Indigenous Peoples' Self-Determined Development and Climate Change

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OUTLINE

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Failure of Dominant Development Model

Evidence
• Climate Change and Erosion of biological diversity
• Global Environmental Crisis = violence against nature
• Global Economic Crisis leading to worsening economic inequality and social Injustice

Extractive Industries – main cause of climate change: provided resources (oil, gas, mineral extraction) which fed this development model
Example of Unsustainable Development

• Bauxite mining – dig up forest to get soil containing bauxite

• Use a lot of energy (from hydroelectric dam, oil or coal power plant) to convert bauxite into aluminum. (increased GHG)

• Aluminum used in cans, foils, etc. which are disposable and not recycled.

• Recycling if done- no need for new mines
Indigenous Peoples' Critique of Dominant Development Model

• Accumulation of wealth through production surpluses, particularly at individual level or among elite groups, and overconsumption does not contribute to societies’ well being or security, because it destroys equilibrium, harmony with nature and with others.

• Promotes violence against nature and against human beings
Elements of self-determined development

- Protection, nurture and defense of lands, waters, territories and resources: source of sustenance, culture and identity of indigenous peoples
- Respect of ownership, control and management of indigenous peoples over their territories, lands and resources
- Revitalizes cultural traditions and customs consistent with international human rights standards
- Protects and enhances indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, protects intellectual, cultural, religious and spiritual property and redress for misappropriation of these is provided.
Elements of self-determined development

- Balance between subsistence economies, market economy and the interface between these.
- Culturally appropriate technologies are used and developed.
- Resilience and adaptation processes of indigenous peoples to climate change are strengthened.
- Obtaining free, prior and informed consent is done in the proper way.
- Environmental and social costs of are factored in.
- “Small is beautiful”
- Respect and protection of indigenous women and children's rights.
Indigenous Peoples' models of development

- Characterized by economic diversity as these are based on diverse ecosystems.
- Low-carbon
Examples of IPSDD

• Sungai Utik experience: clean water used as main indicator of well-being. As long as there is clean and abundant water in the river children do not get sick, crops and fish thrive, etc.

• Forests: source of food, cultural site, traditional knowledge enriched, cash (rubber trees), etc.

• Nursing of rivers by Taiwan IPs
Problems with Dominant Development

• States in Asia still follow this model
• Cambodia: Further expansion of mega hydro-electric dams (causing deforestation, floods and displacement of indigenous peoples) and mining
• Erosion of cultural practices and values of indigenous peoples
• The political and legal systems cannot accommodate gains of indigenous
Problems with Dominant Development

peoples' in asserting self-determined development.

(example of Sungai Utik experience where after the certificate of forest stewardship was granted, no place in legal system to lodge this)

- Expansion of oil palm plantations in Indonesia, jatropha plantations in Burma (use of forced labour)
Recommendations

1. Establish an Asia Indigenous Peoples' Network on Climate Change which can do the following:
   • Facilitate further exchange of information and sharing of experiences in self-determined development using multimedia
   • Promote exchange visits between indigenous peoples.
Recommendations

• Coordinate advocacy work to push for indigenous peoples rights and development in climate change processes, policies and programs at local, national, regional and global levels.

2. Undertake more thorough documentation (research, video, etc.) of models of indigenous peoples' self-determined development
3. **Enhance models of IP Development which are low carbon or carbon neutral.**
   - Support development of locally-controlled, decentralized renewable energy systems such as micro hydropower dams, solar plants, wind turbines, use of biomass, etc.
   - Access funds/technical expertise for these
   - Strengthen sustainable agro-forestry practices.
Recommendations

• Gather more support for indigenous peoples' campaigns against deforestation, destructive extractive industries, dams, etc.

4. Develop stronger relations with allies and support networks for indigenous peoples' self-determined development (e.g. sister village concept – village in Europe supports a renewable energy project in a village in Kalimantan)
Recommendations

5. Campaign for more recycling of aluminum, copper, etc. so that opening up of new mines will stop and GHG emissions will be abated.

- individuals and civil society organizations in the rich countries should prioritize such activities.

6. Educate the broader society on indigenous peoples' self-determined devt.
Recommendations

7. Consider carbon in indigenous peoples' forests as a non-timber forest product (NTFP) which is owned by indigenous peoples and therefore they have rights over this.

8. Use of indicators for indigenous peoples' well-being and sustainability to monitor and to advocate for IPSDD