

NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL THINK TANK



Thriving in the Face of Disaster: Mount Sinabung

RDI-Coventry University Research, May 4th-18th 2016. Cultural Impact on Community Resilience of People Exposed to Mount Sinabung Eruption Risk

On May, 4th – 18th 2016, a survey was conducted in Karo Regency on behalf of research collaboration between RDI and Coventry University, “Cultural Impact on Community Resilience of People Exposed to Mount Sinabung Eruption Risk”. It involves people from psychology department of different universities: Yarsi, Ukrida, Atmajaya, USU and UMM. On the first day, RDI gave a lecture along with Dr. Gavin Sullivan from Coventry University in Institut Teknologi Medan. The data collection starts on the second day, it questionnaires to local communities focusing on their experiences regarding the eruption, in-depth interviews with relevant key informants and actors within local communities, observation and secondary data.

Mount Sinabung is unique due to its long cycle of eruption—the last eruption occurred in the year 1600, and has been on alert ever since the eruption on August 29th, 2010. The constant danger puts the community in vulnerable state, forcing them to thrive in order to survive. The study explores how the communities around the continuously erupting Mount Sinabung cope with the disaster, displaced or not.

Some of the exposed villages have been relocated and evacuated. These villages were within the 7 Km radius from the Sinabung peak point. The conditions of the displaced people are different, depending on their camps. Half of the relocated villages—now a community located in Siosar—are relatively well off compared to the others, they receive new houses and compensated farm lands

to fulfill their livelihoods; the not-so perfect life in Siosar has mixed reactions. A stable source of income and an emerging local economy helped regain their trust with the government, however there has been problems with the seed distribution, causing some tension between the villagers and the government. Others are not as fortunate, villages within the independent relocation are facing problem as their destined relocation village, Lingga, manifests an unwelcoming presence towards the displaced persons. Evacuated villages, are in a constant state of legal limbo; while they are barred from going to their own village – since Mt. Sinabung is still active – they are not given any jobs and depend on daily rations to live.

The absence of a source of income forces some of these villagers to go back to their village, exposed to risk but generating income. Impacted villages that were not evacuated are villages that are mainly smothered by volcanic ash. Layers of ash covers their farm lands, damaging their crops. There are currently no clear plans from the government regarding compensation of their damaged crops, however there have been considerations for relocating 14 families from Perbaji due to them being in the way of a cold lahar path. However, kinship culture in culture dictates how someone should behave towards other people regarding their family names and relation towards each other—either blood or marital. Not only this culture has become apparent in suppressing potential conflicts in displaced persons camps, but also between the camp and local host community.

A Closer Look at Indonesia's Future Energy Barn: Palembang

April 13th-16th 2016. Increasing Energy Security through Institution Adaptive Capacity. Study Case: Palembang City.

Palembang is blessed with abundant energy resources such as petroleum, natural gas and coal. Palembang has waste-to-energy plant, Sukawinatan, that generates 500kWh power. Even though coal is the most used energy source, natural gas usage has become more common within the community; some neighborhood are already using direct gas pipeline from SP2J and PT. PGN.

The research was done by interviewing relevant institutions such as Palembang local government, South Sumatera provincial government, PT. PLN, PT. PGN.

Energy security issue alone hasn't receive much attention from the institutions in Palembang; institutions are more concerned about climate change issue, green house effect and green transport, which is good since those are linked with energy security. The rapid infrastructure development is done to support the ASEAN Games in 2018.



RDI Team visit to Sukawinatan waste-to-energy plant, Palembang

From Waste in to Blessing: Rural Biogas

June 10th – 12th 2016. Rural Biogas Usage Management as Agricultural Waste Reduction Methods. Study Case: North Bandung Area

Agricultural waste is an issue in the rural community. People would dispose livestock manure in to the river, polluting the downstream. Biogas is a solution to this problem, by using manure to produce energy. Not only it prevents further pollution problem, also creating a business opportunity process the bio-slurry in to fertilizer.

The research was done in Cibodas Village, Bandung Barat, it is targetted by provincial government to become an energy independent village. Unfortunately, the reactors granted by the government doesn't last. An alternative is to use the paid one provided by Biru Program through KPSBU, which is more lasting provided it is given with routine assistance and maintenance.

But it doesn't end the problem. Some people would dispose their bio-slurry to the river or field rather than processing it. Not only it pollutes the environment, it also a waste of business opportunity.



RDI Team observing a biogas inlet outside a barn at Cibodas Village



Dr. Fritz Nababan after his lecture at RDI, April 21st 2016

Lecture by Fritz Nababan

Liquefaction: Potential and Challenges

Many potential hazards are bound to happen in an earthquake, one of them is liquefaction. Dr. Fritz Nababan of Institut Teknologi Bandung showed what could happen and what we can do to prevent further damages. What causes liquefaction, how do to mitigate it and challenges ahead. This lecture is held on 21st of April, 2016 at Resilience Development Initiative.



Lecture by Gavin Sullivan & Saut Sagala at ITM, May 3rd 2016

Lecture by Gavin Sullivan and Saut Sagala

Culture and Disaster Recovery Planning

In events of Mt. Sinabung survey in North Sumatera, Dr. Gavin Sullivan from Coventry University, UK and Dr. Saut Sagala gave a lecture on Regional and City Planning study program, Institut Teknologi Medan at 3rd of May, 2016. The lecture talks about disaster recovery planning and how culture affects community resilience in face of disaster.



