West Sumatra Earthquake: Reflection and Future Prospects

Today, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a Workshop on “West Sumatra Earthquake: Reflection and Future Prospects” at Aryaduta Hotel, Jakarta. Main speakers include DR. Bambang Istijono, ME, Head of the West Sumatra Provincial Development Planning Agency (BAPPEDA) (representing the Governor of West Sumatra Province), Mr. Bakri Beck, Deputy Chief for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), Mr. Toru MAEDA, Minister, Embassy of Japan, and Mr. Kiichi TOMIYA, Senior Representative of JICA, 120 participants, including those from West Sumatra Province, attended the workshop.

This workshop was held to review Japan's activities for disaster relief and also report the current and forth-coming activities on rehabilitation and reconstruction. During the workshop, awards were given to 11 institutions and 3 individuals who have supported Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) operations during the emergency phase after West Sumatra Earthquake last year.

Background
As today is exactly half year since the occurrence of the 7.6-Richter Scale earthquake that shook and damaged various areas in the West Sumatra Province, it seems to be the most appropriate time to review on how Japan has been taking part in the emergency phase as well as how it plans to continue its role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas.

For the past months, JICA – the Government of Japan’s agency on conducting Official Development Assistance (ODA), such as Technical Cooperation (TC), Loan Assistance (LA), and part of Grant Aid (GA) - has been working together with various sides, especially the Central Government and the Local Government, for the post-disaster activities.

Emergency Relief
Japan’s operation started in Padang just one day after the earthquake occurred on September 30, 2009, of which a preliminary team was dispatched to assess the situation on the field and to prepare the arrival of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) team. The JDR team, consisting of two (2) teams: the search and rescue (SAR) team (65 people) and the medical team (23 people), arrived in Padang just two (2) days after, on October 2, 2009 at 09:40 hours. The SAR team, with the help of three (3) sniffer dogs, worked for three (3) straight days, both in Padang City (especially Ambacang Hotel, central market, and Rocky Hotel) and Padang Pariaman Regency (landslide site in Nagaritandika Village).

Meanwhile, the medical team, who focused their activities in Pariaman City since October 3 until October 12, treated a total of 1,447 victims at the field clinic. Most of the patients had external wounds, while many others were found with post-trauma syndrome diseases as well as acute respiratory tract infections. The equipments of both the SAR team and the medical team were then handed over to the local authorities after the wrap-up of their activities.

Apart from personnel dispatch, the Government of Japan also delivered emergency relief goods in the forms
of blankets (1,500), sleeping pads (900), tents (100), dynamo-electric generators (80), and water purifiers (35) as means to at least ease the burden of the survivors. The goods were handed to the West Sumatra Provincial Government on October 5.

Awards to Supporters
These operations went quite successful as the operations started from the earliest stage of the emergency phase. It was possible with a great amount of selfless and swift contributions and supports tendered by many institutions and individuals.

Recognizing these contributions, JICA conveys its appreciation to those who have supported the JDR operation by providing awards.

Awardees are as follows;
(1) Institutions
1) Balai Besar Karantina Pertanian (Soekarno-Hatta Agricultural Quarantine Service)
2) CV. Fadilla Jaya Mandiri
3) Japan Airlines International Co., Ltd (JAL)
4) Japan Airlines International Co., Ltd (JAL Cargo)
5) Pelangi Holiday - PT Bravo HabelNusa Wisata
6) PT. Nippon Express Indonesia
7) PT. Paramount Bed Indonesia
8) PT. Pelita Air Service
9) Rumah Sakit Hewan Jakarta (Jakarta Small Animal Hospital)
10) SPBU No. 11.252.501 Mata Air Padang - PT Pertamina Retail
11) Universitas Andalas (University of Andalas)

(2) Individuals
1) Ir. Ignatius Virgantria (PT Equator Avia Perada)
2) Mr. M. Lukri Affan (PT Mediar Jaya Raya)
3) Dr. Ing. Mulyadi Bur (Universitas Andalas)

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Efforts
Since early October 2009, when it was still in the emergency relief phase, Japan started its preparation for rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance. Some of rehabilitation and reconstruction activities have already moved into action.

(1) Reconstruction of Quake-Resistant Schools
On March 18, 2010, Exchange of Note (E/N) between the Government of Indonesia and Government of Japan has been signed for the Grant Aid project of the “Urgent Project on Reconstruction of Schools Considering Quake-Resistance and Community Based Disaster Risk Management” for the total amount of 549 million Yen (approximately US$ 6.15 million). The purpose of the project is to for the school children in affected areas to be able to receive education in a safe and appropriate environment.

