

## **CSOs and NGOs Working for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>1</sup>**

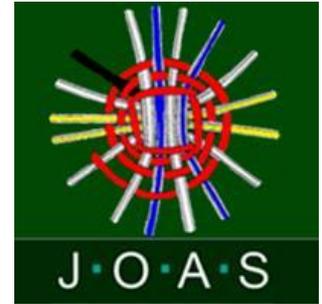
**Name of Organisation:** Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS), Malaysia, 2003

**Website of Organisation:** <http://orangasal.blogspot.com.au/>

**Facebook of Organisation:**

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/joasmalaysia/about/?ref=page internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/joasmalaysia/about/?ref=page_internal)

**Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N:** Yes



The Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia or Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) is an umbrella network of 100 community-based NGOs that focuses on the rights of Indigenous peoples. As a key network for voicing and advocating on the plight of Indigenous peoples in Malaysia, JOAS provides a platform for dialogue and discussion on a national, regional and international level.

In the early 1980s, there were plans to establish a national network that supports Indigenous peoples' rights, and this plan was discussed by various groups of activists and supporters of Indigenous peoples' movement. The decision to establish this network (JOAS) was made at a meeting in Poring, Sabah in 1992. In 1996, a network was established in Kudat, Sabah. At that time, the network consisted of 10 Indigenous peoples organisations from around the country. In 2003, JOAS was formally registered. In 2009, JOAS created a central secretariat, located in Donggongan, Sabah. The central secretariat's role is to manage JOAS activities and act as an information center for disseminating information to members of the network.

JOAS advocates issues on human rights, Indigenous peoples' rights, environment (biodiversity, forests, protected areas, and climate change), women rights, youth, media and capacity building. JOAS consults and cooperates with authorities and other parties, and together they address various issues relating to Indigenous peoples, especially on the ownership/use of Indigenous lands, territories and natural resources. In Malaysia, JOAS's mission is to promote the development of economic, political, and socio-cultural rights of Indigenous peoples in Malaysia, to find a solution to the issues, plan joint activities, and strengthen the communication and collaboration between Indigenous peoples/organisations in Malaysia.

JOAS is also a member of the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. AIPP is an umbrella organisation consisting of various Indigenous peoples organisations throughout Asia.

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**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/pg/joasmalaysia/about/?ref=page internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/joasmalaysia/about/?ref=page_internal)

*Profile written January 2017*

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<sup>1</sup> The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP ([www.dtp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au)) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of Indigenous peoples more broadly.