

Exhibitions for Disaster Preparedness

Science-based Community Preparedness by COMPRESS - LIPI

THE INITIATIVE

Community Preparedness (COMPRESS) is a disaster preparedness program that was launched by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, LIPI) in January 2008. The program focuses on science-based community preparedness, which translates scientific information about disaster preparedness into easy-to-understand messages. The messages are delivered through various activities, such as exhibitions, children's science support, "disaster edutainment" media (posters, comics, books, and other materials), motivator trainings, simulations, and focus group discussions.

Exhibition was chosen as the main format for sharing information about the measures of disaster risk reduction with the next generation in tsunami prone areas, because it is an effective outreaching and entertaining setting that fits LIPI's transliteration concept.

The exhibitions were designed to encourage visitors to feel comfortable to talk with experts and celebrities about disaster preparedness to improve their knowledge, adopt positive attitudes and attain skills. Besides stimulating dialogue, the exhibitions featured audiovisual and kinesthetic media, such as documentary photos and films, paintings, animation, music, poems, happening art, and traditional dance.

There were two sections in every exhibition: one concerning knowledge and skills and another exhibitions from the supporting groups. The knowledge and skill section featured knowledge about coasts and the ocean, natural processes and history of disasters, early warning, life skills, preparedness tests, and a library; while the second section featured information about contributors, the mass media, the local government, a media center, schools, and special classes. It also provided an open space for outdoor activities, such as medical rescue, games, music, competitions, talk shows, and science activities.

Every year, the National Exhibition of Disaster Preparedness has been held in a different city: Jakarta (2005), Bali (2006), Padang (2007), Yogyakarta (2008).

Local Exhibitions of Disaster Preparedness were held in Cilacap (2007), Banten, Bengkulu, Maumere, and Ternate (2008).

In addition to exposing the public to information about disaster preparedness, the LIPI exhibition was also a way to create a network and encourage organisations and communities, from the local government to underground bands, to become engaged in promoting disaster preparedness.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

Since 2005 to 2008, ten exhibitions have been held all over the country. Exhibition visitors have ranged from kindergartners to high school students and teachers. LIPI reported that about 200 students from respective areas visited the exhibition daily, and each exhibition has attracted more than five thousand visitors overall.



School Roadshow During National Disaster Exhibition in Bali



National Disaster Exhibition 2008 in Jogjakarta



Opening of Local Disaster Exhibition in Biak



National Disaster Exhibition in Bali

Some schools required the students to write a report about what they learned from the exhibition, and to participate in several games and contests.

Another aspect of the success of the exhibitions was the building of partnerships through the engagement of and support from various organizations during the exhibitions, including the local government, local forums and NGOs, and voluntary participation of celebrities. Each year, the number of organisations involved in the exhibitions has increased.

LESSONS LEARNT & POTENTIAL FOR REPLICATION

The exhibitions represented a positive collaboration between LIPI and their partners in preparing and organising crosscutting events, where the sciences and the interests of local, national and international stakeholders met. For LIPI, exhibition-related activities provided an opportunity to learn about coordinating various stakeholders each with their own ideas and interests to become engaged in disaster preparedness. Preparation meetings, for example, were opportunities to share more information and improve awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness among contributors, which resulted in their commitment to preparedness activities even after the conclusion of the exhibition.

During the exhibitions, people could learn and exercise earthquake and tsunami disaster preparedness, while commemorating major earthquake and tsunami disasters that hit Indonesia. The exhibitions provided a space for direct interaction between scientists, local decision makers and the community, to clarify issues about tsunamis. It was also a venue to promote local wisdom and culture, as it presented opportunities for local stakeholders to share local approaches in increasing awareness, for example traditional storytelling, puppet shows, dramas, and traditional dance. This is a good exercise to find the most effective way to translate science into easy-to-understand messages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Indonesian State Ministry of Research and Technology (RISTEK) has been LIPI's main partner in organising the exhibitions at the national level. At the local level, LIPI worked with the local district governments where the exhibition was held.

LIPI successfully coordinated more than 50 institutions, including government offices, civil society organizations, universities, the private sector, and international agencies, to participate in exhibitions at the national level. GTZ IS-GITEWS joined the national exhibitions in the Early Warning Room in the Knowledge & Skill Section, and supported the local exhibition in Cilacap, particularly in the debate contest, wall painting, poster making, and music performance. In the 4th national exhibition, LIPI with GTZ and UNESCO/JTIC launched four videos about early warning and preparedness that they had developed together.



The main theme of the exhibition was "Indonesia Rawan Bencana, Mari Kita Siaga" (Indonesia is prone to disaster, let's be prepared). The icons are a boy and a girl named Aga and Ina. They raise their hands to show that they are well prepared because they have appropriate information.



Students Visiting Disaster Exhibition in Maumere



Opening of 3rd National Disaster Exhibition in Padang

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