

Indonesia & Papua: The Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE) and us

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The Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE) is a vast mega-project, a plan for over a million hectares of plantations and industrialised agriculture that threatens the people and environment across the southern part of West Papua. Indonesian and foreign companies have each claimed their share of the land, and offer the local Malind people next-to-nothing in exchange for the forest that has sustained them for countless generations.

West Papua, where the MIFEE project is set to take place, is a conflict zone. The Papuan people have been struggling for decades for their freedom and self-determination. West Papua is also the next frontier for Indonesia's plantations industry – after Sumatra and Borneo's forests have been decimated for the pulp and oil-palm industries, now Papua becomes the target. Although some plantations already exist, MIFEE represents another order of magnitude, opening the floodgates to development projects across Papua in which the losers will be the Papuan people.



awesMIFEE! has been created by independent activists in the UK as an act of solidarity with the social and ecological struggles of the people of Merauke and elsewhere in West Papua. We believe that it is important that people outside of West Papua also know what is happening in Merauke. However, information available about MIFEE can be confusing – much of it comes from different companies and government bodies, and each have their own way of describing the project that fits with their own interests and objectives.

By compiling information from different sources, such as reports from the villages affected, from NGOs and other groups, from Papuan, Indonesian and financial media, from local and national government, and from company websites, we have tried to unravel what MIFEE is likely to mean for the people of Merauke. We hope that a more coherent understanding of how this land grab is taking shape will be of interest to people who are interested in West Papua, in the defence of forests and forest peoples, in the struggles against agro-fuels and against the growth of industrialised agriculture.

Most of all we hope that this information can be the catalyst for action! Our initiative is taken independently, because we believe in international solidarity, unconnected to the programs of any NGO apart from communication and collecting data. We hope it can also be a source of inspiration.

The report “An Agribusiness Attack in West Papua : Unravelling the Merauke Integrated Food and

Energy Estate” is an attempt to give an overview of the situation in April 2012. It focusses on the following areas:

- * Background information – to understand MIFEE in the context of West Papua, it’s history and struggles, and the local Malind people.

- *What is MIFEE – how MIFEE presents itself as the answer to Indonesia’s food security needs. But is it actually just an excuse for oil palm and logging companies to conquer new territory? A look at the difference between the propaganda and the reality of development in Merauke.

- *Reports from villages: A summary of news of what has been happening on the ground around the MIFEE project area, compiled from reports of NGOs that have visited the area, local media and letters sent from villagers.

- *Company Profiles: Tracing where the money comes from behind each proposed plantation. Which of Indonesia’s top business conglomerates are involved? How South Korean companies have been buying up plantations. How Australia’s top-selling sugar brand is connected to forest destruction in Papua.

News of further developments will be posted here, and from time to time updates containing news of all recent developments will be published. contact us at awasmiffee [at] potager.org

Awass MIFEE!

P.S.

- * https://awasmiffee.potager.org/?page_id=37