

NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL THINK TANK



BROADENING RESEARCH COLLABORATION

RDI Researcher and Gavin Sullivan of Coventry University after Sinabung Research Meeting, Feb 22, 2016

Resilience Development Initiative (RDI) recently partnered with Coventry University to conduct research on the role of culture in facilitating disaster-resilient communities. Led by Dr. Gavin B. Sullivan, this study will look at the communities around Mount Sinabung, how they coped and continue living after the 2014 eruption, and how their culture helped them progress through daily life despite having to live so near to an active, and recently erupted, volcano. With the help of acquaintances from University Sumatra Utara, the survey will be carried out during May for two weeks while the second survey will be in July. The research will ex-

plore to what degree culture has in facilitating response and recovery during and after a disaster. Words such as quality of life, attachment to place, and psychological distress comes to mind. Having done extensive research in the Centre for Research in Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement, Dr. Sullivan is an expert in psychology, particularly psychological aspects of disaster victims. He will be collaborating with Dr. Saut Sagala as an expert in disaster management, and also Dr. Wiwik Sulistyarningsih from the Psychology Department of University of Sumatra Utara. Field surveys will be carried out during the first two weeks of May, interviewing

relevant key informants and actors within the local communities around Mt. Sinabung, as well as questionnaires to villagers, focusing on their experiences with the recent eruption and how life continued for them. A follow-up survey, should the first survey was felt inadequate, will be conducted in July after the Eid holidays. Dr. Sullivan hopes that this research will be presented back to the communities surrounding Mt. Sinabung and help discuss future actions to mitigate the effects of eruptions and also adapt to the ever changing environment of the

volcanic landscape. Two journal articles will be produced from this research, as stated by Dr. Sullivan, and submitted to international peer-reviewed journals and conferences. He would also endeavor in disseminating the research findings with RDI through events and activities, hopefully strengthening our partnership with the Coventry University professor.

There also will be numbers of other research and collaboration which will be conducting in 2016.

CULTURAL ROLE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION RDI-Itenas Invited Lecture From Gavin Sullivan of Coventry University

On February 23rd, 2016, RDI once again held their invited lecture at Itenas, Bandung. This time RDI brought their main field as lecture topic which disaster risk reduction. The speaker was Dr. Gavin Sullivan of Coventry University. Post disaster recovery and culture unexpectedly has a close connection, which might help researchers, governments, and donors to improve their implementation on disaster risk reduction, and to find the appropriate approach for the victims. Culture in relation to risk refers to ways people live with risk and how they cope and how they interpret their condition. Every culture has different way to interpret disaster risk in their local area, how their perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors influence

their vulnerability. Culture can be negative factors which increase one's vulnerability, but in some case it can also helps community to cope with community challenges brought by disaster.

Researchers need to be aware of and respect cultural differences. Assumptions based on science can conflict with practices based on tradition and local wisdom. Example for Merapi Mountain, on how their local leader said about nrimo or pasrah which conflicted with preparedness concept. It is better to conduct research from time to time in the same community, so we can see the changes or improvement. Dr. Gavin Sullivan also mentioned about his research in Bantul, Indonesia, which its approach for the research was conducted 3 years after the disaster. All in all it is more helpful to focus on social vulnerability than to focus on the naturalness of disaster.



RDI RESEARCHERS JOIN COVENTRY UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP

Written by Elisabeth Rianawati / Director of RDI

The Resilience Workshop was held by University of Coventry and Gajah Mada University under coordination of Dr. Gavin Sullivan in February 15-19th, 2016. In this workshop 18 representatives from universities and NGOs across Indonesia were invited, including RDI. On top of that, there were representatives from 12 universities in UK. The wide range of the participants brought rich perspective to the discussion regarding disaster reduction, resilience and culture. Other than workshop schedule, on the arrival day, we watched show about Ramayana ancient fairytale. The next morning, the participants were escorted to experience lava tour at Mt. Merapi. In this field trip, the participants visited the ruins left by Mt. Merapi eruption in 2010 and an underground bunker that was buried by lava

and killed 2 volunteers inside. In the final evening, the participants were treated to dine in the palace of Yogyakarta Sultanate. It was truly an extraordinary workshop.

Overall, the workshop has proven to be productive and fruitful in developing collaboration between universities in UK and Indonesia. During this workshop, strong collaboration and insightful discussion were happening over delightful activities. Truly one of a kind workshop!



Study Preparation for Comencing Study in New Zealand – ELT Training in Surabaya

Written by Alpian Angga Pratama / Finance Manager of RDI, Awardee of New Zealand ASEAN Scholarship

New Zealand (NZ) Government through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade offers several different types of scholarship. One type of scholarships which meets the eligibility for Indonesian citizen is New Zealand ASEAN Scholar Awards (NZAS). NZAS Scholarship is offered annually and eligible for postgraduate level study. Priority will be given to candidates who apply to study in academic disciplines relating to agriculture development, renewable energy, disaster risk management, public and private sector management, and English language teaching.

Although I am the only one who serve as a think tank organi-

zation’s employee, I met a lot of people who come from various background. For instance, some university lecturers from eastern part of Indonesia; some civil servants from Ministry of Tourism, Disaster, Agricultural, Meteorological, Statistics, Energy and Mineral Resources, Overseas Migrant Workers, Forestry, etc; some doctors from Food and Drugs Supervision Agency; Police officer; English high school teachers; and some employees from Energy-Based Private Company. There was an opportunity for cultural exchange since we came from across Indonesia.

Furthermore, as part of the NZAS Scholarship, I have taken course on an English Language Training (ELT). My ELT programme was provided through the Indonesia Australia Language Foundation (IALF), Surabaya, Indonesia. However, ELT programme was not only merely focus on develop my language proficiency, but also helping me on developing skills required to perform in an English-speaking academic context across core subject areas generally encountered in a western university settings.



