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Cluster Office for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor Leste
Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

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Community-Based Disaster Management Kit

Foreword

I am delighted for UNESCO to be associated with supporting the publishing and use of the Community-Based Disaster Management Kit. Developed and tested by IDEP, a well-respected environment and community focused NGO from Bali, in association with the Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (MPBI), this Kit is, as the reader will see by the parallel Foreword from Mr. Syamsul Ma'arif, Chief Operation of BAKORNAS PB (National Coordination Body on Disaster Management), endorsed by Indonesia's official leadership in Disaster Management.

From UNESCO's point of view, we believe it to be an excellent handbook to support the committed action now underway in Indonesia to 'disaster-proof' the country – working on preparedness and resilience at the grassroots level of each community and in terms of each specific natural disaster risk. The world has realized in particular since the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster of 26th December 2004 that developing such preparedness at community level is an essential element of the overall action required to develop a sustainable world society in a sustainable physical environment.

UNESCO fully supports the community-centered focus of such action and education. The approach settles comfortably within the framework developed from the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002 as well as the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2015). Approved by unanimous United Nations General Assembly resolution in December 2005, the Lead Agency for promoting this Decade is UNESCO. What is important about the concept of the Decade framework is that the *idea* of sustainable development implies that we recognize the complex *interdependence* of human needs, values and actions with the natural environment. Therefore, maintenance of sustainability and preparedness to deal with threats posed by sudden disaster to human and environmental sustainability is as much related with values and culture as it is with technical knowledge and information. Values and culture along with immediacy of action are all forged within the everyday relations of people to each other within their local community and to their immediate physical environment.

I therefore believe that the Community-Based Disaster Management Kit, with its community focus, will be of enormous value in assisting the people of Indonesia to prepare for the long-term sustainability of their society in particular against the shocks that will inevitably arise from the variety of natural hazards that the country is subject to.

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