



IEHSA

Environmental Health in Disaster and Humanitarian Settings

13 and 14 February 2015

**Sari Mutiara Indonesia University
North Sumatra, Indonesia**

Developed by:

*Dr Peter Davey, Senior Lecturer, Griffith University; Vice President, IFEH
Ben Ryan, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, Asia-Pacific, IFEH*

Objectives

- Demonstrate how environmental health infrastructure and practices are central to disaster management and humanitarian activities
- Provide an overview of key environmental health infrastructure and how this can be affected by natural disasters
- Understand what should be considered to mitigate environmental health risks in disaster and humanitarian settings
- Explore best-practice for assessing, addressing and responding to environmental health impacts of a disaster and a humanitarian crises using a population focus

Background

There has been a steady increase in the quantity and frequency of natural disasters in the past few decades¹. During the last quarter century, more than 3.4 million lives have been lost due to disasters, with billions more affected, and tens of billions of dollars spent on repairing damage and reconstructing lives².

This increase has been felt across Indonesia. Recent examples the volcano eruption in Java, Mentawi earthquake and tsunami, Padang earthquake, Wasior floods, Merapi eruption, Yogyakarta earthquake and the Aceh and Nias tsunami.

A key step towards mitigating the risk of these disasters on public health is to ensure environmental health professionals, engineers, disaster management specialists and academics are equipped to prepare and systematically respond to disasters.

Central to this is good environmental health disaster management practices. This includes protecting and mitigating risks to systems required for general health and wellbeing, such as water supply, food safety, sewerage, waste management and stormwater³.

As Indonesia's population and density continues to increase, the risk disasters pose to environmental infrastructure and conditions will continue to rise. Furthermore, increased urbanisation and industrialisation place a greater proportion of the world community at risk with the majority of the population migrating to urban disaster-prone areas that are often without an adequate level of environmental health protective infrastructure⁴.

This course will introduce the critical role you may have in adapting to and mitigating environmental health risks during a response to a disaster. This includes the need to conduct assessments to identify and address key risks such as those relating to drinking water, shelters, overcrowding, food safety, wastewater, disease-causing vectors, solid waste and hazardous materials. Many of these risks are within the existing roles of many environmental and health professionals, however, a disaster response has unique challenges and a specific skill set is required from a range of professions and all levels of government.

The content of the course is guided by a partnership between Griffith University, International Federation of Environmental Health – Asia and Pacific (IFEH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

¹ De Smet, H., Lagadec, P. and Leysen, J. (2012), Disasters Out of the Box: A New Ballgame?. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-5973.2012.00666.

² Hogan D, Burstein J (2007). *Basic Perspectives on Disaster*. Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Philadelphia.

³ Commonwealth of Australia (2008). Report of the 6th National Conference - Sustaining Environmental Health in Indigenous Communities.

⁴ World Health Organization. Statistical Information System Page. Accessed 30 May 2011. Available at <http://www.who.int/whosis>



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PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Sari Mutiara Indonesia Hall at Sari Mutiara Indonesia University Medan. Jalan. Kapten Muslim No. 79.

Friday 13 February

- 09.00-09.30 Welcome and Introduction
Dr. Ivan Elisabeth Purba, M.Kes, Rector of Sari Mutiara Indonesia University
Dr Peter Davey, Griffith University and Hon Vice President, International Federation of Environmental Health
Prof. Dr. H.A.Sudibiyakto, MS, the representative of Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management.
- 09.30-10.30 Potential of Disasters and Problem in Disaster management in Indonesia
- 10.30-10.45 *Break*
- 10.45-11.30 Environmental health aspects of disasters and humanitarian crises
- 11.30-12.30 Communicable disease and risk management in a disaster setting
- 12.30-13.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30-14.15 Non-communicable diseases in disaster and humanitarian settings
- 14.15-15.00 Disaster management arrangements
- 15.00-15.15 *Break*
- 15.15-16.00 Evacuation centre and shelters

Saturday 14 February 2015

- 09.00-10.00 Food safety
- 10.00-10.15 *Break*
- 10.15-10.45 Wastewater and drinking water
- 10.45-11.15 Drinking water
- 11.15-11.45 Vectors and pests
- 11.45-12.45 *Lunch*
- 12.45-13.15 Solid waste and debris
- 13.15-13.45 Prevention and planning strategies
- 13.45-14.30 Exercise
- 14.30-14.45 *Break*
- 14.45-15.15 Closing

Target Audience

Environmental health professionals, engineers, disaster management specialists, academics and students who plan to broaden their understanding of the role environmental health has during the preparedness and response phases of disaster management. Participants can be from the local, provisional, state, federal, international and private sectors.

Registration and further information

Indonesia participants please contact
Attention Dewi Fonna, International Relationship Dept.
Sari Mutiara Indonesia University, Medan. Jalan. Kapten Muslim No. 79
Phone: [+6281360638866](tel:+6281360638866) Email: [WR4_USM_INDONESIA <wr4.usm@gmail.com>](mailto:WR4_USM_INDONESIA@wr4.usm@gmail.com)

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