

## Inauguration of the Digital Archives of Tsunami in Aceh (DATA) Project, Aceh Tsunami Museum, Indonesia (2015/12/25)

Theme: Disaster Archives

Location: Aceh Tsunami Museum, Indonesia

December 25, 2015 – the Aceh Tsunami Museum and its general manager, Mr. Tomy Hasan Mulia inaugurated the “Digital Archives of Tsunami in Aceh” project or DATA – a collaborative work between Aceh Government and Syiah Kuala University with the support of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University, Japan. A decade has passed since the 2004 Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami hit the province of Aceh killing several tens of thousands of people. The people of Aceh and from international organizations from all over the world having working tirelessly to rescue the survivors and (re)build their livelihood for the past 11 years. In order to preserve, research and transmit the lessons learned from the disaster and its aftermath, the government of Aceh Province in collaboration with Syiah Kuala University and Tohoku University decide to build the *Digital Archives of Tsunami in Aceh* project (DATA) in its Aceh Tsunami Museum. The DATA will initially serve as an umbrella to accessible online photos, videos, victim stories news coverage, research, NGOs and governmental documents. Moreover it will provide a research center for scholars and disaster professionals.

The project was inaugurated by the head of the Culture and Tourism Office of Aceh, Mr. Reza, and the vice-rector of Syiah Kuala University, Dr. Hizir. Mr Reza declared that the DATA project will be integrated into the UNESCO’s **‘Memory of the World’** educational program. In addition, the co-funders of the DATA project, Dr. Muzailin Affan from the GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory at Syiah Kula University and graduate of Tohoku University and Dr. Sébastien Penmellen Boret assistant professor at the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, declared that “DATA will share the lessons learned by the Acehnese people and those involved in the reconstruction of Aceh for the last 11 years. The Data project will contribute to the third priority of action – *Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience* – of the new UN-endorsed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-30)”. Reflecting on its educational capacity, Dr. Aiko Sakurai (associate professor at IRIDeS), an expert of Disaster Education from the International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University, commented that the “Memories and Data from the tsunami in Aceh is essential to teach children about tsunami and other disaster and save lives in the future”. To conclude the event, the prototype of the DATA was introduced by Dr. Nizam (computer engineering) from the GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory at Syiah Kula University, the audience including 20 school children and teachers of Banda Aceh.

This DATA will be introduced in Japan by the General Manager of the Museum, Mr. Tomy Mulia Hasan during “The Great East Japan Earthquake Archive International Symposium 2016” held at IRIDeS on January 11 2016.

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(continues on the next page)



Head of Culture and Tourism in Aceh, Mr. Reza, and the vice-rector of Syiah Kuala University, Mr Hizir.



Figure 1 Dr. Nizam, Database engineer of Syiah Kuala and Mr. Reza present the prototype of the interface of DATA.



Members of the audience of the Inauguration including students, teachers and community leaders in Aceh Province.



Dr. Sébastien Penmellen Boret explaining the logo of DATA, golden umbrella, (payung) databases for the 2004 tsunami.