



Exploitative Extraction of Natural Resources leading to Environmental Crises and Forcible Displacement

(1) The 15th General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia is deeply concerned by the pervasive issue of extractive exploitation and exploitative business practices that continue to afflict indigenous communities across Asia. Indigenous peoples, stewards of their lands for generations, face exploitation by profit-focused industries. This cycle harms their well-being, dignity, and justice, causing human rights violations, forcible displacement, and environmental degradation.

(2) The 15th CCA General Assembly affirms that every person, regardless of their ethnicity and background, deserves to live in a world where their rights are respected, their cultures celebrated, and their land safeguarded. The exploitation of natural resources should never come at the cost of human rights, and businesses must be held accountable for their actions.

(3) *The crisis of ecology in Indonesia:* In Indonesia, the crisis of ecology is correlated to the impact of investment by mining companies. Several islands in Indonesia, such as Papua, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku (Ceram, Buru, Tanimbar) and North Maluku (Obi) are tropical forests. For a long time, the struggle in Indonesia was against deforestation and land grabbing. However, the threat today is the impact of investments in mining companies' groups in several islands. Forcible displacement and relocations are becoming commonplace, occurring already in Rempang, Riau island and in Kawai, Obi island, home to the Tobelo and Galela tribes. In the name of national strategic projects, local indigenous people who have lived on the land for thousands of years are forced to relocate to another faraway place. This uprooting causes the loss of their homes and homelands, and their cultural rights. At the new location, they must restart their lives from scratch, learning to adapt in new resettlements, with limited access as companies continue their exploitative endeavours. On Yamdena island, the Tanimbar people have been forced to sell their land at below the selling price. Their land is being chipped away, as company expansions require large areas of land. As a result, the poverty of indigenous peoples will become an eternal and permanent fact in mining areas.

(4) Indigenous communities, as the custodians of their ancestral lands, offer us profound lessons in harmonious co-existence with nature. The struggles of indigenous people across Asia against exploitation are a testament to the ongoing battle for justice and equality. As the 15th General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia, we recognise that their fight is our fight, for the gospel calls us to advocate for the marginalised, protect the vulnerable, and seek righteousness in all corners of the world.

(5) In light of the Assembly theme, "God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation", it is paramount for churches to actively advocate against unjust business practices and to re-examine their relationships with the broader economic and corporate landscape. Our faith compels us to embody the principles of justice, compassion, and ethical stewardship, not only within our congregations but also in the broader world. By speaking out against exploitative practices and standing in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of Asia and their struggles, we reaffirm our commitment to a world where human dignity, justice, and environmental sustainability are cherished above profit margins.