Multi-pronged approach: Reflecting the Anti-Dam Protest Movement in Baram

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Baram - Sarawak - Malaysia
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The Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy

- The advantages of this special economic zone is that it has abundant natural sources, including high value and competitive energy such as 20,000 megawatts (MW) of hydroelectric power plants, 14.6 billion metric tons of coal and natural gas.

- In order to attract manufacturing and industrial companies, Sarawak relied heavily on producing cheap electricity.

- Under the SCORE plan, the Sarawak state government plans to complete 12 mega dams before year 2030.

Under the front of development, unseen damages are done to the community.
Bakun Dam

- 2,400 MW of energy
- The project was first approved by government in 1986
- Operation in 2012
- The biggest dam in South East Asia
- Inundated 700 square kilometers of land
- 50,000 hectares of forest is flooded
- 10,000 people from ethnic groups were homeless
- No water and power supply living near the hydroelectric dam
Bakun Dam

- 1980s - protests against the dam by Malaysian NGOs and indigenous peoples whose ancestral lands were to be drowned by Bakun Dam
- 1987 - Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Voice of the Malaysian People, SUARAM) formed
- SUARAM, mainly involved with monitoring and reporting human rights violations in Malaysia and the region
- 1987 - at least two NGO activists were arrested and detained - ISA
Baram Dam

- The site of the dam is 250 kilometres inland from Miri, the second largest city in Sarawak.
- If completed, would support a 1,200 MW power station.
- 162 meter high.
- Will inundate 412 square kilometers of pristine rainforest.
- At least 30 indigenous community villages flood.
- More than 20,000 Indigenous people force leave their land.
Baram Dam

- State Government clear Community Land without consent
- In 2008, Local community discovered, formed BPAC (Balam Protection Action Committee)
- Collected opinions from multiple communities
- Villages in Baram are remote and inaccessible
- Oral Communication to deliver information
- Took years for the issue of Baram dam to be conveyed
- Support from international NGOs like Bruno Manser Fund (BMF) and The Borneo Project
Baram Dam

- A group of 300 indigenous people staged a demonstration during IHA 2013 World Congress held by International Hydropower Association (IHA) at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching in May 2013
- Written demands were submitted to executive director of IHA, Richard M Taylor
- Such operation has led to the Malaysian media to create some news reporting, but it is only a short lived one.
- Instead, it is reported by foreign media, which makes foreigners more aware about the anti-dam’s protest movement
Baramkini

- June 2013, formed BARAMKINI
- KINI, means Now
- Freelance Journalist
- Filmed and interview the anti-dam protest
- Posted the articles and video online
Stop Baram Dam Campaign
- 23 Oct 2013
Stop Baram Dam Campaign

MULTIPLE COMMUNICATION METHODS

- Photo Exhibition | Sharing
- To raise awareness and understanding of the indigenous community
“The disastrous effects of the Bakun Dam and Murum Dam on the life of the affected villagers have not been told to the Baram residents. Many residents of the Baram area do not fully understand the full impact of the proposed Baram Dam on their future livelihood. Many of them have been given wrong information and have been misled.” — James, Headman of Tanjong Terpalit
“There are a number of alternatives to mega-dams to meet even an “extremely aggressive 10% growth” of energy demand which include solar power as well as palm oil biomass gasification and methane capture.”
Baram Dam STOPPED!

- After a long fight by the Baram people with NGOs which include anti-dam movement, blockade, talks session in the cities, dialogues session between professionals, on February of 2016, the late Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem has revoke the gazette of using Ulu Baram land and the construction of the dam.

The stop on the dam have save villages, forest and rivers being destroyed.
The Struggle Continues…

- NO DAM, NO ROAD
- Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr James Jemut Masing threatened the Baram people who did not accept dam construction with the words
“The struggle continues and we will never give up. We will protect our forest till the end of the world.”

Anyie, Long Liam Baram
Thank You

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