Johannes Anhorn after his lecture at RDI, June 9th 2016

Lecture by Johannes Anhorn

Emergent Issues and Vulnerability Factors following the Nepal Earthquake

Johannes Anhorn of Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Germany gave a lecture about his research experiences on Nepal earthquake. From before the earthquake until the recovery process. The lecture is held on 9th of June, 2016 at Resilience Development Initiative

Johannes Anhorn of Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Germany gave a lecture about his research experiences on Nepal earthquake. From before the earthquake until the recovery process. The lecture is held on 9th of June, 2016 at Resilience Development Initiative



Mt. Sinabung Field Survey Experience Disaster and Culture

*Written by Umar Al Faruq
RDI Researcher*

Visiting an active volcano and seeing it up close just a few kilometers from it is a whole new experience. With its deadly yet magnificent ash plumes, Mt. Sinabung has become a spectacle since its eruption from dormancy back in 2010. Thousands are now displaced and waiting for the government to tackle this dilemma.

Being my first field survey in an active volcano, there was a really steep learning curve. I had to learn how to deal with all kinds of adversities respondents face. I also had to quickly adjust my approach in asking questions to the new environment where people speak a local Karonese.

Surveying the respondents and listening to their stories gave me a newfound view of the price these people had to pay, and how ineffective the whole system can be. It was a challenging trip, one that makes you grateful of where you are now.



Palembang Field Survey Experience Energy Security

*Written by Husnul Aris Alberdi
RDI Researcher*

In Palembang, for 4 days (13-16 april 2016), RDI conducted a survey about energy security. We interviewed institutions relevant to energy security issue, such as Palembang local government, South Sumatra local government, other institutions

What I find interesting is the energy diversification in Palembang, transportation (car and bus) uses gas fuel, especially for official vehicles and buses from Transmusi. Households have also been using gas pipeline for their daily needs.

In 2018, Palembang will even held an Asia scale sport events, ASEAN Games. To support this event, infrastructures were built, such as LRT (Light rapid transit) that connects the places in Palembang like airport to Jakabaring Sport City. I think Palembang someday will be a metropolitan or megapolitan city.

Voice of Members



Lembang Field Survey Experience Rural Biogas

*Written by Yasmina Wulandari
RDI Researcher*

This is my first experience researching energy, so this is like foreign territory. Having to join the rural living with all its glory is also a nice change. The villagers are very nice and welcoming even though I took a lot of their times.

Questionnaire methods requires me to adapt in dealing with different strangers and how tip-toe better around words. Learning how to adapt to the villagers' customs, although it's not so different compared the field visit to Sinabung where It's on a different island altogether.

Nevertheless new perspectives are gained, explanations and what-could've-beens. It's a shame about the cattle though, their productivity in this environment, having to be cooped up in such small space all day. Though I understand why the villagers do it, limitations are ubiquitous—especially regarding land ownership. It's been challenging to say the least.



From Global Think Tank to Global University

*Written by Wahyu Anhaza Lubis
RDI Researcher, Awardee Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)*

I never imagined to be able to continue my study at one of the world's best university. But then I spent some times and had a lot of experience while working as a researcher at RDI, chance to get this could happen. As the result, in the first half of 2016, my prayer was answered. Starting from my acceptance as an awardee of LPDP scholarship, followed by LoA from University College London.

During a year of work at RDI, I learnt so many lessons. Starting from conducting a research plan, taking care of the administration, doing surveys, processing data, creating reports, and also publishing some papers. At the end, during my time at pre-departure activities with LPDP, I became one of the youngest awardee with the highest number of publications.

All in all, I am very grateful for giving me chance to learn at RDI. Success for all of us!

Eid Mubarak

1437 H



Iftar with RDI (08/06)



Wahyu farewell party (21/06)

New Papers

Joewono, T. B., Tarigan, A. K., & Susilo, Y. O. (2016). Road-based public transportation in urban areas of Indonesia: What policies do users expect to improve the service quality? *Transport Policy*, 49, 114-124.

Amri, A., Bird, D. K., Ronan, K., Haynes, K., & Towers, B. (2016). Disaster Risk Reduction education in Indonesia: Challenges and Recommendations for Scaling up. *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss.* doi:10.5194/nhess-2015-344, 2016.

Article

“Why do people still live next to an active volcano?”
Gavin B. Sullivan and Saut Sagala. *The Conversation*, May 27th 2016.

We now have a collaboration with **Australian Consortium for ‘In-Country’ Indonesian Studies** in hosting ACICIS students for internship program in



AWARD

RDI Would like to announce and congratulate that RDI researchers have been awarded for scholarship, conference grants, and training grants throughout the year

- Wahyu Anhaza Lubis for being accepted in University College of London for his master degree in Economics and Policy of Energy and the Environment.
- Dinar Suryandari for being awarded for both Stuned Scholarship and LPDP scholarship to continue her master degree.
- Jonatan Lassa for participating on GNDR 3rd Global Summit in Bangkok, Thailand at 19th – 21st April, 2016.
- Ramanditya Wimbardana for participating on Global Innovation Challenge: Community for Global Health Equity, University at Buffalo at 15th – 21st May 2016.



New Institution Partner

Coventry University,
United Kingdom

New RDI Member

Hendro Muliarto

From Institut Teknologi Bandung
as our *affiliated researcher*

New RDI Profile 2016



2016 Internship Opportunity

During 2015, RDI received 13 interns from 6 different universities, and have seen their capabilities increased as researchers. We are now looking for highly motivated interns who are eager to get some research experiences. In 2016, we open internships on topics related to:

- (1) Disaster Economics;
- (2) Culture and Disaster;
- (3) Children and Climate Change;
- (4) Biogas Adoption;
- and (5) Energy Security

Interns at Resilience Development Initiative will be faced with many prominent research studies ranging from national to international scale.

For further information, visit <http://www.rdi.or.id/internship>