**DIDRR News**

**Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction**

**My Involvement in the Research** By Bejo Riyanto

On 19 to 23 January 2015, the teams from ASB and the University of Sydney ran a workshop in Jogya Indonesia, providing training to disabled persons organisations on the Disability-Inclusive Disaster Resilience (DiDR) tool developed by the team (featured in our last issue), training on data collection skills, and an opportunity to practice these skills in a field survey. This article tells the experience of Bejo Riyanto, one of the participants.

“Discussing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the absence of people with disabilities is equal to disregarding their existence as community members vulnerable to disaster risk”.

This means that participation of people with disabilities is essential, if not mandatory, in disaster risk reduction activities. Through this participation, we will be able to discover nuances, which will be essential in the identification of the need and capacity of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction in certain regions. This information is very important to be able to compare to general information. Hence, the engagement of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction activities is crucial.

I appreciate the partnership project between ASB, the University of Sydney and Australian Aid, as one initiative of engaging people with disabilities in DRR activities. The project is fully committed to providing accurate information relating to DRR needed by people with disabilities. As one of the surveyors, I have learnt new lessons that are quite different from what I have known before. In addition, the Washington Group questions have also assisted me as an easier way to collect information necessary for DRR activities.

The questionnaire (Disability-Inclusive Disaster Resilience (DiDR) tool) that has been provided during the training is very beneficial to help us collect information relating to disaster risk reduction. For the respondents, the questionnaire acts as a tool to measure their vulnerability and capacity in the context of disaster risk reduction, and also assesses their contribution in reducing disaster risk. This will ensure they will always be aware of, and be prepared for any natural hazard emergencies that may happen. Being involved has been very interesting for me, and I am very pleased to be able to participate in this training.

The field survey was also interesting as I was exposed to a completely different experience compared to the training. I had to ‘take the extra mile’ in applying the technique of the interview which was taught during the training.

At one point during the field survey, a hilly road caused me to lose balance and so my motor cycle fell. The situation made me think about the accessibility of the road that would most probably serve as a significant hindrance in disaster risk reduction. At one time I asked a friend to share the ride in order to maintain balance of the customised motorcycle that I used. My friend was able to ride the motor cycle over the steep hills. I was so relieved and thrilled when we had gotten up the road that I immediately wrote in my social network feed “I have conquered Sub Village Srunggo.”.

There was one other area in Nawungan during the field survey that alarmed me due to the road being steep and hilly. Throughout the journey, I remember praying more than enjoying the trip. Our car had to stop in the middle of the trip and so we had to walk up the hill for about 3 kilometres. I was exhausted and my leg hurt. It was a tiring yet memorable trip for me.

Continued on page 3
Siti Aam Hamidah — Village Social Worker and Data Collector

**Education:** Sarjana Degree of Islamic Education, Faculty of Islamic Education, Institute of Al-Quran, Jakarta.

**Work Background:** Siti Aam is an active social worker in her village, as well as in the Ciamis District. She is a facilitator for some government-led community-development programmes including livelihood, health, education, and family planning programmes in the Ciamis district. That was how she participated in ASB & Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR) disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme for children with disabilities out-of-school in the Panawangan sub-district. Siti Aam was one of the village social workers trained and equipped with DRR knowledge to educate children with disabilities, family and neighbours about disaster. She is now listed as member of the district DRR forum of Ciamis District.

**Summary of Role within the ADRA Project:** Siti Aam participated in capacity building on identification of people with disability in disaster using the Washington Group short-set questions. She herself, teamed-up with a Deaf surveyor, conducting field practice to identify people who have hearing difficulty in landslide-prone areas of Panawangan sub-district. She found how people with hearing impairment are facing complex problems participating in social life. Siti Aam also participated in the research training from the CDRP team on using the Disability-Inclusive Disaster Resilience (DiDR) tool, and will become one of data collectors for the research component in this project.

