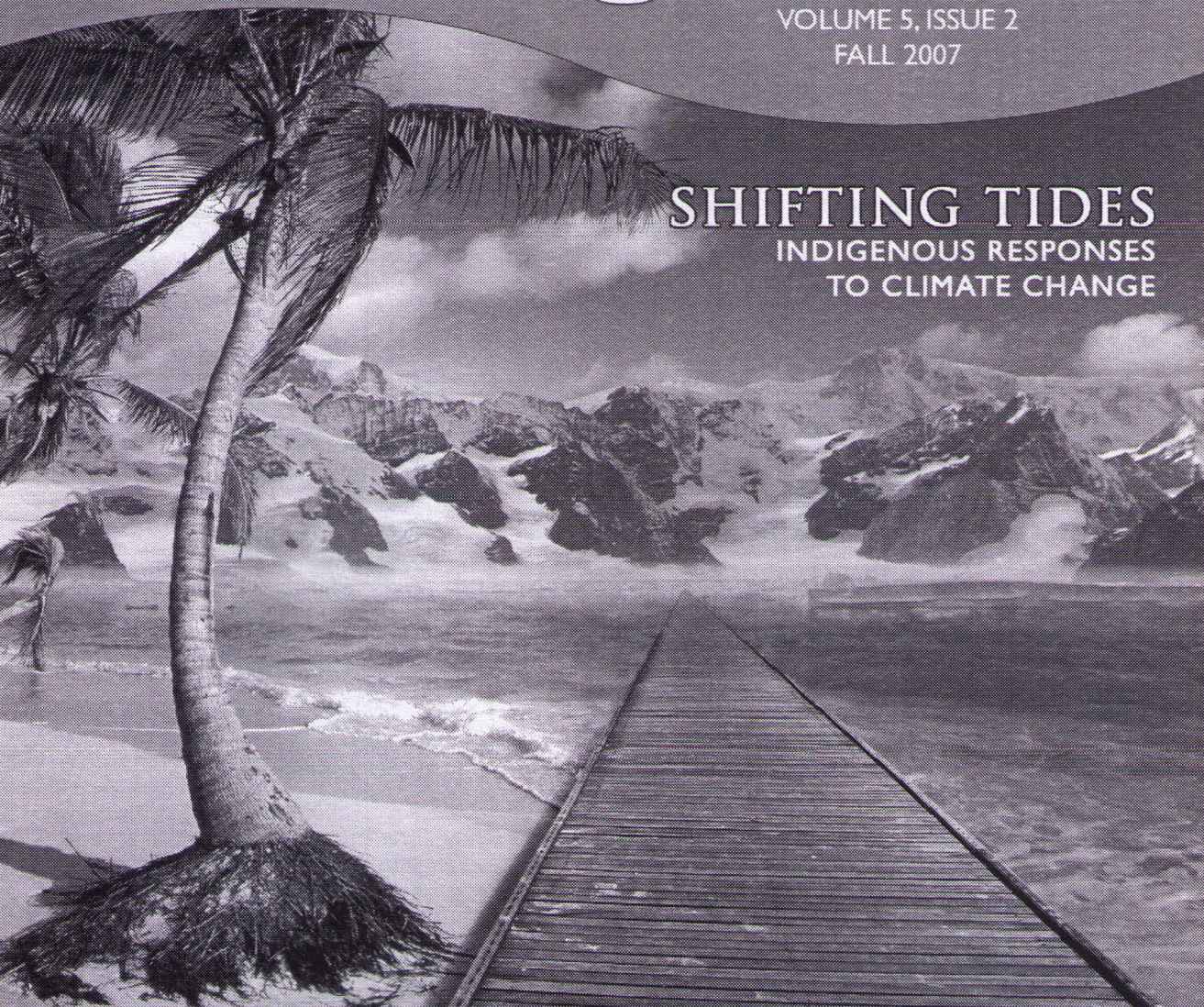


NEWS AND VIEWS ON THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

# Tok Blong Pasifik

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

FALL 2007



## SHIFTING TIDES

INDIGENOUS RESPONSES  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE CHANGE OBSERVATIONS AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

GWYNNE DYER ON INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLITICS

ANDREAS HARSONO ON INDONESIAN MILITARY BUSINESSES & HUMAN RIGHTS

[PACIFICPEOPLESPARTNERSHIP.ORG](http://PACIFICPEOPLESPARTNERSHIP.ORG)



**PACIFIC  
PEOPLES'  
PARTNERSHIP**

Established in 1975, Pacific Peoples' Partnership is a unique non-governmental, non-profit organization working with communities and organizations in the South and North Pacific to support shared aspirations for peace, cultural integrity, social justice, human dignity, and environmental sustainability by:

- Promoting increased understanding among Canadians on issues of importance to the people of the Pacific islands.
- Advocating for social, political, and economic policy change at all levels.
- Fostering the development of sustainable communities in the Pacific.
- Facilitating links between indigenous peoples of the Pacific islands and Aboriginal peoples of Canada.
- Strengthening relations between Canadian and Pacific island communities and civil society organizations.

# CONTENTS

**Gwynne Dyer**  
on international climate politics ..... 2

**News & Views**  
headlines from around the Pacific ..... 3

**Andreas Harsono**  
on Indonesian military financing & human rights ..... 12

## **COVER FEATURE**

**Shifting Tides: Indigenous Responses to Climate Change**

Introduction ..... 7

**Stephanie Peter** (Cowichan Tribes)  
on presenting climate change issues to kids ..... 8

**Apai Mataiapo** (Cook Islands Maori)  
on changing weather & traditional weather forecasting ..... 8

**Shaunna Morgan** (James Bay Cree)  
on working with indigenous communities to find climate change solutions ..... 9

**Mona Belleau** (Inuk)  
on Arctic climate change ..... 9

**Larry Grant** (Musqueam)  
on the longevity of climate change ..... 10

**Imogen Ingram** (Cook Islands Maori)  
on adaptation strategies of Small Island Developing States ..... 11

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# CLIMATE CHANGE GAMES

Gwynne Dyer September 28, 2007

When denial fails, try evasion. Almost all the climate change deniers, even President George W Bush, now allow the forbidden phrase to pass their lips, but that doesn't mean they have really accepted the need to do something about it. The preferred tactics now are distraction, diversion and delay.

