



## Environmental Health in Disaster and Humanitarian Settings

Surabaya, Indonesia – 28 and 29 April 2014

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The Environmental Health in Disaster and Humanitarian Settings short course was delivered by the International Federation of Environmental Health's Asia-Pacific Regional Group (IFEH) on 28 and 29 April 2014 in Surabaya, Indonesia. The course was a continuation IFEH's disaster risk reduction activities across the Asia-Pacific, particularly in Indonesia. .

The course was delivered through a partnership with Griffith University, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia Environmental Health and Safety Association (IEHSA) and Aspen Medical. Over 100 environmental health and disaster management academics, students and professionals participated from across Indonesia.

The course focused on strategies for addressing environmental health issues before, during and after a fire, flood, cyclone (hurricane/typhoon), mud volcano and earthquake. This included sessions relating to drinking water, shelters, overcrowding, food safety, wastewater, hazardous materials, humanitarian issues and disaster management systems. The role of environmental health in the responses to Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf Oil Spill and cyclones Larry and Yasi were also covered.

Throughout the course there were exercises focused on the preparation and response activities to a range of disasters and humanitarian issues. This allowed participants to understand disaster and humanitarian response frameworks, challenges faced and tools for systematically addressing environmental health risks.

The course evaluation found the content met all expectations. All participants indicated they would recommend the training to other professionals. On average the awareness level of environmental health risks associated with a disaster and humanitarian crises increased by 27%. Also, all participants indicated they would use the concepts covered in their disaster management and humanitarian activities.

The course could not have been successful the interaction of the participants. A special thank you goes to Titik Respati for translating the course material and Universitas Airlangga for hosting.

The course was delivered by Ben Ryan (IFEH) and Dr Peter Davey (IFEH; Griffith University).

As part of our disaster risk reduction activities, IFEH plans to continuing work with CDC, Griffith University and its partner organisations to deliver courses in Australia, Europe, Indonesia and New Zealand during 2014/15. For further information please visit [www.ifeh.org](http://www.ifeh.org).



Dr Peter Davey's session on disaster planning



A participant presenting strategies for addressing environmental health risk



Dr Peter Davey and Ben Ryan with participants from Manado, Indonesia



Participants completing an exercise

