

Summary and Objectives Academy Professorship Social Sciences 2006 – 2011

In the future research and teaching activities I propose to integrate conceptual discussions with practical experiences encompassing research methodology, concepts/theories, and research practice related to the significant conceptual and methodological issues emerging in my study. By doing this I expect to contribute to the advancement of young scholars' analytical and practical skills in carrying out in-depth research, providing appropriate and comprehensive theoretical arguments and analyses, as well as producing and disseminating new scientific discoveries to a wider audience. I plan to pursue my research, writing, and teaching activities in the areas I have been engaged during the last decade to follow the ongoing phenomena of farmers' struggles in the changing global world. My research and analytical thought have their main emphasis on people utilizing their immediate environment by using a diverse and yet a mixture of knowledge, i.e. local and scientific knowledge, in their efforts to survive in the midst of continuous natural hazards, policy interventions, and various introduced technologies, practices, and information. This is an arena where 'highly controlled agriculture by the state' in Indonesia and some Southeast Asian countries has been going on, whereas a decentralization or regional autonomy has also been introduced. An ongoing examination of the mechanisms and processes of people's activities and creativity in such a context to sustain and improve their livelihood over time is still necessary. What are the implications on the aggregate behavior and culture, people's negotiating ability and prosperity, and the state's policies? The comparative analyses in several parts of Indonesia and some other countries in the region would enable me in generalizing the similarities and differences across diverse settings of people's activities.

Such a longitudinal and comparative study is necessary to complement, strengthen, and enrich earlier discoveries.

By relating the teaching and research activities and integrating the theoretical discussion and research practices, I aim to contribute to a holistic understanding and yet a dynamic perspective encompassing bounded and segregated entities and analytical tools in an ongoing learning process.

Such an analytical endeavor could contribute to the dismantling of the existing bounded and segmented theoretical and conceptual tools in explaining the complex-tangled-dynamic socio-cultural phenomena, a significant groundwork for a dynamic-contemporary-integrated social science and humanities in Indonesia. I also aim to enrich the debates/arguments on the agency/praxis and antiessentialism perspectives, recent cognitive anthropology approaches and the current discourses of development and empowerment.

For practical aim, I wish to provide a better understanding of the people's struggles to the "others" (bureaucrats, scientists, business people, and society in general) to enable them to shift the paradigm of development by designing a 'humanistic' way of collaboration and placing people as equal counterparts. On the basis of this paradigm and the advancement of analytical endeavor as aforementioned, I have a great intention to develop a 'new school of thought' by strengthening the human dimension in all studies and programs in natural resource management and development. I will collaborate with KNAW-AIPI (Indonesian Academy of Sciences), Gadjah Mada University as the

host of API program and other universities in Indonesia in creating and developing this new school of thought during my professorship.