**What are you most looking forward to working on this project?** I want to share findings from the research and use it to advocate on behalf of people with disability. For example, to raise awareness on disability so people will not make fun of people with disability in the home. “I would like to promote the rights of people with disability, to be treated with dignity just like other people without discrimination. I also wish that people with disability, especially children, have access to education. In my village, it is sad to see how they only spend their day at home without any constructive activities.” Siti Aam Hamidah

Dr. Filippo Dall’Osso— Research Associate at the Centre for Disability Research and Policy and at the Natural Hazards Research Group

**Education:** Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy - with specialisation in Natural Hazards, Vulnerability Assessment, Geographic Information Systems

B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences at the University of Bologna, Italy

**Work background:** For five years after my studies I was employed by Med Ingegneria (www.medingegneria.it), their Ravenna, Italy, office where I was the head of the Risk Assessment and Natural Hazards Office working on a number of research projects which promoted risk awareness and sustainable development in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. The exposure to such a culturally diverse environment allowed me to build strong skills in the Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and Community Capacity Building.

Between 2006 and 2007, as a part of a European Union-funded project in Algeria, I worked with local coastal risk managers, training their engineers and supporting the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, including risk reduction guidelines for climate change and coastal hazards.

From 2010-2011, I lead a large project in the North-Caspian Sea aimed at assessing the social and physical vulnerability of Kazakhstan coastal communities to the risk posed by natural hazards (e.g. inundations, extreme cold, wildfires) associated with the development of large oil and gas extraction and treatment facilities along the shore.

At the end of 2011, I was offered a position as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of New South Wales, leading a two-year project aimed at assessing the risk from sea level rise associated with extreme Inundations in Sydney. Partnering with the Sydney Coastal Council Group, the NSW State Emergency Service and the Australia Red Cross, we provided Sydney Local Government Authorities with a set of guidelines and recommendations to reduce their risk and build more resilient communities. The project won the prestigious 2014 Resilient Australia Award, both at the state level (in New South Wales) and the national level (in Australia).

**Summary of role within ADRA Project:** My contribution to the ADRA project spans within the sector of disaster risk reduction, natural hazards, vulnerability and resilience assessment. I was put in charge of the development of the first draft of the DiDRR tool, which has then been collaboratively reviewed by the project team and by a network of international experts in DIDRR based in academic institutions and NGOs.

“This is an extremely interesting and ground-breaking project. We are developing and testing the first tool ever generated to allow people with disability to assess their own resilience to natural hazards.”
For five Occupational Therapy students at Sydney University, 2015 has already brought with it new experiences and learning opportunities in disability inclusive disaster risk reduction. The students travelled to Indonesia in January for a 3 week field school internship as part of the Faculty of Health Science’s abroad unit of study accompanied by Dr Michelle Villeneuve.

During the field experience the students had an opportunity to visit ASB Indonesia’s office for an afternoon to learn about collaborating with Disabled Person’s organisations (DPOs) on Disaster Risk Reduction. The students had the opportunity to meet Alex Robinson who was able to give them a presentation on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction (didrr) and provide information on what has been happening and developments in this field of knowledge.

Whilst the students had done some pre visit research on disaster risk reduction, they had not fully considered the importance of disability inclusive disaster risk reduction. One of the students, Alex Nugent mentioned “from an occupational therapy perspective I hadn’t previously thought about the need for this in Australia, but then when I considered bush fires and other natural disasters that happen in Australia, I can see the importance of bringing this to our Australian context”.

The students also appreciated the collaborative approach of the project and hearing how this happens in practice “we have learnt a lot at university about the importance of working collaboratively, but it was good to see this in practice. It was good to see the commitment of working together rather than telling people what is best for them”.

All students who took part in this field experience will receive credit through the Faculty of Health Sciences Abroad Elective. Congratulations to all of the students who took part!

**Students opportunity to learn about disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction**

On 18 November 2014 an agreement was made between The United Nations Office for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Nippon Foundation and the Japanese Government that will make the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities.

