

ABSTRACT

Forest fire had been international environmental and economic issues so far, especially after a 1997/1998's El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) disaster that burnt 25 million hectares of forest around the world. Fire was regarded as a potential threat to a sustainable development due to its direct effect on ecosystems, carbon emission and natural variability. Haze pollution was a repeated problem and even for years when there was an ENSO incidence in Indonesia and its neighboring countries. Forest and field fire causes in Riau Province were sourced from a forest management policy, the weakness of the existing regulations and low enforcement, and also institutions that were responsible towards forest and field fires and then also resulted in inter-country frontier pollution.

Due to Indonesian forest fire, it had caused neighboring countries protest, especially Malaysia and Singapore. The two countries demanded Indonesian government to overcome forest fire problems immediately. Indonesian governmental foreign policy was regarded slowly in responding the protest. Indonesian government reasoned that foreign investor involvement from both countries caused forest and field fires, and there was still no ratification on 2002's *ASEAN Agreement on Trans-border Haze Pollution* by the parliament until today.

Keywords: Indonesian forest fire, Malaysian and Singaporean protest, the government response, foreign policy, foreign investor and Agreement on Trans-border Haze Pollution