

Mr. Agustian Rizal from Indonesia



My name is Agustian Rizal and I am from Indonesia, where I work for the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB). The BNPB, established in 2008, is mainly responsible for managing disasters starting with pre-disaster preparations, and extending to emergency response and rehabilitation and reconstruction. The BNPB is directed at the head office level by the minister.

The Republic of Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia and Oceania. Lying along the equator, Indonesia has a tropical climate, with two distinct monsoonal wet and dry seasons. Indonesia is an archipelago comprised of approximately 17,508 islands. Indonesia is a republic of 33 provinces, with an elected legislature and president. The nation's capital city is Jakarta. The country shares land borders with Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Malaysia. Its total area is 5.2 million km<sup>2</sup> (1.9 million km<sup>2</sup> of land and 3.3 million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean), and it extends 5,110 km east to west. According to the 2010 national census, the population of Indonesia is 237.6 million, with high population growth of 1.9%. A total of 58% of the population lives on Java, the world's most populous island.

Indonesia is located in a disaster prone area that might be considered a kind of "disaster laboratory" due to its geographical, geological, and demographic conditions. Indonesia is susceptible to various types of natural hazards due to its geographical location and physical environment. It is situated in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, an area encircling the Pacific Ocean where frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity result from the movements of three tectonic plates (Indo Australia, Eurasian, and Pacific). In fact, the country experiences an average of 20 earthquakes per day (most are too weak to be felt). Tropical cyclone events cause secondary disaster, such as landslides, floods, typhoons, drought, and heavy/monsoon rains, and there are also about 500 volcanoes, 128 of which are active and have a history of erupting.

BNPB's vision of achieving a nation that is resilient against disasters is consistent with the ADRC's mission of building disaster-resilient communities and establishing networks among countries through programs that include personnel exchanges in this field. The ADRC's coordinating efforts in the fields of risk and hazard assessment, risk reduction, and disaster management for the Asian region are important for member countries.

The ADRC's visiting researcher program offers me a unique opportunity to enrich and deepen my knowledge in the field of disaster management. I expect to learn about disaster prevention and preparedness, disaster management measures, and community-based early warning systems. Also, if possible, I'm planning to visit some of the areas that were damaged by

last year's earthquake and tsunami disaster. I'm sure my experience as a visiting researcher with ADRC will be very beneficial and useful for me in my work in the future.

I am thankful to ADRC for the efforts made to make my stay in Japan comfortable, as well as to the government of Japan for providing me the opportunity to spend time here and learn from the vast experience of governmental and other disaster management institutions in Japan, as well as other ADRC member countries. I would also like to thank the government of Indonesia for allowing me to benefit from Japan's practical experience in the field of disaster management and disaster risk reduction.