



Pampang Parikesit: front runner of sustainability science in Indonesia

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Prof. Parikesit suddenly passed away on 11 March, 2024.

He was a chairman of the Centre for Environment and Sustainability Science (CESS), Universitas Padjadjaran Bandung. CESS is the new name of the Center for Natural

Resources and Environmental Research which at its inception was called the Institute of Ecology established in 1972. The name of the Institute of Ecology was changed to the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Research (PPSDAL) in 1983. Then in 2018 PPSDAL turned into one of the centers of excellence at Universitas Padjadjaran with the Rector's Decree Number 63/UN6.RKT/Kep/HK/2018 concerning the Establishment of Centers of Excellence for Inter and Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Sustainability Science (CITRESS) which is referred to as Center for Environment and Sustainability Science (CESS) (<https://cess.unpad.ac.id/en/history/>). CESS is the first institution in Indonesia to develop inter- and transdisciplinary environmental studies and sustainability sciences and disseminate basic and applied knowledge in the field of development ecology as well as the knowledge for sustainable development. The research results have not only been disseminated to the scientific community, decision makers, planners, managers, and the public through publications, mass media, seminars, and other official meetings at the national and international levels, but also to the local communities. Prof. Parikesit also often held various seminars

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and training courses involving local communities as speakers on various topics related to sustainability issues. His ability to hear the voices of local people and learn together with the community inspires us all.

Prof. Parikesit is also one of the founders of the Magister program of the Sustainability Science-School of Graduate Studies, Universitas Padjadjaran which is the first master's program in Indonesia. The establishment of this school is part of his efforts to promote sustainability science as an effort to achieve a sustainable future.

He organized an annual international conference on sustainability science since 2018 at Universitas Padjadjaran. This conference continued through his strong leadership during the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the Conference on Sustainability Science 2020 was held virtually through a Zoom platform with the central theme topic "Sustainability Science Post COVID-19: Social Distancing Life, Approaching Natural Life". This annual conference attracts many participants not only from Indonesia but also outside of Indonesia. He was also very eager to organize events for the young generation such as a summer school titled "Unlocking the Resilience of Traditional Bioproduction Systems Towards Climate Change" with 168 participants from 20 countries from 22–27 August 2022, and the International Colloquium on Youth, Environment, and Sustainability on 15 November 2023. These events were implemented by his strong leadership and profound insight into environment and sustainability science.

Obtaining his Ph.D. degree at the University of Tokyo, he often stayed in Tokyo as visiting lecturer at the University of Tokyo since 2001. His collaboration with the University of Tokyo dates back to the Core University Program in Applied Biosciences conducted jointly by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Indonesia's Directors General for Higher Education over 10 years from 1998 to 2008. The 10-year program was very fruitful, not only leading to his doctoral research, but with his enthusiastic support, many students from both Japan and Indonesia participated in the joint research, producing human resources in the field of sustainability science. In the middle of the program, the University of Tokyo established the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) in 2005 as the first center of excellence for sustainability science research in Japan, and launched the *Sustainability Science* journal (Springer) in 2006. It might be quite natural for him to be inspired by this emerging sustainability science beyond this research domain of landscape ecology.

Prof. Parikesit joined as an editorial board member of *Sustainability Science* journal in 2017, and handled 6 manuscripts as editor, and published 2 articles as co-author. He was dedicated and prompt in his editorial duties, and ensured smooth flow of the publication process with high scholarly integrity. His vast knowledge and profound understanding of

sustainability and biodiversity issues always offered insightful commentary to the authors. He never missed the board meetings of the journal and always guided the editorial staff with his expertise. Prof. Parikesit's unwavering commitment, kindness, and his meticulous attention to detail will be dearly missed, leaving an indelible mark on the journal and the field of sustainability.

Prof. Parikesit's brilliance and enthusiasm illuminates our lives and the scientific community. His groundbreaking contributions to sustainability science in Indonesia will forever shape the landscape of our discipline, while his hard work, kindness, humbleness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to mentoring inspired all who had the privilege of knowing him. His dedicated works until the end of his life, will always be masterpieces of his legacy.

Prof. Parikesit was also very active in conducting fieldwork in rural areas. He enjoyed a high level of trust from his students and many of them wished to be supervised by him for their theses. As a result, projects he was involved in benefited from the manpower of students. However, when there were too many students, the house they had rented as a base camp in the survey village would be filled with students, making it difficult to find a place to sleep, and during the dry season, there were times when the well water ran low. He was always friendly and attentive to those around him, unfailingly kind. Additionally, he was full of humor, and among the students who spent time with him, there was always laughter, making it a truly wonderful team. We conducted fieldwork with him and learned not only academic aspects but also many things from him such as his personality, charm, and leadership that positively led the team.

He loved village life. This must have been due to his origins in a farming village on a small hill surrounded by rice fields. That is why he sympathized with the idea of Satoyama, which advocates living in harmony with nature, and passed on its importance to the next generation of researchers in Indonesia. He was constantly searching for a new and sustainable form of agriculture. He must be resting peacefully on the small hill where his parents rest, watching over a sustainable future for rural Indonesia.

His sudden passing is a huge shock and loss to sustainability science, his colleagues, and family. But we will do our best to further progress sustainable development through sustainability science and landscape ecology. Let's honor Prof. Parikesit by continuing his legacy of curiosity, collaboration, and excellence, ensuring that his spirit lives on in the work we carry forward. Rest in peace, Prof. Parikesit, your spirit will inspire us always.

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