

**INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF)**

**EMPOWERMENT THROUGH INFORMATION:**

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Day 1  
**Introduction to Organizations**

**JALA**  
**and its Role as Supporting System**  
**for the Fisherfolk of**  
**North Sumatra**

## **JALA and its Role as Supporting System for the Fisherfolk on North Sumatra**

### **I. Background**

JALA (Jaringan Advokasi Nelayan) or North Sumatra Fisher Advocacy Network was founded by NGO's and activist on August 3, 1997 in North Sumatra. One role of JALA is to provide information and communication among NGO's and traditional fishers. To achieve that, JALA regularly publishes a bulletin and info sheet, poster, book, etc. JALA focuses on advocacy activity and empowering the fishermen.

The other role of JALA is as supporting system for its member (participant) and traditional fisher. There are some program that implement by JALA since founded on 1997. *The first phase (1997 – 2001)*, activity of JALA more focus on publishing about the fisher problem and disseminate it to its member, fisher and other NGO in local and national level. Beside that, JALA starting to create the networking with other organization, like government and NGO in North Sumatra and national level. Since 1999 until 2001, JALA stressing the program and activity to campaign again trawler. It can be seen through any activity, like roundtable discussion, advocacy (non litigation), networking. In this phase, JALA succes to campaign again trawler in regional level (when the person from JALA attend in the Hands of Fisher meeting on Trang, Thailand. Through advocacy division, JALA use the nonlitigation approach to advocacy the fishers (like campaign press release, hearing with Government of North Sumatra Province).

*The second phase (2001 – 2003)*, JALA start to focus on the advocacy program, especially infulencing the policy of government that related with fishers problem, campaign again trawler. In this peridoe, JALA together with participant and some NGO on North Sumatra succes to make a lel drafting about catching fish. Unfortunately, this draft just only discuss with the member of house of representative on North Sumatra Province. Join with KONPHALINDO , JALA publish the book about fisher. This book come from the compilation of roundtable discussion of JALA. Still in this periode, JALA cooperation with JICA, make a survey about mangrove use condition on Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province.

*The third Phase (2003 – 2005)*, after the second general assembly of JALA that has been done on 6 to 8 June, 2003, JALA succes to make a Strategic Planning Program for 2003 – 2005 period. One of the important mandate from this meeting is JALA must to motivate the local fisher organization become a social movement. Consequently, JALA will take position as a part of social movement, too. There are five program in this periode (capacilty building; empowering the bargaining postion of the fisher; advocacy; woman fisher empowering, safe the coastal and marine area)

JALA become a supporting system, not only for its participant but also for the fishers. For further information about JALA on 2003 – 2005 periode will be descriptive below:

#### ***Vision***

Creating the management of coastal and marine area that based on fishers people which justice and sustain

#### ***Mission***

- To empower the bargaining position of traditional fishers
- To support for creating the policy in coastal area that side with traditional fishers
- To empowering the capacity of organization
- To save and preserve the sources of coastal and marine area
- To build the gender balance

### ***The aim of JALA***

1. To struggle the right of traditional fisher
2. To manage and save the coastal and marine environment
3. To advocate the cases of traditional fisher
4. To disseminate the information about fishers and coastal area problem with each other.
5. To develop the knowledge of traditional fisher through training and education

### ***Program***

1. Empowering the woman fisher
2. Save the coastal and marine area
3. Empowering the capacity of organization
4. Empowering the bargaining position of traditional fishers
5. Advocacy

## **II. Comment of the question**

### ***- Brief history and key factors for the emergence of the organisation. The support (or hostility) from the state, your own community, civil society?***

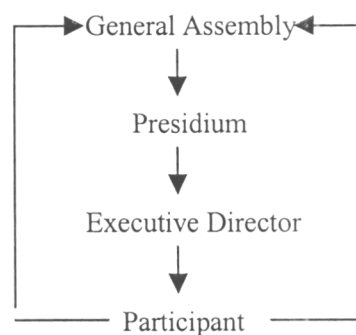
There is no supporting or hostility from the government to JALA as specifically. Until now the political position of JALA as NGO network in North Sumatra still good enough, not only in the face of government but also for other stakeholder.

For the fisher, JALA is very helpful, especially for its participant that organized the fishers. Many information from JALA, like bulletin, info sheet distribute and disseminate to the fisher through participant. JALA always involve the fisher to attend in the discussion, workshop, training, etc.

For other civil society, especially NGO in North Sumatra, JALA have good relationship. Together with other NGO in North Sumatra that concern in the different sector (peasant, urban poor, labour), JALA create the alliance between each sector. It was being in the process

### ***- The initial structure of JALA consist of :***

Structure of JALA



To become a member of JALA will be follow by any step below:

1. Executive Director will asses and identifying the candidate of member (especially for organization), and give them the statuta of JALA
2. The candidate may propose to JALA to become a member
3. Executive Director will consultation the candidate with Presidium
4. Presidium of JALA will received the candidate to become member of JALA in the yearly meeting.
5. All of candidate that has been recognized by Presidium will be decision on the the general assembly.

The member of JALA have a right to expression their opinion, argument or comment about JALA in the yearly meeting and the General Assembly meeting. The General Assembly meeting iis the highest forum of JALA to make decisionn. All of member/participant of JALA involve in the general assembly meeting.

JALA is organization that focus on advocacy. But, base on the current situation, JALA must adaptation the advocacy issue with the reality The trend global in the world, and other political and economic situation in local, national and international level must be consider by JALA.

As mentioned above, at the local and national level, JALA still have bargaining position. The position of JALA tend to vis a vis with government, especially for again trawler. But in the other time, JALA still can make relationship with government for economic program (although, we always critize the program).

Principally, JALA will give priority to empowering activity, not only to the fishersfolk, but also to the marine and coastal area as general. Empowering the fisherfolk, can be done through trainign and education (political, human right, economic increasingly, gender sensitiveness, etc). Safety the coastal and marine environment, will effectively if the program involved the all of stakeholder that interest in this area.

***- How do you sustain the organisation? Financially? Motivationally?***

We are sure that many NGO in any countries still depend on the funding agency from abroad, like JALA. So, to anticipate this problem, JALA will initiate the fund rising program and try to build the logistic for survival. As a network, JALA together with participant will make the proposal to funding agency to support the fisher.

Finallly, to struggle the fishers, need logistic and supporting financially. Related with this, it is important to build a genuine of real mass base organization of the fisher. The logistic of organization will create and come from the mass base, not from funding agency. So, it is important to create the financial organization of the fisher (lembaga keuangan nelayan/LKN)

***- How do you see the future?***

To struggle the fisherfolk can not effectively if only done by NGO. The fisher must become the main actor for changing their live. So, all of the fishers must organize themself (fisher and woman fisher organization). Through organization, the fisher (man and woman) will help theirsself. Then, together with other civil society organization the in the world eliminate the oppressed situation (political, economical, cultural, etc).

Related with the environment of marine and coastal area, the activity must priority to build the awareness of the community. Education and training program that involved the fishers (man and woman) are important to implemented.

Finally, to reach the ideal condition of fisherfolk (man and woman) in marine and coastal area, we need join together and collaborate between each other. The real enemy that must be facing by the fisher, not only come from external factor but also internal factor. So, sharing

information, discussing and criticize the real situation day by day are very important to be done. Long life Fisher!!

All of the issues in marine and coastal area are very important. But, regarding our vision, mission and program, JALA will choose the issues that related with

1. Coastal resources management
2. Common property right in fisheries
3. Dynamism and change in the small-scale fisheries sector: Issues arising
4. Trade issues in fisheries