Learning from Disasters: Perspectives from the US and Indonesia

The University of Hawaii, at Manoa Department of Urban and Regional (DURP), through Partnerships with Indonesian Universities kicked off workshops this week in Bandung, Indonesia. Partnering with Professors at the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) the workshop this week aims to deliver trainings to a group of regional planners and practitioners from local governments, Disaster management agencies, NGOs, and academics. Building on the model developed from DURP’s Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Certificate program and partnering with the FEMA-funded National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC), USAID has supported the Indonesia and US partnership over the next three years to develop targeted trainings and share lessons learned in order to enhance capacity to prepare, manage, and better plan for disasters.

Monday June 16, 2014:
The Dean of ITB’s School of Architecture, Planning, and Development Policy opened the conference highlighting the importance of developing lessons learned to address the complexity and multidisciplinarity of disaster management
UHM Professor Karl Kim presents an overview of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approaches, and focuses on the key mechanisms for integrating science and technology. The presentation was complemented by ITB Professor Harkunti Rahayu’s overview of disaster management in Indonesia, and a presentation by ITB Professor Teti Argo on planning procedures for DRR and the institutions responsible in Indonesia.
Tuesday June 17, 2014:
UHM Professor Emeritus Kem Lowry presents on new developments on Climate Adaptation and Assessment, drawing on his recent work on developing trainings on Urban adaptation approaches throughout Asia. ITB Professor Wilmar Salim, UHM alumnus, complemented Professor Lowry’s presentation to give an in-depth explanation of Indonesian experiences and applied heuristics for practitioners to employ in their work going forward.
Wednesday June 18, 2014:
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Professor Gavin Smith, focused in on the critical elements and more longer term thinking around Disaster Recovery. Professor Rahayu, who attended DMHA courses in Hawaii last summer also articulated her more recent research regarding recovery processes in Indonesia, highlighting the case of recovery in Aceh after the massive destruction of the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004.
Thursday June 19, 2014:

UHM Professor Karl Kim discusses experiences from ways to build back better, engaging participants in an exercise of the different planning methods to approach redevelopment planning. In the afternoon, ITB Professor Djoko Suroso discussed the technical geological and hydrometeorological aspects of the nature of hazards in Indonesia, as well as how to approach hazard assessments.
Friday June 20, 2014
Next week DURP professors will also be partnering to deliver trainings with the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM) and the Islamic University of Indonesia (UII).

The group was also able to visit local sites, particularly sources of hazards at the Lembang fault and the Tangkuban Parahu volcanic crater: