

Exploring the Interface Between Bottom-Up Sustainability and Top-Down Policy

Workshop jointly organized by

Monash University, Indonesia and University of Maryland (UMD) School of Public Policy

Objective:

This workshop aims to examine how grassroots knowledge, local wisdom, and community action interact with formal institutions and government-led strategies in addressing climate change. Bringing together scholars and students from diverse disciplinary and geographic backgrounds, it seeks to co-create insights into these dynamics through comparative perspectives from Indonesia and the United States. Specifically, participants will discuss and synthesize when bottom-up efforts complement, reshape, or challenge centralized policy approaches, and when top-down interventions enable or constrain local sustainability practices.

Co-chairs:

Aichiro Suryo Prabowo (Assistant Professor, Monash University, Indonesia)
Thomas Hilde (Research Professor, UMD School of Public Policy, United States)

Targeted participants:

Approximately 30-40 participants in total: 15 students from Monash, 15 students from UMD, and a small number of external participants (by invitation only). Registration is required.

Location

Monash University, Indonesia Campus
Green Office Park 9, BSD City, Tangerang, Banten
5th Floor, Room 5.02

Date and time:

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 9:30 - 12:00 (WIB - Jakarta time). Welcome coffee will be served from 9:00 to provide an opportunity for students to engage informally with other participants. Lunch will be provided at noon once the workshop concludes.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Speaker
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome coffee and informal networking	-
9:30 - 9:45	Opening remarks	Jane Jacobs Professor, VP of Research & Academic Affairs, Monash
9:45 - 10:00	Public policy perspective	Aichiro Suryo Prabowo Assistant Professor, Monash
10:00 - 10:15	Ecological perspective	Thomas Hilde Research Professor, UMD
10:15 - 10:30	Sociological perspective	Perdana Roswaldy Assistant Professor, Monash
10:30 - 10:45	History perspective	Matthew Regan Historian, US Department of State; PhD Candidate, UMD
10:45 - 11:30	Student-centered discussion	-
11:30 - 11:45	Synthesis	Sabina Puspita Assistant Professor, MPPM Program Coordinator, Monash
11:45 - 12:00	Closing remarks	Yessy Arnold Perangin Angin Associate Professor, VP of Education, Monash
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	-

Recommended readings for participants:

Green, J.F., Sterner, T. and Wagner, G., 2014. A balance of bottom-up and top-down in linking climate policies. *Nature climate change*, 4(12), pp.1064-1067. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2429>

Hilde, T.C., Regan, M.R. and Dharmasih, W., 2016. Saving a dynamic system: Sustainable adaptation and the Balinese subak. In The Routledge Handbook of Food Ethics (pp. 331-343). Routledge. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315745503>

Roswaldy, P.P., 2025. Mending the Broken Clock: Gender and Socioecological Changes in Postconflict North Sumatra. *Journal of Agrarian Change*. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/joac.70017>