

Indonesia: Towards national resilience

Ahead of next year's Adexco conference in Indonesia, **Raditya Jati** describes the leaps and bounds the country is making towards implementing its concept of 'risk to resilience' and the importance of factoring in community wisdom

Since *Law Number 24 of 2007* on disaster management, Indonesia has experienced a paradigm shift. The new model emphasises the importance of understanding disaster risk in development, integrated disaster management, development of community-based disaster mitigation and disaster management within the framework of regional autonomy. The law stipulates that the Government and local governments are responsible for disaster management and need to involve business institutions, community organisations and communities. This effort is conducted in a planned, integrated, comprehensive and co-ordinated manner with adequate budgeting and a scientific and technological approach, without forgetting local wisdom.

To prevent catastrophic events and their wide-ranging effects, the Government of Indonesia is currently trying to improve its disaster risk management (DRM), aiming to:

- Prevent casualties;
- Reduce the impact to livelihoods;
- Access to risk data and information for communities; and
- Reduce the impact of critical infrastructure and social economic loss.

DRM measures can be divided into prospective, corrective and compensatory (also known as residual risk management). This means that DRM efforts span every stage of disaster management: before, during and after. DRM involves several approaches, including technical, human and

administrative. These efforts are the responsibilities of all parties in every stage of disaster management, both physical and non-physical.

DRM can only be achieved through complete co-operation between government, industry, academia, communities and the media. The intersection between all these areas is captured in the forthcoming exhibition and conference that takes place on March 2 – 4, 2023 in Indonesia. The Asia Disaster Management and Civil Protection Expo and Conference (Adexco) aims to harness the expertise of these sectors and upscale DRM in the Asian region.

Sustainability aspects are usually assessed by how a particular function can continue without experiencing a decline. Functions denoted 'sustainable' need to develop so they can run on their own without major external support. Meanwhile, resilience usually begins with a disaster event, and then lessons are learnt on how loss and damage can be repaired or restored. Resilience is also about how we minimise future disasters, or at least reduce their impact in the future. The end result of this effort to build resilience may or may not be sustainable.

To reduce the impact of future disasters, resilience must be built into infrastructure, transportation systems, economy, people's livelihoods, government and other systems on an ongoing basis. This creates sustainable development, while sustainable practices contribute to resilience; both aim to create community wellbeing. Sustainable practices in the environmental field will create a large environmental carrying capacity, which in turn supports the resilience of communities whose lives depend on the environment in question.

Sustainable development is an effort to meet the needs of human development while not damaging the environment, maintaining natural resources and ecosystem services for future generations. Efforts to meet human needs must not threaten the integrity and stability of natural systems. For this reason, we also need to build sustainable resilience. Without it, activities to meet human needs will be threatened by disasters that can undermine development outcomes, illustrating the reciprocal relationship between resilience and sustainable development.

Development that does not destroy and exploit nature, but that considers the use of natural resources for the future, supported by a green economic system, underpins resilience. In many places in Indonesia, thick mangrove forests on the coast have been shown to provide protection from tsunamis. Heavily forested upstream areas rarely experience flooding. Activities to build the nation's resilience are therefore committed to supporting sustainable development.

The President of Indonesia offered the international community the concept of sustainable resilience to address systemic risks during his welcoming remarks at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, May 2022. This is in line with *Presidential Decree number 87 Year 2020 on the Indonesia Disaster Management Masterplan*, which shows the Government's commitment to creating a long-term sustainable resilience planning programme over 25 years.

Indonesia believes that sustainable resilience can be achieved by strengthening anticipatory, responsive and adaptive disaster preparedness culture and institutions in which every country should invest in science, technology and innovation, including ensuring access to finance and technology transfer. Sustainable resilience is also achievable by building disaster and climate change resilient infrastructure and sharing commitment to implement global agreements at national and local levels. The concept of sustainable resilience outcome

Development that does not destroy and exploit nature to the full, but which considers the use of natural resources for the future, supported by a green economic system, will underpin the resilience of Indonesia in dealing with disasters

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document of the Global Platform, *Co-Chairs' Summary: Bali Agenda for Resilience (BAR)* consists of 52 deliverable points.

Out of these deliverables, the essence of BAR lies in seven final consideration points. These are: To achieve the 2030 Agenda, disaster risk reduction must be integrated at the core of development and finance policies, legislation and plans; only through systemic changes can we account for the real cost of disasters, as well as the cost of inaction and weigh it against investment in disaster risk reduction; the Global Platform called upon governments to honour commitments made in Glasgow, UK, to drastically enhance financing for, and support to, adaptation and resilience; calls for a participatory and human rights-based approach to include all under a principle of 'nothing about us without us' in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation, along with investment in youth and young professionals; early warning systems must be multi-hazard and should be inclusive of communities most at risk, with adequate institutional, financial and human capacity to act upon early warnings; there is a need to encourage an adaptive, responsive DRM system with multi-stakeholder collaboration, accompanied by empathy, solidarity, co-operation and a spirit of volunteerism, particularly to address inequality; and comprehensive and systematic reporting, including a robust review of progress made against all Sendai Framework targets by countries, will help draw clear recommendations for the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework.

Local modalities

It is almost impossible to talk about sustainable resilience without discussing local modalities. The key to sustainability is ensuring that all stakeholders, particularly people at risk, have the same understanding of risk and of letting resilience emerge or grow naturally among them. There are at least three examples of good practice in Indonesia. First, we have the establishment of Pasemetonan Jagabaya (Pasebaya) of Mount Agung in Bali Province. This local-led initiative forum disseminates risk information from the people, by the people and to the people. It consists of 28 local authorities from villages in areas affected by volcanic eruptions. Pasebaya has helped people at risk to understand more about eruptions and how to evacuate themselves when necessary.

The second example is the implementation of the Safe School initiative just before the earthquake, tsunami and liquefaction hit Central Sulawesi Province in September 2018. Students managed to save themselves and led their peers to evacuate safely minutes before the tsunami hit their school building. Finally, the last example highlights social modalities in villages in East Nusa Tenggara provinces during the recovery from Covid-19. One village had previously established a tourism awareness group. The villagers were attempting to manage their beautiful beach and turn it into a popular tourism destination, but the pandemic rendered the beach empty and reduced their income, so the group became inactive. But villagers managed to revitalise the group and improve the beach, not only in terms of tourism, but also to be an inclusive and disaster-risk informed destination. Income from the beach contributes to a monthly allowance for elderly people in the village.

Learning from these social modalities and traditional wisdoms is critical. Indonesia really needs local wisdom and local leaders to achieve sustainable resilience. C-RJ

■ *The Asia Disaster Management and Civil Protection Expo and Conference (Adexco), takes place in Jakarta, Indonesia, on March 2 - 4, 2023. Visit adexco.id or see p96 for more details*

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