The project consists of the reconstruction of quake-resistance schools: two (2) junior high schools in Padang City and six (6) elementary schools plus one (1) junior high school in Padang Pariaman Regency. With the reconstruction, it is expected that the present 3,000 students and the future 50,000 students from the next 50 years will have an improved education environment.

Meanwhile, design and construction manuals for safer schools will be developed through Japanese...
technical assistance to provide input for administration officers and contractors and propose key-requirement for community-based safe school construction. In relations to that, model schools will be constructed as follows: two (2) elementary schools in Padang City and one (1) elementary school in Padang Pariaman Regency. Disaster risk management would be conducted in the model school areas, including data collection, awareness raising, mapping, training, drill, workshop, etc.

(2) Improvement of Building Administration and Enforcement

The Ministry of Public Works (Directorate General of Cipta Karya) and JICA are currently implementing the “Project on Building Administration and Enforcement Capacity Development for Seismic Resilience.” After the earthquake in Central Java and Yogyakata in 2006, the project was launched in 2007 for a 3-year period, with the pilot sites in West Sumatera, Bengkulu, and North Sulawesi. However, in order to address the needs in West Sumatra Province after the earthquake, JICA has strengthened its assistance to this area in close coordination with West Sumatera Province and BNPB.

A guideline on “Main Conditionalities for a Safer House” has been produced through the project in November 2009 and is now being disseminated especially in the devastated areas in West Sumatra as people are now starting to rebuild their houses. Trainings are also being held for both local government personnel as well as community members for the capacity building in relations with quake-resistance building.

(3) Rehabilitation of Water Resources Facilities

Through preliminary surveys in October and November 2009, several damages and needs in water resources management facilities were identified. Some of the facilities were constructed under the Japanese ODA Loan “Padang Area Flood Control Project (I) and (II)” from 1990 to 2002. In order to rehabilitate the damaged facilities of “Padang Area Flood Control Project” in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Works (Directorate General of Water Resources) and West Sumatera Province, JICA decided to provide Grant assistance. The detailed survey and its procurement process to hire contractor(s) has started from February 2010 and the rehabilitation work will be completed by the end of January 2011.

(4) Trauma Counseling of School Children

As a means to reduce the effect of trauma on children in the disaster areas, a group of short term JICA Junior Experts (JE) has been posted in Padang Pariaman Regency to work with elementary school students with the hope of putting smiles back on their faces. These young Japanese people basically conduct trauma counseling through sports and games that focus on group work/cooperation, such as “5-people 6-feet,” big jump rope, ball carrying race, and yell-yell competition.

The summit of the counseling activities was the implementation of festival in two (2) sub-districts of 2x11 Kayu Tanam (February 25, 2010) and Kampung Dalam (February 27, 2010). A total of 6 public schools and nearly 300 students participated in the events. Even though it may not be able to totally heal trauma, these children along with their teachers were in full spirit and smile. It is hoped that children and teachers who benefited from these activities will be able to become example to the others outside their school.

(5) Rebuilding through Community Empowerment

As a means to revive the community’s lives for the improvement of their livelihood and welfare with integrated approach, including social, local economic and cultural aspects of the community, JICA is working through collaboration with local NGOs under its Community Empowerment Program (CEP) scheme. A total of five (5) CEP projects are being implemented in Padang Pariaman Regency with particular emphasis on:

1) reviving people’s livelihood,
2) community-based trauma support
3) strengthening communities’ planning/implementation, including assistance to disaster-resilient community.
Name of NGOs and their projects are as follows:

1) PULIH "Community-based Psycho-Social Recovery and Capacity Building for Children"
2) Yayasan Kusuma Buana (YKB) “Hope for the Future: Rehabilitation and Improving the Health, Nutrition, and Psycho-Social Conditions of the School Children"
4) Yayasan Pengembangan Kerajinan Rakyat Indonesia (PEKERTI) “Handicraft Development in West Sumatra”
5) Komunitas Siaga Tsunami (KOGAMI) “Building Model of Community-based Disaster Preparedness”

For further information:

Mr. Kiichi TOMIYA (Senior Representative), Mr. Koji SAKANE (Representative) or Ms. Erina Saragih (Program Officer)
JICA Indonesia Office
T: (021) 5795 – 2112
F: (021) 5795 – 2116