

SEAG-Symposium, October 14-18, 2002, Vietnam

“The role of dialogue and networking:
From a transitional to an industrialized country”

The Resistance of Subak as a Traditional Irrigation System due to the Regional Development in Bali, Indonesia

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Abstract

Subak is the custom law society having the socio-agricultural religion characteristics, consists of the farmers that cultivate their paddy field by themselves and obtain irrigation water from one or more sources of water.

The study was conducted for 3 (three) years at 3 (three) different conditions of Subaks. Those are (i) Subak Sungsang located at Kerambitan Village, Tabanan regency representing Subak which has been affected by intervention of the government, in terms of the rehabilitation of the irrigation structures using permanent one, (ii) Subak Muwa located at Ubud Village, Gianyar regency representing highly affected by tourism and economic development, and (iii) Subak Timbul Baru located at Tegallang village, Gianyar regency representing less intervention by government and economic development.

The method used in this study was using questionnaire sheets to collect primary data from the farmers, head of Subaks, government officials as well as using in depth research where the researchers were living in the study area for more than one month to find out more reliable data. Aside from primary data, the secondary data as the historical one was gathered from the Subak institutions and from the government offices.

Results indicated that (i) the intervention of government to the Subak was highly accepted by the farmers as long as the new structures built by the government were in accordance with the concept of the Subak system, (ii) tourism and economic development as part of regional development has both positive and negative impacts, (iii) the strong concept of subak at the original subak is able to maintain its indigenous system.

Keywords: Indonesia, irrigation, rice, subak