

FOREWORD

Encouraging communities to actively involve in flood mitigation is not an easy task. Proving that it has been successfully done is more difficult. What is more important is to open the minds of the communities that they can take charge of their lives. Even when the causes of the problems may be external to them. Their positions on the issues, their standpoints, their demand for a better lives conduct their approaches to solving the problems.

This project is not to solve the entire problem of floods in their areas. This project is aimed at empowering the communities, by encouraging to take action based on their own initiatives, by helping develop a network of the affected communities to a wider communities, and by exposing them to different ways of dealing with problems of flood damage. Flood may still be there. They may still be continually affected. However, they have more understanding and develop wide arrays of approaches to deal with problems.

The government these days is no longer capable to provide what communities need. Not only they are less capable in detecting the needs, but also financial limitation drives them to deliver less. It is the communities themselves who have to be proactive in determining their needs, and take action based on that. In the era of promotion of good governance, and in the case of Indonesia, *reforms*, the government promises to facilitate more than to develop, to enable more than to mobilise, and to encourage more than to impose the communities to improve their own lives. Communities should tap into these kind of government approaches.

ADRC would like to thank for the team, National Disaster Management Co-ordinating Board (Bakornas PB), the Government of Indonesia who is in charge of the project and LP-ITB who is the implementing agency, who is gladly helping the communities, through training, facilitating, co-ordinating, and help implementing community initiatives. The team also has helped them connecting with agencies and bodies who hold resources useful for their activities. Personally, I would like to express also my greatest gratitude and thanks for Dr. Krishna S. Pribadi, Dr. Teti Argo, Dr. Bambang Rudyanto and Mr. Masaru Arakida who gave the right direction to the project. We believe that by implementing this project both sides as well as communities itself will get much benefit from it. Hopefully, this will be a fruitful product that can be disseminated to other countries as well.

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