That's why the US government held a mini-summit on climate change last week just two days after the United Nations held a one-day summit to prepare for the December meeting in Indonesia that must set the targets for deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in the period after 2012, when the current Kyoto Protocol expires. The Bush administration, which refused to ratify the Kyoto pact, doesn't want any hard targets at all, so the name of the game is sabotage.

"Each nation must decide for itself the right mix of tools and technology to achieve results that are measurable and environmentally effective," Mr Bush said. In other words, there should

not be negotiated targets for actual cuts in emissions, with penalties for those who do not meet them. "By setting this goal, we acknowledge there is a problem," said the US president. "And by setting this goal, we commit ourselves to doing something about it."

What he proposes to do about it is to host another conference next year to "finalise the goal" (but not a mandatory goal, you understand) and discuss ways of attaining it. Then there could be another conference in 2009, and another in 2010...

Evasion and delay. The aim is to prevent the Kyoto accord's 144 signatories from setting hard targets for deep emission cuts, or at least to provide a plausible political shelter for governments

that oppose mandatory cuts but need to look like they are fighting climate change in the eyes of their own peoples. That shelter, which is now called the Asia-Pacific Partnership, was set up last year, and last week it gained a new recruit: Canada.

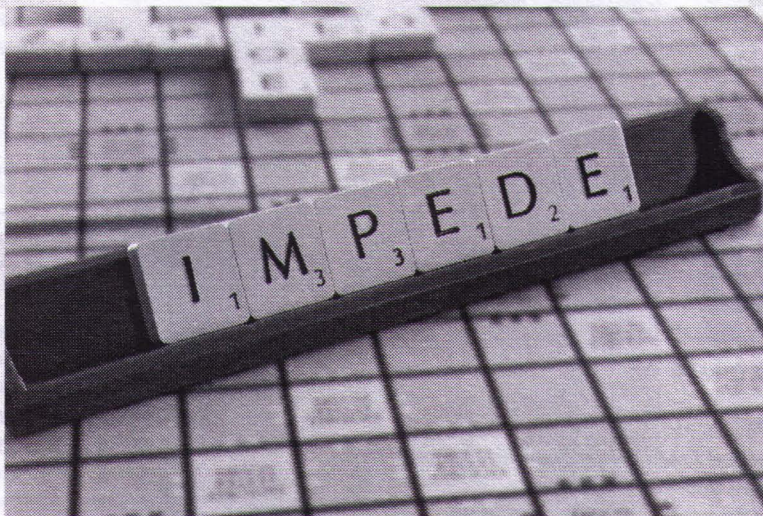
The six existing members are the United States and Australia (huge emitters of greenhouse gases that never joined the Kyoto process, and until recently were climate change deniers); China, India and South Korea (Kyoto signatories that, as developing countries, were exempt from emission limits under the existing treaty, but fear that they would face limits in the next phase);

and Japan (which accepted a Kyoto target for 2012, but has no hope of meeting it now without heroic efforts). Together, they account for half of the world's emissions.

The new member, Canada, is a big emitter that committed itself to reduce emissions under Kyoto but made no effort to reach its target. The fault mostly lies with

previous Liberal governments, but the new Conservative prime minister, Stephen Harper, is a former climate change denier who is seeking a way to waltz on the commitment. A large majority of Canadians support Kyoto, so he needs political cover, and the Asia-Pacific Partnership might give him some.

The Bush administration has thus succeeded in splitting the world in two on the climate change issue. An overwhelming majority of the 39 developed countries have agreed to get back below their 1990 level of greenhouse gas emissions by 2012, and will meet their targets (usually about five per cent below) or at least come close. A few rogue industrial countries have shunned the Kyoto process entirely or missed their targets very badly, and they have now joined with the most rapidly



adapted from image by woody, www.sxc.hu

developing countries (whose emissions are soaring) to subvert or evade the next phase of cuts.

It's exactly what you would expect in any large undertaking that involves many different countries, and there's no point in getting upset about it. The only question is how to get past it.

Australia will probably join the post-Kyoto process as soon as Australian voters have dumped Prime Minister John Howard, a serial climate change denier who looks certain to lose the election later this year. After six years of intense drought, Australians are losing their scepticism about climate change. So are Americans.

Seventy per cent of Americans now identify climate change as a major problem, and in the face of the federal government's obstructionism many states are pressing ahead with their own greenhouse gas reduction programmes. As California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (who has committed his state to deep cuts) said at the UN summit: "California is moving the

United States beyond debate and doubt to action. What we are doing is changing the dynamic."

An even bigger problem is the Asian giants, China and India, whose hopes of achieving full developed-country status depend on historically unprecedented economic growth rates. They will not abandon those hopes while other countries still live in lavish consumer societies. So how can they be persuaded to accept emission controls?

With great difficulty, but it is their climate too. The deal will require the old industrialised countries to take even deeper cuts in their emissions in order to leave the emerging ones some room to grow.

...

*Canadian-born Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist, syndicated columnist and military historian whose articles are published in 45 countries and a variety of languages. The most frequent subjects of his columns are international military and political affairs and, more recently, the environment.*

# NEWS & VIEWS

## Pacific Nations Spotlight Impact of Climate Change at UN

Representatives of four Pacific nations used their addresses to the United Nations General Assembly to warn the world's affluent countries not to shirk their responsibilities in the global fight against climate change. Speakers from Papua New Guinea, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Palau told the Assembly that their landscapes – with long coastlines exposed to rising sea levels – leave them in the front line of the global warming battle.

Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, said "we are very concerned to see certain industrialized nations attempting to avoid responsibility for their own carbon emissions and shifting the focus to developing nations. Only after industrialized nations take responsibility for the consequences of their own actions will the pathway become clear for lasting solutions. However, as developing countries we are willing to contribute equitably towards a sustainable future."

The Prime Minister outlined measures he said must be in place in the successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions, due to expire in 2012. Those measures include a new global framework dedicated to reducing emissions from deforestation and land degradation, the scaling up of funding for developing countries as they adapt their industries to the impact of climate change, and commitments by wealthy nations to more aggressively cut their emissions.

Micronesia's President, Emanuel Mori, said any global response to the various threats posed by climate change should feature the "provision of adequate and additional financing by the developed countries to the most vulnerable to assist us in coping with our adaptation and mitigation requirements."

Small developing states such as Micronesia have a pressing need for greater access to renewable sources of energy so they can move away from a dependence on fossil fuels, Mr. Mori said. He stressed that a response to climate change will not be effective unless it is pursued "within the frameworks of the United Nations."

Ludwig Scotty, President of Nauru, said it was unfair that small island developing states were among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change when they collectively contributed so little to the emission of greenhouse gases. Although he joined the call for developed nations to do more to help poor nations adapt, Mr. Scotty also said non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the rest of civil society in poor countries can cooperate more to build up capacity in the fight against climate change.

"Capital investments alone are not sufficient," he said. "The need is to respond to the climate challenge with technology, skills and knowledge required to guide us."

Palau's Vice-President Elias Camsek Chin said the proposed reductions under a successor pact to the Kyoto Protocol must be ambitious and quantifiable rather than a set of general intentions. He warned of the dire consequences if the world's countries do not agree soon on an urgent programme of emission reduction.

"We are no longer in total control of our own destinies. When temperatures increase, our corals bleach, the seas rise, and the oceans acidify, threatening to demolish our marine biodiversity, jeopardizing our livelihood, and eventually destroying our identity," he said.

Source: UN News Service  
September 27, 2007

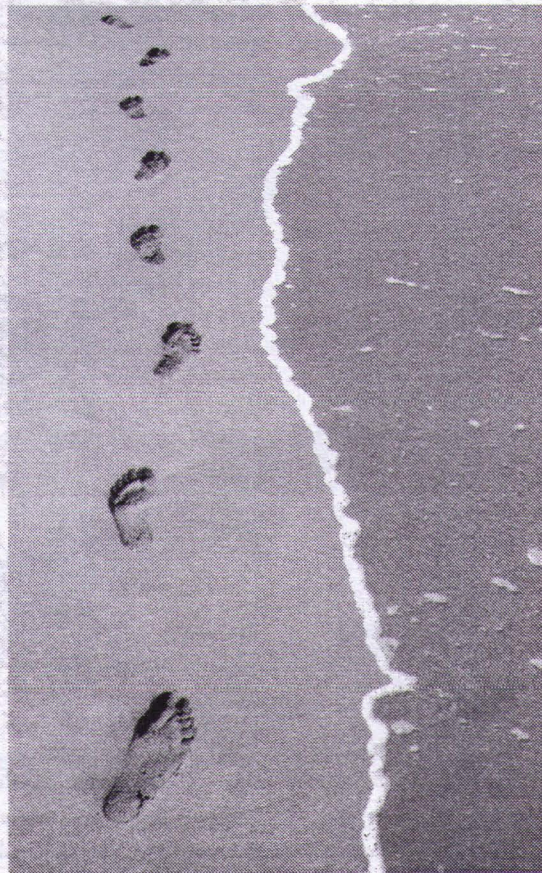
## Solomon Islands Calls for World Leaders to Act on Climate Change

Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Patteson Oti says small island states will suffer the negative impacts of climate change if world leaders continue to ignore calls to address the problem.

He says Solomon Islands and other small Pacific island nations, which are home to five percent of the world's population, could disappear under the rising oceans as the Earth warms.

Mr Oti warned that the Solomon Islands and other members of the Alliance of Small Island States face a future of more violent storms, depleted fish stocks, bleached coral reefs and even annihilation if the world fails to deal with climate change. The alliance comprises 37 members of the United Nations and six observers. The group was meeting on the sidelines of a United Nations conference on climate change.

Source: Radio New Zealand International, October 1, 2007



Pacific island nations are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Jonathan Maddock, iStock

## Masyarakat Adat Biak Reject Russian Missile Launch Site Plans

The Biak Indigenous Council (MAB) held a special emergency meeting to denounce plans for Biak Island's Frans Kaisiepo International Airport to become a site for Russian missile launches in Indonesia. The agreement will also see the world's fourth most populous nation receive a range of Moscow's military hardware.

In a story on September 7, 2007, Australia's daily *Herald Sun* reported that Russia will provide a billion-dollar line of credit for Jakarta to buy its helicopters, tanks and submarines over the next 15 years. The arms agreement follows Indonesia's signing of a deal to buy six Sukhoi-30 fighter planes at a Moscow air

show last month and is seen as a move to help the country reduce its dependence on US weaponry, notes the newspaper.

The MAB's emergency meeting was attended by leaders and members of Biak's indigenous communities. Under the Russian agreement, traditional owners stand to lose ownership of their

ancestral lands to the military. All present agreed to strongly oppose a missile launch site and called on international organizations to intervene to prevent further militarization of Biak.

The government of Indonesia did not consult representatives of Biak's *masyarakat adat* before agreeing to allow Russia to use the site. Moreover, neither country has shown evidence of having performed environmental impact assessments. The *masyarakat adat* still do not know who will manage the site, how it will affect their rights and if the project will provide any local benefits. The council meeting called upon the Papuan Peoples' Assembly and civil representatives to appeal to Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the Governor of Papua to take necessary steps to protect the rights of Papua's Indigenous peoples.

In a subsequent communication Yotam Wakum, Chairman of Legal Aid Institution Biak Customary Council, and Consultant and Law Advocate to the Biak Indigenous Council, has called on NGOs and the international community in general to take action "to campaign and raise awareness of this problem in international arenas." He reports that the Jakarta government has recently sent 2,000 military personnel, especially to Biak Island, lending new urgency to international support. For further updates to this developing story, contact Pacific Peoples' Partnership in Victoria.

Source: Biak Indigenous Council

## Net Gains for Tiny Tokelau

Tokelau may only have 1,500 inhabitants and be a two-day boat trip from its nearest neighbour but selling its TK domain

is reaping benefits. The Dutch entrepreneur who bought the address now offers a free domain name service in return for targeted ads. The deal has allowed Tokelau to add 10% to its GDP as well as gain computers and Internet access for residents.

When Joost Zuurbier, the founder of Dot TK, decided to invest in a country level domain name in 2001 he had a choice of four unregistered addresses including ones for Palestine, East Timor and Pitcairn. The South Pacific ".tk" address was the most appealing but it was a long process to convince the overseer of the net's addressing system – the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) – that they had a valid case.

"It was a four year process. They didn't believe the contract or even the island were real and it was only because a member of the Board had been to Tokelau in 1978 that they finally agreed it was OK," explained Mr Zuurbier.

Now there are more than 1.6 million .tk domain names registered and around 10,000 are being added each day. Registering a .tk domain is free although users must agree to receive targeted banner and text advertising. The company gives an undisclosed amount to Tokelau from every .tk sale.



A recent Indonesian military deal to host a Russian missile launch site on Biak Island threatens to displace traditional landowners.

For Tokelau the partnership with Dot TK has offered a new way of communication to a nation that had previously relied on expensive satellite telephony and, before 1994, radios to speak to each other. Now many of the inhabitants use free Voice over IP telephony services. Meanwhile, "Telephone revenue has gone down by 40% because everyone is using Skype," said Aukusitino Vitale, the general manager of Tokelau's telecommunications company Teletok.

Tokelau used to have just 12 computers but now there are 200, in internet cafes, classrooms and hospitals. The broadband connection – which is received via satellite because the ocean is too deep to lay under-water cable – is not the best, at just 384 kilobits per second, but it has opened up a whole new world for the islanders. According to Ionatana O'Brien, Tokelau's minister of Transport, Energy and Telecommunications, the inhabitants have discovered music downloads, YouTube and MySpace.

Currently Internet access is free although the government is considering charging as more bandwidth is consumed. The hospitals are able to receive much-needed medical expertise from overseas doctors via e-mail and still photographs. There are plans to add video to this service.

The mayors of each island use teleconferencing to keep in touch. There is also a project to connect islanders to the University of the South Pacific which might mean inhabitants would not have to go overseas to study. With an estimated 8,000 islanders now living in New Zealand, Australia and the US, the issue of emigration is a serious one. The group of three islands now has a dedicated website, which allows family members living abroad to keep in touch with what is happening back home. "The website means news can be translated into their own language as well as giving exposure to our culture," said Mr Vitale.

Source: BBC News, September 14, 2007

## Marshall Islands removed from list of uncooperative tax havens

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has announced that the Marshall Islands has made a commitment to implement a programme to improve transparency and to establish effective exchange of information in tax matters. As a result, the country will be removed from the OECD's list of uncooperative tax havens – on which now only three countries remain: Andorra, Liechtenstein and Monaco. The Marshall Islands joins 34 other jurisdictions that have made similar commitments aimed at ensuring an environment in which all significant financial centres meet high standards of transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes.

Source: [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org), August 7, 2007

## PNG AIDS Victims 'Buried Alive'

Some people with HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea are being buried alive by their relatives, a health worker says. Margaret Marabe said families were taking the extreme action because they could no longer look after sufferers or feared catching the disease themselves. She said she saw the "live burials" with her own eyes during a five-month trip to PNG's remote Southern Highlands.

PNG is in the grip of an HIV/AIDS epidemic - the worst in the region. Officials estimate that two percent of the six million population are infected, but campaigners believe the figure is much higher. HIV diagnoses have been rising by around 30% each year since 1997, according to a UN Aids report.

Margaret Marabe, a known local activist in PNG, carried out an awareness campaign in the Tari area of the Southern Highlands earlier this year. "I saw three people with my own eyes. When they got very sick and people could not look after them, they buried them," she told reporters. She described how one person called out "mama, mama" as the soil was being shovelled over their head. Villagers told her that such action was common.

HIV/AIDS is mostly spread in the country through heterosexual intercourse, and polygamy, rape and sexual violence are widespread. Those caught up in the epidemic are often thought to be the victims of witchcraft. Women accused of being witches have been tortured and murdered by mobs holding them responsible for the epidemic, according to officials and researchers. Church leaders have described AIDS patients being thrown off bridges or left to starve in back gardens in the past, the BBC's Phil Mercer in Sydney reports.

Ms Marabe, who works for the Igat Hope organisation in the capital, Port Moresby, said people in remote parts of the country remain ignorant about HIV/AIDS. She urged the government to take action.

"There are no voluntary counselling training centres in Tari. There are also no training programmes on HIV," she was quoted as saying by PNG's *Post-Courier*.

PNG's Secretary for Health Dr Nicholas Mann admitted to the BBC in an interview last year that the multitude of cultures and languages in the country made it difficult to get the HIV/AIDS message across. But he said Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare had brought the issue under his remit, and the government was working with agencies on a coordinated approach to tackling the crisis.

Source: BBC NEWS, August 27, 2007

# SHIFTING TIDES:

## INDIGENOUS RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Pacific Peoples' Partnership is proud to sponsor a delegation of Aboriginal Canadians and Maori Cook Islanders that will travel across Canada to bring attention to the impacts of global climate change on their communities as part of a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded project, *Shifting Tides: Indigenous Responses to Global Climate Change*. The project has been developed in partnership with the Koutu Nui, a council of hereditary chiefs in Rarotonga in the South Pacific.

Shifting Tides is designed to link communities from across Canada with Rarotonga, creating a space for Indigenous representatives from vulnerable communities to identify and gain access to tools and resources to confront climate change. The commonalities of Indigenous peoples in the North and South are highlighted in this public engagement tour as Aboriginal and Maori elders, scientists, and journalists share their stories at public events starting on the west coast of Canada on Vancouver Island, culminating in Iqaluit in the Arctic. The public events are designed to illuminate the ways in which climate change is more than an environmental issue; the reality of climate change threatens to undo progress toward the Millennium Development Goals.

Shifting Tides lays the groundwork for sound public policy recommendations and informed decision-making around mitigation and adaptation strategies that respect culture and traditional

knowledge both in Canada and the South Pacific. It also serves to build cross-cultural awareness and understanding in addition to informing the future work of Pacific Peoples' Partnership in supporting South Pacific communities dealing with the effects of climate change.

In respect of the cultural diversity of Canada's Aboriginal peoples, the Canadian delegation will include Aboriginal people from across the country - a Coast Salish Elder dedicated to preserving his language and culture on the west coast, a Cree scientist working in the Prairies to bring energy efficient technologies to Aboriginal communities, and a young Inuk woman working to bring attention to tourism opportunities in the North. South Pacific delegates will also bring a combination of scientific and traditional knowledge. They include two members of the Koutu Nui, a council of hereditary chiefs in Rarotonga who have a strong and demonstrated commitment to using traditional mechanisms in the promotion of sustainable resource use, reverence for the environment and the preservation of culture and language.

**For more information about Shifting Tides, contact Stephanie Peter: [climate@pacificpeoplespartnership.org](mailto:climate@pacificpeoplespartnership.org).**

## MEET THE SHIFTING TIDES TEAM



### **Stephanie Peter** **PPP Climate Justice** **Coordinator**

*Saleliye'naat, Stephanie Peter, is a member of Cowichan Tribes, the largest Indian Band in British Columbia. In 2002-2003, she participated in PPP's Indigenous Peoples Abroad Programme, living and working for six months on Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Her placement was with the Cook Islands National Environment*

*Service, where she worked in the Education and Outreach Department, gaining insight into environmental challenges faced by Cook Islanders. Returning from the South Pacific, she completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria with a double major in Anthropology and Geography. Since then, she has worked for the Cowichan Tribes Environment and Natural Resources Department and the Cowichan Tribes Treaty Department. In November 2005, she was selected as one of 100 youth delegates to participate in an International Youth Summit on Climate Change in Montreal, where a youth declaration was presented at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, Montreal 2005. Stephanie is honoured to be coordinating the Shifting Tides group.*



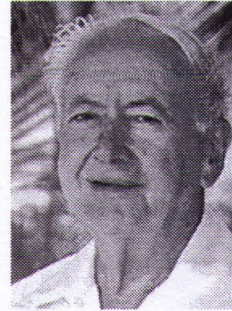
## Stephanie Peter on Kids & Climate Change

In the month of October, I visited three children's and youth groups in the Cowichan Valley – the Tse'wulhtun Health Centre's Youth Empowerment Support (YES!) Group (ages 11-14), a church-based group for young girls similar to Brownies, GEMS (ages 9-10), and a grade two class at the Cowichan primary school, Quw'utsun Smun'eem (ages 7-8). The purpose of my visit was to introduce the concept of climate change and to get assistance in the creation of a display of children's artwork for the Shifting Tides tour.

Knowing that the children's awareness and understanding of climate change would vary from group to group, I brought with me a children's storybook that I co-authored, *Sara's Sunflower*, which features the Cowichan Nation's dialect, Hul'qumi'num, and Garry Oak Ecosystems. The book was developed as part of a federally funded project related to the Species at Risk Act and uses the Coast Salish storytelling tradition, *sxwiem*, to bring important concepts about ecosystems and conservation to families in a format that is friendly and enjoyable. After reading *Sara's Sunflower*, I talked to each group about how art can be used to share stories about things that are important to them and asked them to create a piece of art that told a story about their special places or things that they wanted to see in the next twenty years.

The exercise was both challenging and rewarding. The level of understanding about climate change and environmental stewardship varied from group to group, with the Gems group having the greatest level of understanding. Many of the pieces created by the Gems group featured messages about reducing energy consumption and protecting trees. The YES! Group was less receptive to the idea of creating artwork for a display but they were inspired by the illustrations featured in *Sara's Sunflower* and one participant recreated the characters and scenery in the book. The grade two class was the most enthusiastic in their artistic pursuits, and several of them drew pictures of animals in the Coast Salish style.

The children's artwork will be scanned and featured in a collage display that will be taken to the Shifting Tides public events in Victoria, Duncan, and Vancouver, BC, as well as Winnipeg, MB, Ottawa, ON, and Iqaluit, NUN. While the children might not appreciate the magnitude of their actions, they have contributed to a larger discussion of climate change and their voices will resonate throughout the country.



## Apai Mataiapo (Tekeu Framhein) Vice-President of the Koutu Nui

*Born in Rarotonga, Apai Mataiapo is bilingual with Cook Islands' Maori as his mother tongue and English as a second language. In 1975, he was invested as Apai Raropua Mataiapo Tutara and is called Apai as Maori custom dictates. Apai was admitted to the Koutu Nui in 1975, a council of hereditary chiefs in Rarotonga. He served as President for the period 1991-1994. In 1997, Apai was appointed Justice of the Peace and became warranted as a Marriage Celebrant in 2002. Over his lifetime, Apai has observed the changing climate in the South Pacific and has amassed a wealth of traditional knowledge - tauianza reva. In his role as a traditional leader, Apai has been responsible for reviewing projects that fall within his jurisdiction and providing guidance to ensure that proposed activities take place in accordance with his community's values and priorities.*

## Apai Mataiapo on Climate Change & Weather Hazards

Our forefathers had a system of sea frontage conservation by planting trees that would withstand cyclones, storms and sea surges. However, our present population are now chopping these trees and windbreaks down. Consequently, they are damaging the system established by our forefathers and parents. Cyclones have no respect for anyone. Destroy trees that have protected the land for years and you open the way for astronomical damage.

From my own present observations of the lagoon and reef at my home, we hardly see the reef really dry. It is usually covered by sea water, where in the past at low tide you could see the reef, the living creatures on them and seaweed. This is an indication that sea levels must be rising.

Climate change is very serious to us as our Northern Cook Islands atolls are all low-lying, plus two in the Southern group will in time be submerged below the sea. Another island in the Southern group is a high island but also has a low-lying coastal zone, plus islands in the lagoon that will be submerged. Rarotonga will also feel the effects of sea level rise in its low-lying areas.

*Continued... >*

### Traditional Knowledge (tauanga reva)

It is interesting to note that our forefathers could foretell changes in weather conditions. The following are from the Cook Islands traditional knowledge:

1. When the youngest banana leaf emerges from the trunk twisted and curled up, this is a very good indication that a hurricane or cyclone is approaching.
2. An unusually abundant crop of breadfruit, mangos, or avocados also foretell a cyclone or hurricane.
3. When beach crabs start crawling inland or climbing trees, this is a sign of approaching very high and rough seas.
4. Frigate birds that fly overland indicate bad weather conditions at sea.



### Shaunna Morgan Senior Manager, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Shaunna Morgan is a band member of the James Bay Crees of Waskaganish, located in northern Quebec. She completed Bachelor and Master of

Science degrees in botany from the University of Manitoba and has 19 years of experience living and working in Indigenous communities across Canada and United States. Shaunna Morgan is program area leader of "Taking Action on Climate Change" and senior manager for the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER). Shaunna brings a wealth of experience in working with Aboriginal communities and can speak to their struggles to develop climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Shaunna has expertise in facilitating the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and in developing community planning tools that take climate change into consideration.

### Shaunna Morgan on Working with Indigenous Communities to Find Climate Change Solutions

The climate is changing. These changes disproportionately affect Indigenous communities due to a close association with the environment and greater levels of poverty. How do we create the opportunities for Indigenous communities to help themselves? For the past five years, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) climate change

work with First Nations has evolved from public education and outreach workshops to climate-centred, comprehensive community planning tools. Presented are the projects, tools and lessons learned to inform others about the importance of working with Indigenous communities to generate community-driven solutions. Specifically, we suggest a multi-pronged approach: engaging, educating and enabling communities to create comprehensive community plans. Such plans allow for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation actions while addressing similarly aligned community priorities.

Climate change is an imminent threat to Indigenous communities around the world because many continue to rely on streams and lakes for water and fish and lands for traditional foods from plants and animals. Every Indigenous community – every Indigenous nation – is unique, requiring unique solutions. It is essential to work with Indigenous communities while taking action on climate change.



### Eepa (Mona Belleau) Indigenous Tourism

Mona Belleau is a Francophone Inuk woman from Iqaluit, Nunavut. Mona served as President of the First Nations Students Society at Laval University in Quebec City where she obtained a Multidisciplinary Bachelor of Arts degree in Native Studies, Tourism Development Administration and Communications,

and where she was a radio host for Voix Autochtones. In 2005, Mona travelled to New Zealand as a participant in PPP's Indigenous Peoples Abroad Programme to work for Wellington Tenth Trust as an Indigenous Culture and Tourism Programmer. Wellington Tenth Trust administers Maori reserve lands, largely in urban Wellington. Her knowledge of the Canadian North and her passion for Indigenous tourism offer a unique Canadian perspective on climate change issues.

### Mona Belleau on Arctic Climate Change

My people, the Inuit, have lived in the Canadian Arctic for more than 4,000 years. Over the centuries we developed an intimate knowledge of our environment, allowing us not only to survive, but thrive in one of the earth's harshest and most unforgiving climates. Our survival was based on how well we could adapt to such a remote and inhospitable environment. Today, the Inuit

are being forced to adapt again. The impacts of global warming on Inuit social and cultural well-being are monumental. The knowledge of our ancestors is in peril as the northern climate becomes much more unpredictable. Inuit now fear that their traditional knowledge might not be as reliable as it was in the past, putting the lives of those who go out on the land at risk.

Climate change not only affects weather conditions, but also the food that we eat. Animal migration patterns are being disrupted, complicating the work of hunters who depend on their traditional knowledge to find food sources. Northerners are also witnessing the arrival of new plant, insect and animal species not previously found in the North. It is uncertain how these new species will affect the delicate balance of fragile Northern ecosystems. For all these reasons Inuit have become one of the world's most vocal Indigenous groups calling for solutions to climate change.

No region is immune to such negative side effects as pollution. Mercury and other toxins from industrial emissions in the south are carried up by prevailing winds. These toxins accumulate in fish, seal and other animals and are slowly poisoning the Inuit and others in the North, where much of the population still depends on wild foods for survival.

With thawing of the Northwest Passage comes an urgent need to safeguard the Arctic from those who would exploit it without involving the Inuit and others who live along the periphery of this grand passageway to Asia. The rapid growth in Asian manufacturing industries will see Canadian sovereignty over the North challenged as this short cut between Europe and Asia becomes more desirable to other trading nations.

Accelerating climate change means we Inuit must look at other industries to supplement our household incomes and preserve our culture. Tourism is one possibility. With the mythical Northwest Passage thawing for longer periods, the cruise ship industry is seen by some as a panacea for isolated communities who struggle to build a strong economic foundation. The Alaskan economy is an example of a region benefitting from its flourishing cruise industry. In 2001, the cruise industry's total economic impact on Alaska was \$1.7 billion in goods and services, 14,562 jobs and \$470 million in wages and salaries.

Climate change and increasing globalization present major challenges for the Inuit. It is therefore vitally important that we deepen our understanding of their affects on the Arctic and on the rest of the planet. We must adapt to new realities and find tangible ways for our culture to survive in a rapidly-changing environment where traditional knowledge is also forced to adapt. The well-being of future generations of Inuit hangs in the balance.



**Larry Grant**  
Musqueam First  
Nation Elder;  
Adjunct Professor,  
University of British  
Columbia

*Larry Grant is an Elder from the Musqueam First Nation in Vancouver, BC. He is an Adjunct Professor in the University of British Columbia (UBC) First Nations Languages Program. He is also the Language and Culture Consultant for Musqueam First Nation, and the Resident Elder for the First Nations House of Learning at UBC. In these roles, Larry has served as an ambassador for his nation, travelling to local and international language conferences in Canada, the USA and Germany. Most recently, Larry travelled to Flensburg, Germany for the launch of BC's new ferries and to Waitangi, New Zealand where he visited several Maori villages during a one-month tour and the launch of the Waka Hinemoana. As an elder and an ambassador for the Musqueam Nation with strong connections to western academia, Larry brings a wealth of traditional knowledge and wisdom to the Shifting Tides delegation.*

### **Larry Grant on Climate Change: Long-term or Short-term?**

Growing up in Musqueam territory in an area commonly referred to as Vancouver, British Columbia, I have witnessed many changes in my lifetime. Changing land use, deforestation, and pollution have had great impacts on the Musqueam natural ecosystems, affecting weather patterns and severing the Musqueam peoples' relationship with their natural environment.

