

# NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 January –March 2017



## Analyzing Policies on Forest Fires and their Impacts on Children

RDI—WVI Workshop at Pontianak , 06 March 2017

**R**DI had recently conducted several focus group discussions and in-depth interviews in three different provinces to find out about existing policies regarding forest fires and the impact they have on children. This project is funded by Wahana Visi Indonesia and UNICEF. Within the period of 5-21 March 2017, the team visited South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, and Central Kalimantan to hold discussions and conduct interviews on what the local government at the provincial level have done to mitigate and address the crisis that is forest fires that have recently caught international attention since they caused the 2015 Southeast Asian Haze Crisis. Ministries were also invited to a workshop in Jakarta to discuss what the problems were in terms of policies and why have forest fires continue to happen every year. This received media attention as the event was covered by Kompas and was published in an article on their daily newspaper.

While policies on forest conservation and wildfire mitigation have been around for decades, the problem of forest fires still persists. This is the entry point from which the study takes off. The aim is to find gaps between the current and ideal situation where policies address relevant problems and are also implemented accordingly, and give recommendations on how to bridge those gaps. The study is part of a larger program by UNICEF that looks to increase wellbeing in children that are affected by forest fires and the resulting air pollution.

As these provinces are abundant in forests, palm oil plantations, and other farmland, slash-and-burn practices are common. Over the years policymakers have endeavored to prevent fires through various measures, however as these failed the air pollution it causes continue to affect hundreds of thousands of children which also needs addressing.

The team found that, as primary findings, policies that primarily focus on children and their wellbeing in light of forest fires were minimal and many government officials admit that there are hardly any regulations regarding them. Instead, many of the policies put more attention on forest conservation, slash-and-burn bans, and child protection in general. RDI hopes that this study will address this problem and encourage policymakers to prioritize children more.





## Mid-term Review: Indonesia Disaster Project

Within December 2016 to January 2017, RDI conducted a field visit on behalf of midterm review for Oxfam Indonesia's Indonesia Disaster Project. The survey was conducted in five provinces: North Sumatera, West Sumatera, Central Java, and West Nusa Tenggara—where Oxfam's project takes place. The objective of the external mid-term review is to obtain and analyze evidence from the Oxfam Right in Crisis (RiC) program to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the program. The intended outcome is built foundation in terms of policies, planning, and coordination. RDI team consist of Dr. Saut Sagala, Mr. Avianto Amri, and Mr. Yusra Tebe. In the survey RDI team met with Oxfam's partners and beneficiaries from local government, NGOs, small-to-medium enterprises, retailers, banks, to local communities. Communities are affected by different types of disasters and are facing different types of problems and its solutions. Here, RDI tries to evaluate Oxfam's work using 8 evaluation criteria: Effectiveness, Efficiency: Relevance, Sustainability, Impact, Innovation, Replicability, and Learning. As a global think tank, RDI tries to study about this condition and how we can reduce vulnerabilities and improve community's resilience.



Focused Group Discussion in Kediri

## MoU Between RDI and School of Geography Leeds University, UK

Leeds, UK. 20 February 2017

Resilience Development Initiative (RDI) and School of Geography, Leeds University have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration on academic activities. Dr. Saut Sagala has visited Leeds University in January 2017 and Prof. Jon Lovett has visited RDI in September 2016. Under this collaboration, it is expected to send some post graduate students from RDI to Leeds University and to have research collaboration among staffs.



## Biogas Field Visit at Cibodas, Lembang

Cibodas, Lembang. 10 March 2017

Last year, RDI started researching biogas application in Cibodas, Lembang. The topic has contributed a lot in RDI's scientific expertise. This year, RDI re-visited the research station, hosting professor Izuru Saizen and Prof. Narumasa Tsutsumida of Kyoto University. During the field visit, the team observed a "Bank Sampah"—a community-based waste management system, and local biogas digester. The team also met Ibu Nina, a local entrepreneur and focal point of biogas in her village. She process biogas slurry in to fertilizer using worms and sell the worms to cosmetic industry.



## Joint Lecture by Prof. Izuru Saizen and Prof. Narumasa Tsutsumida of Kyoto University

Padjajaran University, Bandung, 9 March 2017

On March 9th 2017 RDI was granted the privilege of hosting a joint lecture with Post-Graduate School of Padjajaran University, Bandung. Professor Izuru Saizen and Professor Narumasa Tsutsumida of Kyoto University gave a lecture on regional development and methods. Prof. Saizen's lecture is titled "Rural Development and Land Use Management"—where he showed two cases of rural development in Vietnam—,while Prof. Tsutsumida's lecture titled "Sub-Pixel Classification of Modis EVI for Annual Mappings of Impervious Surface" where he showed a method of land-use and land coverage analysis using remote sensing and GIS, his example is annual mappings of Jakarta Metropolitan Area land use.



Prof. Izuru Saizen



Prof. Narumasa Tsutsumida

# Voice of Members

## Studying abroad: A new exciting yet a challenging experience in New Zealand

Alpian Angga Pratama

Over the past four weeks, I have experienced a lot of things that comes me as a first time. Thanks to Auckland – Indonesian Student Association (PPI – Auckland) that help me through this past month. Starting from finds a new flat until to how to finds mart with cheap but has good quality daily needs. I feel a very strong international academic atmosphere in Auckland. The students not only come from NZ and Pacific but also from Asia and America among others China, Korea, Japan, India, Brazil, and Argentina as well. Some of my colleagues are very enthusiast and compassionate for research. Recently, we have a field trip to the Far North District (FND), the most northern part of New Zealand to have some lectures from local farmers about private conservation and preservation



## Mt. Kelud Visit: Getting to Know the Locals

Irsyad Kharisma

Mt. Kelud is one of the volcanic mountains in Java Island which has long story about its eruptions. However, there are so many people has activities around this mountain. Involved in the survey and met farmers, breeders, small-medium entrepreneurs gave me new perspectives about how people around Mt. Kelud adapt with natural conditions, about how they preserving natural resources, and the most important thing is most of them are the initial contributors of the food supply chain.

Meeting them personally in the warm discussion accompanied with local sweet tea and fritters gave me a chance to know more deeply about their lives. And not to forget, tasted traditional cuisine also one of the best experiences I have.



## Waste Management and Women of Kampung Areng, Cibodas, Lembang

Adzani Ameridiyani

Internship program is one of compulsory courses in Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES), Kyoto University, Japan. I decided to conduct my internship in RDI because as research institute, RDI has mastered several research topics that inline with my interest and suitable for my thesis topic. I spent one and a half months in RDI, Topic that I research in Kampung Areng is about woman and environment. I focused on the implementation of Biogas and Bank Sampah, which mainly managed by woman and triggered women group formation in Kampung Areng. Briefly, I can assume that women of Kampung Areng are the main agent of Kampung Areng waste management. All in all, I found that this internship is more than just learning about how research institute works and collecting data for thesis. I hope this will lead to further research collaboration in the future.

## Brief Return to Hometown—Agam

Husnul Aris Alberdi

Oxfam have trusted RDI to Review their projects around Indonesia related to Disaster management and response. One of the area is West Sumatera with two project their. I assisted Dr. Saut Sagala in collecting data in West Sumatera Province, which happens to be where I grew up. We went to several areas in West Sumatera such as South Solok district and Agam district, we met with Oxfam's beneficiaries from local government to local communities.

In this survey, I interacted with many people from diverse background. Admittedly it increase my capacity to understand how to approach a communities and how the aid that given from Oxfam used and benefitted here. In addition, this survey granted me the opportunity to understand the advantages and challenges my hometown are facing. It gives me a future vision on how it can be improved and how I could help its sustainability.



## New Book Chapters

### *Masyarakat Tangguh Bencana: “Membangun dan Memperkuat” published by LIPI (2017).*

1. Paramita, B., Alberdi, H. A., Sagala, S. (2017). *Perspektif Penataan Ruang Berbasis Mitigasi Bencana Alam dan Adaptasi Perubahan Iklim pada Permukiman Padat dan Kumuh: Preseden pada Kampung Kota Bandung.*
2. Pratama, A. A., Rianawati, E., Sagala, S. (2017). *Strengthening Community Resilience through Adaptive Social Protection: Lesson Learned from West Java, Indonesia.*
3. Alberdi H. A., Sagala, S., Reeves, A. S., Kharisma I. (2017). *How Can Cash Transfer Promote Community Resilience? Program Keluarga Harapan Implementation in East Nusa Tenggara*
4. Al Faruq, U., Rianawati E., Currie, E. (2017). *Resilience in Sumba Island: How Can Renewable Energy Contribute?*
5. Wulandari, Y., Coffey, M., Sagala, S. (2017). *Community Resilience Analysis after Major Geological Hazards in Indonesia.*




## AWARD


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

- Dr. Antoni V. M. for his doctorate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from ITB. With dissertation titled: “Role of Local Governments in Rescaling Metropolitan Area Management. Case Study: Implementation of BRT in Mebidang Region”
- Elisabeth Rianawati awarded by IFS-SEARCH with topic “Anaerobic Digestion of Rice Husk Mixed with Animal Dung for the Production Biogas in Indonesia”
- Ramanditya attended 16th East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. 16-19 February 2017


## New RDI Profile & Website 2017

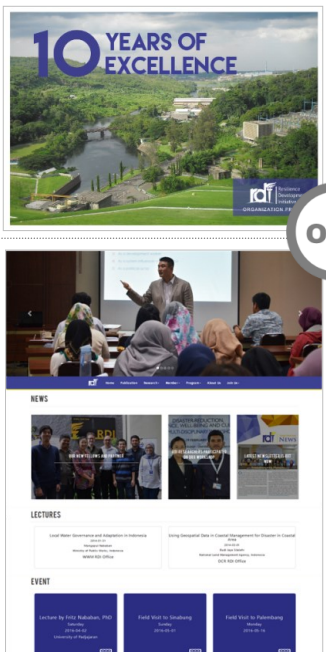


**NEW**



**OLD**





## New RDI Institution Partner



**School of Geography**  
University of Leeds, UK

## New RDI Fellow

**Muhammad Faruk Rosya Ridho**  
Institute of Technology Bandung

**Dr. Mercy M F Rampengan**  
University of Manado

**Pamelaria Simamora**  
Washington University

**Asrul Sidiq**  
Syiah Kuala University

**Yusra Tebe**  
UNICEF

## New Projects

FAO & UNDP—RDI:

“Final Evaluation of Post-Disaster Livelihood Recovery in Mt. Sinabung and Mt. Kelud” March 2017—May 2017

Plan Indonesia—RDI:

“Midterm Evaluation of Rural Safe School Initiative Project in South Timor Tengah, East Nusa Tenggara” March—May 2017

## 2017 Internship Opportunity

Until 2016, RDI received 20 interns from 11 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 2017, we open internships on topics related to:

- (1) Forest Fire; (2) Children and Disaster;
- (3) Children & Social Protection; (4) Rural & Urban Biogas Adoption; (5) Urban Biogas Adoption; (6) Energy Security;
- (7) Geopark Tourism; and 8) Water Security and Sanitation.

Interns at Resilience Development Initiative will be faced with many prominent research studies ranging from national to international scale. Internship period is April—September 2017.

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