korea and CSAE in Taiwan, PAWEES is gaining contributions and subscriptions in these countries, this is hopefully can also be achieved involving the ISAE in Indonesia.

Currently, PWE is probably known only in a few universities in Indonesia and perhaps not yet knows by other government institutions or professionals. Most Indonesian who work in agricultural and water related work are aware of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage ICID with its Indonesian Commission INACID which is directly support by the government of Indonesia and most agricultural engineers know of CIGR and ASABE. These organizations and societies are well-established, well-maintained and well-promoted. Comparing to PAWEES, with its young age, it needs more efforts of promotion in Indonesia.

There are many ways to promote PAWEES, but it is not so easy to get attention from the people. The first is to make contact and join effort with the national organization such as ISAE. With active effort from national organization, the promotion can be spread out toward the national network of scientists, professionals and also officials.

Writing and speaking in foreign language, especially English are not a matter since there are many of graduates from foreign universities and giving presentation in an international conference will have benefit to carrier and opportunities. But when persons have to go out of the country for a conference then other consideration will emerge, especially when they not yet know well about the organization. Therefore conferences or meetings should be made in Indonesia, to promote the society and to gain more publications for PAWEES. This is again recall the importance of joining effort, or even, event with national society.

Encouragements in many possible forms are also important. Prizes and awards are commonly known forms in this case. The other forms is invitation to write articles about the up to date situation or development related to paddy and water, to be published in PWE or presented in PAWEES event. This is especially to persons who are important or have strong influence, which will bring benefit to PAWEES, as it is a kind of promotion, as well as to Indonesia, as its voice is heard through the society. The PAWEES might also offer an article from one of its board to the national scientific journal (e.g. ISAE journal) as an invited article.

These kinds of promotion forms are off course not by disregarding the usual practices of promotion such as brochures, free journal and internet websites. Beyond that, it is important to convey the message about what is the benefit to be active in PAWEES and publish in PWE, what are the opportunities PAWEES will bring and why it is important to support and promote PAWEES.