

**IOI Pelita Land Dispute Update: Introductory Workshop on  
Facilitation and Capacity Building**

**Background**

IOI and stakeholders are continuing their efforts to resolve the long-standing land dispute between IOI-Pelita and local communities. The grievance was initially raised by two communities Long Teran Kanan A and Long Teran Kanan B. A few years later, key stakeholders decided to include in the grievance process all communities residing in the vicinity of IOI Pelita's estates. This was done to make the process more inclusive and also, to be able to address the internal conflicts and overlapping land claims issues that are so prominent in this case. Until June 2018 there were 11 such community groups but recently in July 2018, 3 of them united thus at the current moment there are 9 communities participating in the grievance process.

With input from stakeholders, IOI developed a Draft Resolution Plan, which received a conditional endorsement from RSPO Complaints Panel at the end of June. This made it possible for IOI and stakeholders to conduct a socialization visit to all 11 community groups in early July to explain the Draft Resolution Plan and ask for communities' consent to launch the process.



*Community leaders at the workshop held on August 11 in Miri*

To further enhance the socialization of the Draft Resolution Plan and assist communities in deciding whether or not to give their consent to the plan, IOI invited all community leaders and Penghulu (traditional leader) to gather together in Miri for a workshop on facilitation and capacity building. Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS), a local NGO, and an independent lead facilitator, Dr. Ramy Bulan, introduced themselves and their organizations and talked about their experience with the case and explained how they could assist the resolution process through facilitation and community capacity building. Community members living in Miri were also invited to the meeting. Grassroots representative Mr. Lim Si Siew was present as well.



*Dr Ramy Bulan introducing herself to community leaders*

Dr Ramy Bulan stated that she would be happy to be the lead facilitator for the process and explained how the facilitation process would be done. She also stressed the need for the communities to provide her with their consent before she could assume her role.



*Mr Mark Bujang from JOAS addressing questions from the community leaders*

JOAS leaders, Mr. Thomas Jalong and Mr. Mark Bujang, elaborated on the capacity building services which they can offer, highlighting in particular their experience in participatory mapping. JOAS's insights and opinions were highly appreciated by the community leaders and other participants. It was obvious that local communities have a high level of trust and respect towards the local NGOs and welcome them at any time.

IOI in its turn provided a summary of the main features of the Draft Resolution Plan mainly for the benefit of those community members who live in Miri and who didn't have a chance to participate in the socialization session conducted in early July. A lively discussion followed. It showed that various ethnic groups have different interests in the case. For some the main issue was their claim to the land under the Provisional Lease. IOI stressed the fact that this issue has to be discussed with the state government as the JV company was granted the lease by the state who is the official landowner. This particular group needed more time and further external advice, especially in regards to the impact of the Land Code (Amendment) Bill 2018 which was passed in the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly in July. Other community groups, having more specific grievances and claims settlement of which is within IOI's authority, had no issue with giving their consent to Draft Resolution Plan.



*Mr Carl Dagenhart and Mr Wilson Pasang answering questions from audience*

While in Miri for the purpose of the workshop, IOI team also met with other local stakeholders such as Regent of Miri, Land and Survey Department, and had an extensive meeting with JOAS, prior to the workshop, to brief them on the Draft Resolution Plan.

Looking at the insights gained through the workshop and the exchange of opinions and ideas that took place there, this was a valuable step forward in the dispute resolution process. IOI and stakeholders remain committed to bringing the dispute to a successful conclusion in a manner satisfying to all parties involved.

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