The conference which is due to be held on 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan is expecting 8,000 attendees. The WCDRR Disability Caucus, including the Disability-inclusive DRR Network www.didrrn.net, have been working closely with the organisers to ensure the active participation of the persons with disability at the WCDRR. The agreement has made accessibility a priority with accessible venues, accommodation and transport, as well as real time captioning offered in English and Japanese and International and Japanese sign interpretation for various sessions during the conference.

News of this Agreement has been welcomed by many (including this research team) who acknowledge this accessibility agreement as an opportunity for persons with disabilities to have an active involvement in discussions concerning the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action and to highlight the contributions of persons with disabilities to building disaster resilience in their communities.

We look forward to providing you more updates following the WCDRR.

For more information on this agreement you can go to the UNISDR website at: [http://www.unisdr.org/archive/4049](http://www.unisdr.org/archive/4049)
An exciting new development building on the disability inclusive disaster risk reduction project in Indonesia is an upcoming project funded by the NSW Government, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, to enhance the resilience of people with disability in disaster risk reduction in Australia.

The project funded under the 2014-2015 Community Resilience Innovation program (CRIP) is a two year research project jointly led by two University of Sydney Centres, the Natural Hazard Research Group (NHRG) and the Centre for Disability Research and Policy (CDRP). “Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Preparation in NSW: Enabling Local Community Resilience through collaboration” addresses the increased risk people with disability face in emergencies, where responsibility of who will respond to their needs during emergency is unclear. In order to increase community resilience, the project seeks to enhance the organisational capability of community support organisations, disabled people’s organisations, local government areas (LGAs) and local businesses, which otherwise have had little experience in emergency preparedness for people with disability.

Working collaboratively with emergency managers and people with disability, the project will consider current practice, knowledge and barriers people with disability face in emergency planning and preparedness. The findings will be used to inform the development of a number of self-assessment tools and workshops which will be run in three areas in NSW. The findings will also provide an evidence base for policy development in New South Wales, including Disability Action Plans for Local and State Government.

The project is due to commence in May 2015. If you would like to receive updates on this project, you can register your interest in receiving the project’s newsletter by emailing: disabilitypolicy.centre@sydney.edu.au

The research has been funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme under an award titled “Promoting the inclusion of people with disability in disaster management in Indonesia”.

**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Australian Government. The Commonwealth of Australia accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury resulting from reliance on any of the information or views contained in this publication.
Reflecting on disability-inclusion within the HFA: Transforming commitments into action post-2015

HFA2 represents an important opportunity to ensure greater disability-inclusion in disaster risk reduction (DRR) within a true whole-of-community approach. However, many DRR actors remain concerned that becoming disability-inclusive is technical and requires particular resources and expertise. This event sets out to reassure that such concerns are unfounded.

Much work contributing to disability-inclusive DRR has arisen from developing country experiences in the Asia-Pacific. The event will present practical and replicable disability-inclusive DRR approaches and solutions from leading regional practitioners from the Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN) www.didrrn.net

The event will be of particular interest to ‘mainstream’ DRR decision makers and practitioners that wish to become more disability-inclusive under HFA2.

The event will focus on core 3 themes:

- Adapting DRR to be disability-inclusive
- Designing, monitoring and assessing inclusion in DRR
- Accessibility, adaptation and accommodation in DRR

Speakers are leading experts from the Disability-inclusive DRR Network www.didrrn.net

DiDRRN is a network of DRR focused and disability focused organisations and Disabled People’s Organisation networks. DiDRRN was established in coordination with UNISDR to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in DRR post-2015.

Date: 17 March 2015
Time: 13:30 to 15:30
Location: Tokyo Electron Hall Miyagi 601
Large Meeting Room

Follow us on Twitter: @didrrn

For more information or to RSVP to this event please contact DiDRRN at:
alex.robinson@asbindonesia.org

DiDRRN Partners South Asian Disability Forum

CBM International
CDD
Handicap International
Malteser International
Pacific Disability Forum
South Asian Disability Forum