

Ms. Susilastuti from Indonesia



My name is Susilastuti, and I am from Indonesia. Indonesia is sovereign transcontinental country located mainly in Southeast Asia with some territories in Oceania. It has an estimated population of more than 260 million (September 2016). Indonesia is located on the Ring of Fire at the intersection of three tectonic plates: the Indo-Australian, Eurasian, and Pacific. This makes Indonesia one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with regular exposure to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and drought.

I work as a Disaster Management Facilitator at the National Authority for Disaster Management (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana: BNPB). In Indonesia, various disasters triggered by geographic, geologic, hydrologic, and demographic conditions have motivated to establish a vision for building national resilience to cope with disasters.

I have previous experience working with non-governmental organizations. I worked as a community organizer and psychosocial staff member for the YEU (YAKKUM Emergency Unit), with a focus on emergency response to disasters, humanitarian crises, and disaster risk reduction programs. I also served as a social worker for Church World Service (CWS) Indonesia, protecting urban refugees and asylum seekers through empowerment programs.

ADRC's Visiting Research (VR) Program has given me a great opportunity to gain experience in the organization's activities and to learn best practices in Japanese disaster management. It is my honor and privilege to be part of the VR program in 2016. This program has offered me a chance to enrich my skills and knowledge of disaster management, and this is sure to benefit both myself and my country, especially the BNPB. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC management and staff for all their support and assistance during my stay in Japan, and also to BNPB for giving me the opportunity to have such a fruitful experience. Terima kasih!