



Cities on Volcanoes 9  
November 20-25, 2016  
Puerto Varas, Chile

*'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'*



## **Disaster Management Training (Wajib Latih Penanggulangan Bencana – WLPB) Case Study: Merapi Volcano**

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Merapi, Disaster Management Training, capacity building of community

Indonesia, famous as "the disaster market" since this country is the home of almost every natural disaster. In geological disaster mitigation, threats such as earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruption and landslides are unavoidable events. Meanwhile, most of the living communities in the country still persist in disaster-prone areas that threaten their precious lives, any time any day. Stipulation of Law of the Republic Indonesia Number 24 of 2007 concerning Disaster Management is like a breath of fresh air to disaster management officer. Wajib Latih Penanggulangan Bencana (disaster management training – hereafter referred to as WLPB) was first initiated by Geological Agency and was agreed in Merapi volcanoes. WLPB is an alternative breakthrough that pledge to improve the ability of the living communities in anticipating the threat of the impending danger. In short term, WLPB can be used as a strategy to increase the capacity of communities living in hazardous areas. In long term, WLPB is served as a social engineering tool to build a disaster-resilience community, which is characterized with a disaster-preparedness culture and/or always takes plausible risks into consideration in their daily activities. From 2008 to 2015, Geological Agency had successfully held 104 events in 99 villages in four regencies. The result of risk assessment and standard operating procedures used by BPBD or Regional Disaster Management Agency to build DESTANA (Desa Tangguh Bencana – disaster resilient village), SISTER VILLAGE (Desa Bersaudara), SIKAD (Sistem Informasi Kebencanaan Desa – the village disaster information system), and SID (Sistem Informasi Desa – the village information system) in the rural villages in the Hazard Area III Merapi. The improvement of the quality and quantity of these acts subsequently become a priority for the local government and authorities in order to achieve a community living in harmony with disaster.