Seven decades ago, the Fraser River froze over at Westminster, BC near Vancouver, but I have never seen this happen again. The Fraser River system is one of the largest salmon-producing rivers in the world, and in the last two decades, the salmon return has drastically diminished. This has had a huge socio-economic effect on the Indigenous communities who depend upon this river system, upsetting our traditional diets and weakening our relationship with the natural environment. In my lifetime, there has also been a diminished return of the eulachon (candle fish) in our traditional harvesting areas. The forestry sector has been devastated by warmer winters and a subsequent flourishing of pine beetles creating a socio-economic and ecological concern. Are these some of the issues faced by coastal British Columbia created by a seemingly changing climate, or is this a pendulum in motion that will swing back?



**Te Pa Mataiapo  
(Imogen Ingram)  
Secretary of the Koutu  
Nui**

*Imogen Ingram is of Polynesian and English parentage, and was raised in a bilingual home in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. She underwent tertiary education in New Zealand, graduating first with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and*

*Political Studies and later with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting. Imogen has 10 years experience as an accountant, first in New Zealand and then in Rarotonga since 1992. She holds the traditional leader's title of Te Pa Mataiapo and serves on executive committees for a national environmental NGO named Island Sustainability Alliance C.I. Inc and for the Koutu Nui, an Indigenous leaders body. Imogen's lifelong interests in governance and traditional leadership have led to her involvement in sustainable development issues, such as climate change and waste management.*

**Imogen Ingram on  
Adaptation  
Strategies**

Although our greenhouse gas emissions are negligible, we Pacific Islanders are suffering the consequences of global climate change now. In the Southwest Pacific, the 20-year outlook is for longer dry periods, followed by very severe weather events. Warming of the seas around us creates the conditions that bring hurricanes and rising sea levels. The other main concern is fresh water shortages.

All the islands in the Pacific Ocean are currently feeling the effects of sea-level rise, whether they are high volcanic islands, lower-lying mixed volcanic and raised coral islands, or atolls formed from raised coral reefs. Land is lost through sea surge, and coastal vegetation is dying from root exposure after erosion. Fresh water supplies become contaminated through

flooding by sea or sewage, so capture and storage of rainwater is vital. Flooding also increases the risk of insect-borne disease.

Fortunately, our traditional knowledge system gives us early warning signals about the hurricane season ahead of us. This institutional knowledge enables us to prepare well ahead. At the same time, we use modern technology for more short-term predictions, and store essential medical supplies safely for later use.

Coastal dwellers now build on raised poles that enable sea surge to pass through with less damage. Coastal protection devices that dissipate the force of the waves and accrete sand have been developed. Recycling glass as construction sand would retain the beach as a buffer for storms. We may even have to shift our homes further inland to our traditional habitat.

Reviving traditional agricultural methods against drought and using hardy traditional varieties will help with food security, while we take on board innovations that give us hydroponics and drought-resistant crop varieties. Fish-farming is another method to improve our food security, since climate change has altered the routes of our migratory species. Where coral bleaching of our protective fringing reefs has occurred because

of warming seas, replanting coral to restore coral gardens has begun.

Reducing open fires and more composting of "green" garden waste would minimise the small amount of greenhouse gases that we produce. It is common sense to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels for power generation by switching to renewable energy.

Climate change is a significant threat to sustainable living in Small Island Developing States.

As a pragmatic and resilient people, we must continue the adaptation process that once enabled us to survive our seagoing journeys through Asia to our Pacific Island homes.

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*The Shifting Tides delegation arrives at the home of Musqueam First Nation, Vancouver, British Columbia.*

# INDONESIA'S MILITARY BUSINESSES: DIVERSE & DIRTY

Andreas Harsono

**C**lad in a sarong and cotton shirt, Chief Sergeant Ukas seems like an ordinary shopkeeper. He runs a family store next to his house on the outskirts of Merauke, a town in Indonesia's troubled Papua province. "I'm a retiree now," he says with a smile. In fact, Ukas retired from not one profession but two: the Army and the prostitution racket.

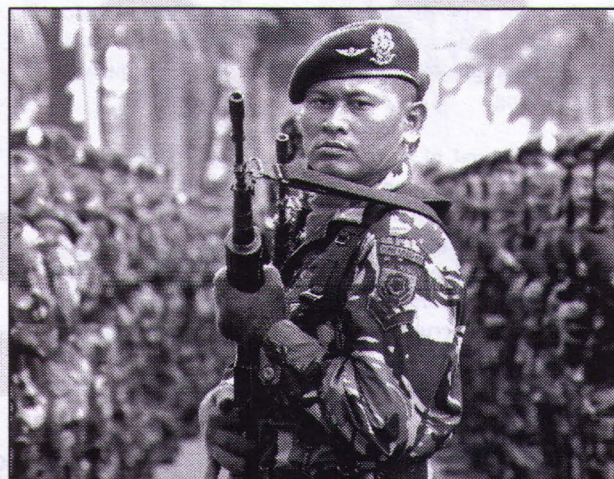
In 1996, when Ukas was the treasurer of the Merauke Military Command, he established the Nikita bar in downtown Merauke. Most town residents knew the Nikita made its money from the sex trade. "We usually bring in girls from Java or Makassar," Ukas says. "We contract them for three or four months. We also regularly check their health," he adds.

Ukas is one of thousands of Indonesian military officers who profit from shadowy side jobs. Although they know it is illegal, the practice is so pervasive it's almost taken for granted. Even former President Suharto, the Army general who ruled Indonesia with an iron fist, was once demoted for smuggling. "Our salaries are not enough; we have to find extra income," Ukas argues.

Soldiers find ample opportunity in Indonesia, composed of thousands of islands stretching some 3,200 miles from east to west. Its 210 million people speak more than 500 different languages. Nearly 90 percent of its population is Muslim, concentrated on the islands of Java and Sumatra, though eastern provinces like Papua have a Christian majority.

