

## **Special Session on Disability, Inclusion, and Disaster Education in Banda Aceh (2024/11/9)**

Theme: Learning from the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami.”

Venue: AIWET-DR 2024 Conference, Syiah Kuala University, Aceh, Indonesia

URL: <https://aiwest-dr.usk.ac.id/>

Assoc. Prof. Sébastien P. Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) and Assis. Prof. Hyejeong Park (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab) organized a special session on *“Disabilities, Inclusion, and Disaster Education in Banda Aceh: Learning from the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami”* on November 9, the second day of the AIWEST-DR 2024 Conference. This presentation is based on a multidisciplinary approach with local counterparts, including Alfi Rahman, Syiah Kuala University, Muzayin Nazaruddin, Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yulia Direzka, Clinical Psychologist, Rumah Sakit Umum Daerah dr. Zainoel Abidin (RSUDZA), Pradytia Putri Pertiwi, Gadjah Mada University, and DM Ria Hidayati, SLB TNCC, KiSah Delisa, Young Voices Community (NPO), Ahmad, Kafalah Indonesia (NGO), and Teuku Ahmad Barqah, National Search and Rescue Team (BARSANAS).

Assoc. Prof. Boret opened the session by reminding us that living (i.e., survival) and education are fundamental rights of people with disabilities as inscribed in the Indonesian Constitution. It is, therefore, imperative that society includes its specific needs and capacity within its framework for disaster emergency response and risk reduction. Contributing to this effort, this session drew lessons and recommendations regarding people with disabilities in post-tsunami Aceh to improve the development of ‘Inclusive Disaster Risk Management’ and build sustainable, equal, and resilient communities in Aceh and beyond.

The first part of this session examined and discussed a pilot workshop for disaster education and drills in a school for children with disabilities, SLB TNCC. All the children at SLB TNCC have some form of disability, whether it may be physical, intellectual, or both. Assoc. Prof. Boret and Assis. Prof. Park started by reviewing the 3-day workshop preparations and implementations, including teachers' training, in-class activities to raise natural hazard risk awareness, and earthquake self-protection and tsunami evacuation drills ([click here for more details](#)). Mrs. DM Ria Hidayati, the principal of SLB TNCC, highlighted the importance of the workshop to protect the lives of the children and the teachers. In addition, she shared her experience of receiving formal training in disaster risk reduction in Jakarta and her current status as ambassador of disaster risk reduction in specialised schools of Banda Aceh.

The presentations were followed by a discussion with two commentators: Teku Ahmad Barqah from the National Search and Rescue Team (BASARNAS) and Prof. Pradytia Putri Pertiwi, Gadjah Mada University. Mr. Barqah pointed out that out of the 60 students who participated in the drills, only three were not able to complete the tasks. He also insisted on the fact that disaster drills should be conducted actively and independently by the school (not as ceremonies led by disaster preparedness agencies, as he deplors to be often the case in Aceh). Among the many important reflections of Prof. Pradytia, we should remember her call to make sure that we get 100% of the children and teachers safe in future drills. To this effect, Prof. Pradytia advised that each student's capacity be evaluated individually and form clusters based on their capacity to improve the efficiency of the teaching.

The session concluded with a commentary from Yulia Direzika, Clinical Psychologist, Rumah Sakit Umum Daerah dr. Zainoel Abidin (RSUDZA), Banda Aceh. She highlighted the process of trauma and the importance of giving people with disabilities an understanding of their capacity and their rights for counseling after the event of a disaster.

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This second drew the lessons of the experiences of people with disabilities during the twenty years that followed the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. This part of the session was organised by Mr. Ahmad from Kafalah Indonesia. His organization has been supporting vulnerable people, including people with disabilities and orphans, since the 2004 tsunami ([kalahindonesia.org](http://kalahindonesia.org)). Mr. Ahmad invited three distinguished speakers with disabilities: Mrs. Erlina Marlinda, Women with Disabilities, Ms. Aflinda, Association for people with visual impairment, and Mrs. KiSah Delisa, a renowned figure of survivors of the 2004 tsunami ([more about the story](#)). These three speakers shared their experiences of the 2004 tsunami, their lives as a disabled person in Aceh, and their roles as activists. Among the numerous lessons, they shared the ambition to transmit the fact that people with disabilities need to be considered not as 'objects' of disaster preparedness and risk reduction. They encourage the whole community to include their voices and their experiences as 'subjects' of the broader society of Aceh during and outside disasters.



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