

## Foreword

### Pusat Penelitian dan Studi Gender (PPSG) & Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (YJP)

The 2007 Human Development Report acknowledges that climate change threatens to erode human freedoms and to limit choices of global consumptions. The report further underscores that gender inequality intersects with climate risks and vulnerabilities. Especially poor women's limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and muted voices in shaping decisions make them highly vulnerable to climate change. The nature of that vulnerability varies widely, cautioning against generalization but climate change will magnify existing patterns of inequality, including gender inequality. Climate change poses potentially unprecedented threats to human development and well-being. Much of that threat consists inter alliance in changes to hydrological cycles and rain regimes, in the effect of temperature increases on evaporation, and in the worsening severity of extreme climate events. Humans in general will be increasingly subject to ever greater risk and vulnerability as climate change damages humans' means of subsistence, health and security (UNDP, 2009).

In their roles as providers of home comfort, food, fuel, nutrition and water, women are already change makers. Yet previous roles continue to be in the informal domain, their value undocumented in the standard exchange value- based market economy and in measures such as the GDP. As such, economic policies, whether local, national or global, do not consider these activities in the allocation of financial resources. This unfinished agenda of integrating conventional work domains of women in the formal accounting framework needs to be pushed forward to correct investment allocation plans. Otherwise, this lack of recognition can be dangerous in current climate change discourses since women's conventional roles are the most adversely affected by climate change. Unless pushed, no adaptation framework will automatically consider women's lack of wellbeing if they need to go further to fetch clean, safe water and fuel, or their increased probability of malnutrition in case of crop failure and food insecurity (particularly in the South Asian context where women are already more calorie-deficient than men).

In the last 10 years, a variety of crises and disasters happen in Indonesia. Mainly it is caused by the failures of the global development that undermined natural resources, but ignores the environmental capacity. As a result, the crisis deepened, including the increasing threat of disasters, like droughts, floods, extreme weather changes, crop failures, plant pests, diseases that come continuously in various areas. The impact of quickly climate change was faced by residents, especially

women, who have no sufficient information, survive ability, as well as lack of priority handling by the state. Regional autonomy which is intended to facilitate people to access and control of their natural resources would narrow the women's space. Local Government had adopted a policy of its natural wealth in the form of business licenses and Regional Regulation (Peraturan Daerah), which do not consider with the aspects of climate change and its impact especially on women and children.

At the level of education institutions, especially higher education institutions, the issues of climate change, gender equality, and the relationship between them have not been included in the curriculum, teaching materials, research, and community service least integrated into the life skills education for every family members. Maintenance of the environment is also determined by local values and religious values that exist within the community. The role of higher education and religious institutions are very strategic in contributing concept, methodology, and practice for students and the public on both these issues, likewise with other informal institutions in society. This movement will encourage the transformation of society to become part of a joint movement of the world community in reducing the impact of climate change. When incorporated in analyses of climate change, the gender approach promotes understanding of how the identities of women and men determine different vulnerabilities and capacities to deal with climate change; such an approach can also help to attenuate the causes of climate change. Integrating the gender approach is also helpful in designing and implementing policies, programmes and projects that lead to greater equity and equality. In particular, it may contribute to building more capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate change, insofar as it affords a clearer and more complete view of the relations people have built with ecosystems.

Considering the above mentioned problems, since 2012 Pusat Penelitian dan Studi Gender (The Centre for Gender Research and Studies) Satya Wacana Christian University (CGRS-SWCU) and *Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan* in cooperation with several universities and institutions have been conducting research, seminars, training and publication under the "Interfaith Gender Equality and Ecological Justice in Education" program that was supported by the UBCHEA for the fiscal year of 2012-2013. The program include preliminary activities to integrate gender and ecological issues in higher education. Participants have the opportunity to share experiences related to gender and sustainable development issues at local and national levels, especially in higher education areas. The experiences have been written as articles which were organised into a reference book for students of subjects related to gender and sustainable development. Positive impacts achieved from the activities including the built awareness and commitment, skills and capabilities of lecturers in bringing the issues in universities and schools.

Since January 2014, the CGRS-SWCU with networked researchers from— among others—Jurnal Perempuan, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Universität Marburg Germany, Virginia Theological Seminary, University of California Riverside; University of California Berkeley; Universitas Indonesia; Universitaet Heidelberg; Georgetown University; Universitas Gajah Mada; Universitas Katolik Soegijapranata; and Universitas Brawijaya have been intensely discussing, sharing, and writing their experiences into two books of ecofeminism that is in the Indonesian language and in English. One of the books that come to your hands now is published by CGRS-SWCU and Jurnal Perempuan.

We would like to thank all authors and their institutions. In particular, many thanks go to Dewi Candraningrum, who faithfully and passionately has edited all the papers either in Bahasa Indonesia and English. We would like to extend our gratitudes to the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA) which has supported the publication of the first series of “Ekofeminisme” in 2013. As undoubtedly there are weaknesses of this book as a reference, we sincerely wish for suggestions from readers, and invite researchers, lecturers, practitioners to write together in the next series of Ecofeminism in 2015. We hope this book would give inspiration for many people to mainstream Ecofeminism in respective workplaces to welcome 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDGs).

Salatiga & Jakarta, 7 May 2014

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