



## **Introduction to Environmental Health and Disasters**

**Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia – 18 - 20 August 2014**

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International Federation of Environmental Health's Asia-Pacific Regional Group (IFEH) proudly delivered an Introduction to Environmental Health and Disasters course on August 18 – 20, 2014 in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia on the campus of Udayana University at the School of Public Health. This was a continuation IFEH's disaster risk reduction initiative across the Asia-Pacific.

The course was delivered through a partnership between IFEH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) USA, Griffith University and Udayana University. There were 22 environmental health students and professors who participated from Indonesia and Australia.



EHD Class Photo August 2014 – Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

The course had a particular focus on strategies for addressing environmental health issues before, during and after a tsunami/flood event. The 2004 Banda Aceh disaster provided a good example. This included sessions relating to drinking water, shelters, overcrowding, food safety, wastewater, disease-causing vectors, solid waste, hazardous materials and disaster management systems. Internationally, the role of environmental health in the responses to Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf Oil Spill and Cyclone's Larry and Yasi were also covered.

The course concluded with an exercise, which focused on the preparation and response activities related to a flooding scenario which was relevant to those in attendance. This allowed participants to identify what was to be undertaken when preparing for and responding to a local and wide spread flood damage. It also allowed participants to understand disaster 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 increased by 40%. Also, all participants indicated they would use the concepts covered in their disaster management activities.

The course could not have been successful the interaction of the participants. A special thank you goes to Hita Suryadhi and Herry Purnama (Udayana University), and Margaret Hind (EHA) for helping organise the course.

The course was delivered by Dr. Peter Davey (Griffith University), Tim Hatch (IFEH; ADPH), and Gavin Hammond (Townsville (Australia) City Council).

As part of continuing to implement its disaster risk reduction initiative, IFEH plans to work with CDC, NEHA, Griffith University and its partner organisations to deliver courses in Australia, Europe, Africa, Indonesia and New Zealand during 2015. For further information please visit [www.ifeh.org](http://www.ifeh.org).



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