Ethnic violence and separatist movements riddle Indonesia's modern history. Now many question whether Indonesia can survive as a nation-state given that its people's only common history is their Dutch colonial past. Suharto kept the country together by brutal means after he rose to power in 1965, but when he left power in May 1998, the institutions he built began to crumble.

A common thread running through the chaos of Indonesian history is corruption within the Indonesian military (TNI—Tentara Nasional Indonesia). The New York-based group Human



Indonesia

## Too High a Price

The Human Rights Cost of the Indonesian Military's Economic Activities

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

*This extensive report by Human Rights Watch documents the heavy social costs of Indonesian military businesses. The full report is at [hrw.org/reports/2006/indonesia0606/](http://hrw.org/reports/2006/indonesia0606/)*

Rights Watch published a 126-page report in June 2006 titled "Too High a Price: The Human Rights Cost of the Indonesian Military's Economic Activities." The report described how the TNI raises money outside the government budget through a sprawling network of legal and illegal businesses.

An example is the large cache of military equipment found in the Jakarta houses of a dead Army general in June 2006, including 145 weapons, 28,985 bullets, eight grenades, and 28 pairs of binoculars. Though the material was clearly moving through the black market, the TNI claimed the general collected weapons as a "hobby".

The principal driver of military corruption is the fact that the military's budget is only partially covered by the government. Cornell University's Indonesia journal has estimated the government's contribution to be as low as 30 percent of the total. The TNI must raise the rest from three principal sources: *yayasan*, a complex system of non-governmental foundations; provision of services such as security and transportation for civilian clients including U.S. mining giant Freeport McMoRan; and illegal businesses, such as protection rackets, prostitution and gambling.

The lowest level of Army personnel, such as Sergeant Ukas, conduct the latter type of businesses, while private security services are largely managed by the Kodam (provincial-level Army command) and Korem (a subcommand). Only the *yayasan* are under direct control of the Army Central Command in Jakarta. The Asian economic crisis damaged the *yayasan*, exposing their endemic corruption and poor management. Army headquarters, however, found them difficult to investigate as dozens of generals were involved. In 2001, Army headquarters finally understood that *yayasan* bankruptcies posed a fundamental threat to the military institution and employed Ernst & Young to audit its biggest foundation, Yayasan Kartika Eka Paksi. The result was shocking: only two of the 38 *yayasan* generated profits.

The Indonesian Parliament passed a law in 2004 requiring that the TNI hand over all of its businesses to the government. The law has mandated four ministries, including the defense and finance ministries, to audit some 1,500 military enterprises before turning them over by 2009. The TNI played hide-and-seek, however: a government team assigned to audit the firms estimated their total worth at only one trillion Rupiah (US\$100 million), far less than the value widely believed.

Their revelations took most legislators by surprise. "During the regime of former president Suharto, a number of generals held concessions for mining, forestry and other lucrative sectors inherited by TNI businesses, so the assets cannot be worth only one trillion rupiah," said lawmaker Permadi Satrio Wiwoho of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle.

House member Soeripto of the Prosperous Justice Party expressed similar shock. "As someone who knows a little bit about forestry, I learned that one way or another, military members managed to get shares in all 550 logging concessions. How

can there be only two concession-holders with connections to the military?" he said.

Ukas and his generals in Jakarta only echoed what founding president Sukarno repeatedly said about the Indonesian military: "It's a state within a state." Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono is not surprised to hear stories like that of Ukas. "Bad cops and soldiers who are involved in protection rackets happen in Jakarta. You could also easily find them in Chicago or New York," he said.

But this kind of corruption not only hurts the state. One of Ukas' girls was 25-year-old Anita Ayu Sulandari, who worked at the Nikita for three years until she decided to "freelance" in the hinterlands of Kaname Island. "I was considered old," she said. "In Kaname, I did business, looking for the *gaharu* in the villages." The *gaharu* tree produces a hard, black resin that the Asmat peoples burn to connect with their ancestors and cast spells. Outsiders value *gaharu* as the source of expensive incense for the Asian and Middle Eastern market. Ayu traded

*gaharu* for sex, selling the *gaharu* to middlemen in Kaname. "If (the *gaharu*) is of low quality, one kilogram buys a short time," she said. "If the quality is excellent, it could be one full night."

In October 2002, Ayu fell seriously ill and returned to Merauke. Doctors told her that she had contracted HIV. Devastated, she decided to stay in a Catholic-run HIV treatment house. Last year, Ayu left the HIV medical treatment facility and worked again on the street. "I can't stand to live there. The (pocket) money was not enough. It was also hard to see my roommates die one by one," she said. I asked her if her consumers used condoms. "They said it is not natural," she answered.

An estimated 90,000 to 130,000 Indonesians are HIV positive. 30 percent of them are in Papua, though the island contains only one percent of Indonesia's population. Papuan nationalists liken the spread of the disease to Indonesia's harsh military occupation. Corruption's role in both closes a deadly circle.

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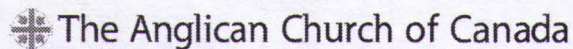
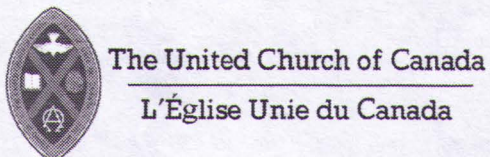
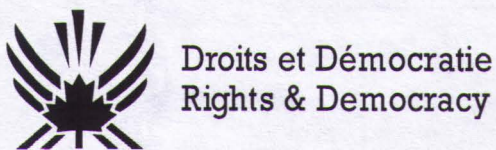
*Andreas Harsono is a journalist with Pantau, a media training organization in Jakarta, Indonesia. He helped set up Jakarta's Alliance of Independent Journalists, the Institute for the Studies on Free Flow of Information and the Bangkok-based Southeast Asia Press Alliance. He is also a member of the International Consortium for Investigative Journalists.*

**"The principal driver of military corruption is the fact that the military's budget is only partially covered by the government."**

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