

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**EAROPH REGIONAL SEMINAR
RISK MANAGEMENT IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
Yogyakarta, Indonesia 19 September 2005**

***Excellency, Ms Candy Broad, Minister of Housing, Victoria as EAROPH
President***

***Your Excellency Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono the 10th, Governor of
Special province of Yogyakarta
Distinguished Delegates***

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, let us express our utmost gratitude to God Almighty as only with Gods blessing that we can all be present here in this most important occasion. On behalf of the people and Government of Indonesia, your host, it is my great honor and privilege on this day to welcome all of you to Indonesia.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

The EAROPH Regional Seminar that will be held over these two days hold an important mission as embedded in its theme, "Risk Management in Human Settlements". The recent disasters including those which hit Aceh and New Orleans have left hundred and thousands of people severely wounded from the loss of relatives and families that is even worsened by the loss of property and employment. The devastations caused by these disasters have shown the urgent need to devise an appropriate and effective "Risk Management in Human Settlements".

On behalf of the people and the Government of Indonesia, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the organizing of this important seminar, especially with the fact that Indonesia is relatively prone to natural disaster, in particular earthquake and volcano eruption. This is due to the location of Indonesia that is passed by the actively moving Euro-Asia, Indo-Australia and Pacific Plate. In addition, Indonesia is also prone to other kinds of natural disasters as well as man-made disasters.

The challenge in mitigating the disasters in Indonesia is magnified with the fact that most of Indonesia's main settlements are located in coastal zone, which is nowadays threatened by the global warming phenomenon. As we all know, the increasing emission of greenhouse gases have continuously threatened the earth with increase in global temperature that will in turn increase sea level and causes

entailing problems such as increasing flood intensity, changing ocean current, degradation of mangrove land, increasing salt water intrusion and loss of coastal lands or small lands. Scientific findings have confirmed that the annual rates of sea level rise in Indonesia range from 1.3 to 9.27 mm, which may affect urban areas located in coastal zones and therefore requiring prompt attention.

Having roughly 81,000 kilometers of coastal line with more than 17,000 islands, a 1 meter sea level rise in Indonesia could vanish around 405,000 hectares of land assuming that the rise inundates about 50 meters of land along the coastal line¹. The high sensitivity of the many small islands' ecosystem in Indonesia to environmental change is indeed worrying us.

As a pro-active measure to tackle the global warming phenomenon, a spatial planning approach is being developed adapted from the recommendations published by the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), in particular:

- Protecting infrastructures laid along coastal zones, mainly in the Northern part of Java. Various hard structures such as breakwater and seawalls as well as soft structures such as mangrove re-plantation and beach nourishment are developed to "retain on-going natural process"
- Developing alternatives to "adapt" to the change, which include land reclamation, more intensive usage of elevated building and conversion of some land use from agriculture to aquaculture
- Relocating socio-economic functions from threatened coastal zones to safer in-land areas when the impact is considered extremely advers.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to present our experience in disaster risk management, in particular, the experience of the Special Province of Yogyakarta as the host of this respectable seminar.

In the north part of Yogyakarta lies the Mount Merapi, the most active volcano in Indonesia. Since the 15th century, Mount Merapi had erupted for about 68 times and history has shown that in the 10th century, Merapi's ashes buried the legendary Borobudur temple 15 kilometers southward. The evidence of the

The risk posed by potential disasters in Mount Merapi becomes higher as people are living up to an elevation of

In 1990, the government of Indonesia, with the assistance of JICA, began to build erosion control facilities (sabo-facilities) to mitigate or prevent damage caused by debris flows. Since 1994, despite of the debris flows that occurred every year during the rainy season, there is no life or property casualties in the surrounding

agricultural land, which confirms the effectiveness of the sabo-facilities in helping to protect the area from the disaster.

The development of sabo-facilities have significantly improved the quality of life of the people living in the sensitive surrounding areas, as shown from the Project Evaluation Report where the percentage of inhabitants that feel comfortable and safe in residing in the area is greatly increased from 3% to 65% after the project.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Experiences in dealing with disasters had brought us to the conclusion that what is most important to be included in our agenda is the preparation of settlement patterns that allows for the application of prevention measures to minimize adverse impacts. The structure and form of urban areas should be planned with adequate considerations on possible disaster risks. In fact, many urban areas are developed in a non orderly fashion and tend to put urban people in the danger of disasters

In meeting the need of urban area that have expressed their initiatives to engage in disaster mitigation measures, we are presently developing statutory documents that will require urban development to be focused beyond mere planning aspect and encompass the aspects of implementation and control. We expect that a proper spatial plan can thus be implemented consistently and consequently reduce disaster risks in urban area.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

The effectiveness of any approach in risk management depends largely on the intensity of community participation. This is pertinent in ensuring that the development process will have the support of the public in its planning, funding, land provision and development as well as operations and maintenance. In relation to this issue, the government of Indonesia had just stipulated the Presidential Regulation no.36/2005 on Land Acquisition for Development of Public Facilities, which is aimed at speeding up the development of public infrastructures and facilities. As the regulation requires that the planned infrastructures and facilities be suitable with spatial plan, the spatial planning process must be carefully carried out with extensive public participation. Otherwise, the infrastructure or facilities greatly needed in managing disaster risk may not be developed if not included in the spatial plan.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

With the virtuous mission carried by this seminar, I deeply hope that this seminar will serve as a platform for discussions, knowledge and experience sharing that will lead to creative and innovative ideas in solving the various problems related to risk management in urban areas that we are facing.

Indeed, I would like to remind all of us that the approach should be take into account the aspects of physical and subsequently economy, social, culture and environmental sustainability as this will determine the success of its implementation.

I believe that this seminar will give us more understanding and broader vision in the management of disaster risk that will be incorporated in all development undertakings. I am confident that by the end of this seminar, we can all position ourselves appropriately in improving our strategy and efforts in solving the problems stemming from disaster impact. The challenge of disaster risk management must be answered by all of us, EAROPH members, local governments and experts, through active implementation of innovative solutions.

Finally, I am deeply honored to once again extend the Government of Indonesia's sincere gratitude and appreciation to all participants that have set aside their time to participate in this respectable seminar for the coming two days, and I strongly hope that we can form a closer cooperation among EAROPH countries members. I wish you a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in the cultural and historical province of Yogyakarta.

Now, I hereby declare this Seminar open and in Session

Thank You.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS