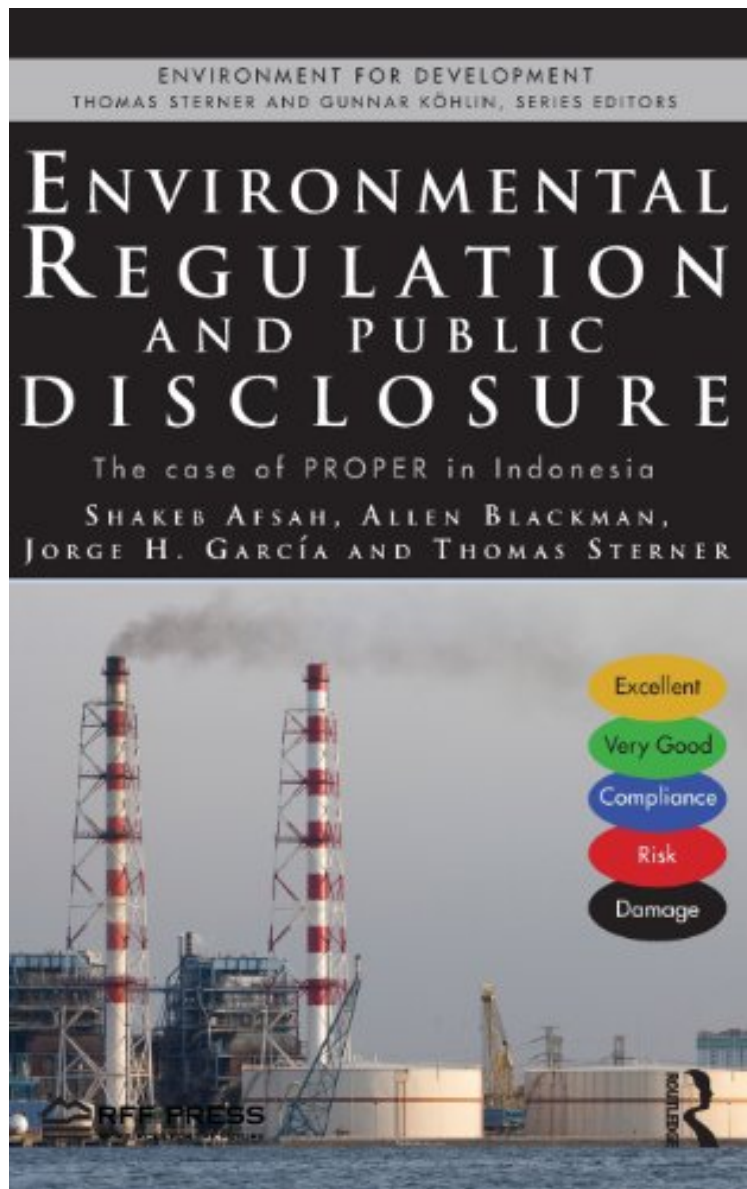


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Environmental Regulation and Public Disclosure: The Case of PROPER in Indonesia (Environment for Development)

Shakeb Afsah, Allen Blackman, Jorge H. Garcia, Thomas Sterner
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Shakeb Afsah, Allen Blackman, Jorge H. Garcia, Thomas Sterner : Environmental Regulation and Public Disclosure: The Case of PROPER in Indonesia (Environment for Development) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Environmental Regulation and Public Disclosure: The

Case of PROPER in Indonesia (Environment for Development):

This book is a remarkable case study of an environmental policy initiative for a national environmental regulatory system in the information age. In 1995 the Indonesian Ministry of Environment took the bold step to launch an environmental disclosure initiative called the Program for Pollution Control, Evaluation and Rating (PROPER). Under PROPER, environmental performance of companies is mapped into a five-color grading scale Gold for excellent, Green for very good, Blue for good, Red for non-compliance, and Black for causing environmental damage. These ratings are then publicly disclosed through a formal press conference and posted on the internet. Not only did this simple rating scheme create a major media buzz and enhanced environmental awareness of the general public, but it also unleashed a wide range of performance incentives that showed how markets with environmental information could function in a developing country setting. The authors provide a multidisciplinary analysis of how the PROPER program harnessed the power of public disclosure to abate the problem of industrial pollution. They describe how the program has successfully improved the average environmental compliance rate from close to thirty per cent in 1995 to as high as seventy per cent in 2011. This improvement was driven primarily by information disclosure, which avoided expensive and unpredictable legal enforcement through the court system of Indonesia. The combination of institutional history and detailed economic and analyses sheds light on the role of policy entrepreneurs who laid the foundation for disclosure and transparency, despite the constraints of the Suharto regime. The PROPER program is now internationally recognized and continues to serve as a model for many developing countries.

"This book, *Environmental Regulation and Public Disclosure*, gives a comprehensive background and analysis of the PROPER system and its perceived success so far. In chapters 2 and 3, the authors outline the challenges faced by developing countries particularly Indonesia in promoting public disclosure initiatives that can push different private and public companies to improve their environmental performance." Fitriani Ardiansyah, The Australian National University
About the Author Shakeb Afsah is a Performance Monitoring and Public Disclosure Specialist at Performeks, LLC Bethesda, Maryland. While working at the World Bank in the 90s, he was instrumental in helping the government of Indonesia implement its environmental rating and public disclosure program (PROPER). He also runs the climate policy analysis initiative CO2 Scorecard. Allen Blackman is a Senior Fellow with Resources for the Future, Washington DC. He coordinates RFF's participation in the Environment for Development (EfD) initiative and is a research fellow at the EfD Center for Central America. Jorge H. Garca is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Oslo, Norway. Thomas Sterner is Visiting Chief Economist at the Environmental Defense Fund and Professor of Environmental Economics at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He was President of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists 2008-9 and has published several books, most recently *Fuel Taxes and the Poor* as well as *Policy Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management* (both RFF Press, 2011-2).