Leadership Journey During LPDP Pre-Departure Training

Written by Sarah Najmillah / RDI Fellow, Awardee Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)

Getting a master degree scholarship from Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) as well as being the chief of Pre-Departure Training (PK) batch 57 is once-in-a-lifetime experience to have. From there, I’ve learnt so many

things and gained lessons. The dynamics of PK forced my team and me to study about people and time management through leading the batch for about 3 months although we had no management background in our education history. Of course we had hard times, yet we got some fun in the process.

The most interesting part of being a leader between leaders in PK is that I could meet many people with braveness of taking responsibility to lead more or less 120 people from different background of study and age with their unique leadership skills. Moreover, I had a big chance to get some life and study motivations from others which makes me want to thank God even more.



Valuable Experience as LPDP Awardee and Prospective Student of Kyoto University

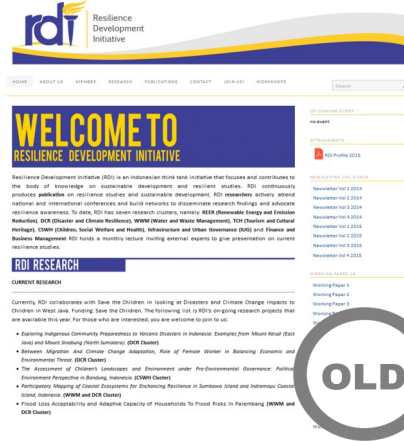
Written by Adzani A. Ameridyani / RDI Researcher, Awardee Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)

To receive a scholarship from Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) and accepted as one of the master student at Kyoto University have been my main goals for the past years. I am more than grateful to finally reached my goals on the late 2015. This journey has thought me so much about patient and determination. To begin with, finding the right sensei in Japan was not an easy task, because the

compatibility has to be mutual in both side. It took six months just to find the right sensei. For me, the key is to set your research target and interest, and be clear of what you want to learn during your master program. Always open up yourself to any possibilities when you are trying to find your research interest.

During Pre-Departure Training (PK), I was a secretary of PK 51. There were 117 of us and it was interesting how we able to build a strong connection despite our various backgrounds, before we even met. Our PK was the first PK in 2016, thus we barely have time to prepare for our actual PK event, but we managed to overcome the short amount of time. From this experience, I learnt to upgrade my ability to work underpressure and to develop new friendship with new people.

NEW FACE OF RDI WEBSITE



People Behind RDI New Website

1. Khalil Ambiya as Web Developer (www.khalilambiya.com)
2. Musyafa Syahbid
3. Umar Al Faruq
4. Wahyu Anhaza Lubis

Recently, RDI has come up with new website interface along with its improvements which hopefully will increase the convenience of fellow, researchers and people interested in RDI to obtain the latest information RDI activities. The improvements were consist of concept improvement, data system, and layout in our new website. As can be seen in the New RDI website, looks and layout as a whole has become more interactive and interesting. As for the latest menu bar consists of the home menu, publications, member, program, about us and join us.

In the home menu we can quickly update the latest information such as the latest news, upcoming events and our next lecture. Menu publications function to search and download publications, journals and Book chapter that has been made by RDI or collaboration with RDI. When you want to know in detail about

RDI, you can see the menu bar research which contains a description of each our cluster research, then in the menu bar program also contains the RDI program which is conducted, and we can also see all the history of RDI in menu bar About Us. Moreover, in the new RDI website also facilitates the profile of each researcher, fellow, partner institution, community partner, Internship and visiting scholar in RDI, it can be seen in the menu bar Member. Then for those who are interested in joining RDI through research collaboration, fellowship, Internship and visiting scholar, instantly able to see directly through the Join Us menu bar of procedures.

This hopefully will be our starting point for the constant improvement in the future. We also hope from now on we will be able to provide more update and news to the global society, and everyone can conveniently access information through our website.

WELCOMING NEW RESEARCHERS, RESEARCH FELLOWS AND PARTNER INSTITUTION

We would like to welcome our new researchers, **Yasmina Wulandari** and **Husnul Aris Alberdi**.

We would like to welcome our new research fellows,

- **Dr. Gavin Sullivan** of Coventry University,, UK
- **Mr. Anthoni Veery Mardianta**, Doctoral Student at Regional and Urban Planning ITB, Bandung
- **Mr. Jatmiko Wahyudi** from Research and Development Office in Pati Regency , Central Java
- **Dr. Henri Sitorus** from Department of Sociology Universitas Sumatera Utara, and
- **Dr. Fritz Nababan** of Department of Civil Engineering , Institut Teknologi Bandung.

We also excited to welcome our new parent institution, **Department of Management Study, Indonesia Education University**



RDI would like to announce and congratulate RDI researcher, **Wahyu Anhaza Lubis** who recently have been awarded for LPDP scholarship to continue his master degree.



PUBLISHED PAPERS

New publications from RDI fellows and researchers:

1. Tarigan, A.K.M., Sagala, S., Samsura, D.A.D., Fiisabiillah, D.F., Simarmata, H.A., Nababan, M. (2016). Bandung City, Indonesia. Cities (Elsevier) Vol. 50, pp. 100-110. DOI:10.1016/.cities.2015.09.005
2. Sagala, S. , Yamin, D , Pratama, A. , Rianawati, E. (2016) Adaptive Social Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Community Resilience: Evidence from Rural Areas in Indonesia. Edited Book By Drolet, J. to be published in 2016 by Francis & Taylor.
3. Sagala, S. and Wulandari, Y. (2016) Internally Displaced Person Research Studies in Indonesia: A Review.