

Pokja Ecology and Religion 2023

The pokja ecology and religion has 17 members, 6 in The Netherlands (of whom three are Indonesian) and 11 in Indonesia. However, only few members are active on a regular basis. For this reason, the pokja coordinators started monthly conversations (see below), to activate the members and attract new members.

Online course

The pokja explored possibilities for dissemination of the online course on religion and environment in Indonesia, but so far implementation has not been done. Possible partners for this are STT and OASE INTIM. The online course can also be integrated into a course on environment education to be implemented in 2024 (see later).

Green churches and green mosques

In the Netherlands it was confirmed by the vice-chair of “In vrijheid verbonden” that NICMCR gets a place for its green churches and green mosques initiative at their website. However, this website is being reconstructed. We are in regular conversation with the leadership of “In Vrijheid Verbonden”, but development goes (very) slow. We decided to wait and not develop an own website because “In Vrijheid verbonden” gives us access to a nation-wide, inter-religious platform.

Water and waste management

The projects in Wonosobo and Pasuruan were not continued. Frans Wijzen published an article on the Pasuruan project. Link: <https://nicmcr.org/reduce-or-refuse-plastic/>. Haryani Saptaningtyas presented an initial report on the Wonosobo case during a pokja meeting on 20 December 2023. The pokja decided not to resume the projects but to translate the insights into concrete practices with concrete outcomes, among others the online course (see above) and the course on environment education (see hereafter).

Monthly conversations

In September the pokja started a series of “monthly conversation” (webinars) on topics that we dealt with in the past. These conversations are held every first Monday of the month, at 3 pm WIB. So far four conversations were held. Speakers were Zaimatus Sa’diyah (on 4 September), Afnan Anshori (on 2 October), Frans Wijzen (on 6 November), and Zakaria Ngelow (on 4 December). Link: <https://nicmcr.org/pokjas-ecology-religion/> Attendance ranged from 10 to 20 participants. Reactions so far have been positive. We will continue these conversations in 2024.

Inclusive environment education

In harmony with a proposal from the pokja IRE, to include environmental issues into inclusive religious education to make it more inclusive, negotiations were started with Nadhlatul Ulama University (UNU) in Yogyakarta to develop a course on inclusive environment education, to be used in formal (primary schools) and informal (e.g. Sunday School, Koran Lessons). During the first semester of 2024 the curriculum will be developed as a pilot, in the second semester it will be implemented.

