

Welcome Remarks
by
Diar Nurbintoro,
Acting Director of NAM CSSTC
on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of
Online Training Course on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change
Adaptation for CARICOM and SICA Member Countries
08 August 2022
21.00 Jakarta time
Zoom Meeting

Honourable Dean of Faculty of Earth Science and Technology, Institut Teknologi Bandung,

Honourable Director for American and European Intraregional and Interregional Cooperation,

Honourable Director for International Development Cooperation the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia,

Honourable representatives of CARICOM Secretariat,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the "Online Training Course on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for CARICOM and SICA Member Countries," organised by the Institut Teknologi Bandung with the support of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-"NAM Centre," in collaboration with the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure, and Agency for Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysics. I am very excited about organising this activity because it gives me hope that guidelines and measures to reduce disaster risk in NAM member

countries will be disseminated, especially in light of the current global climate crisis.

We have just completed the most critical phase of a non-natural disaster, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, but we still have natural disaster management homework to complete.

Since governments and scientists in various countries declared a climate emergency in 2016, the world has faced a variety of negative effects from climate conditions, one of which is natural disasters, which cause losses to the economic and social fibres of communities in the Caribbean and Central America.

The World Meteorological Organization-"WMO"-submitted a public report titled "State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean" in 2021, demonstrating how extreme weather and climate change are causing natural disasters to occur more frequently than ever in the region. Extreme weather and climate change cause mega-drought, extreme rainfall, land and marine heatwaves, and glacier melts, with consequences felt from the Amazon to the Andes, from the Pacific to the Atlantic oceans, and all the way to Patagonia.

As a result, these natural disasters cause damage to ecosystems, food and water security, and people's health and well-being in the Caribbean Region and Central America.

With the disaster risk experienced by countries in the Caribbean and Central America, whose risk level is nearly the same as Indonesia's, I see a need for an exchange of knowledge regarding disaster risk reduction and climate policies and lessons between Indonesia and countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

An adaptation so that every developing country is better prepared to deal with the ever-changing dynamics of disaster risk.

Honourable Dean,

Directors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The NAM Centre thanks researchers and academics from the Institut Teknologi Bandung for their willingness to collaborate with friends from the Caribbean and Central American Regions to share their knowledge, experiences, and lessons-learned in disaster management and climate change adaptation.

The NAM Centre has witnessed various ITB achievements and contributions to disaster management at the domestic level in Indonesia. We recently saw how an ITB student created floating settlements that could be used in flood-prone areas.

One of the ITB academics recently introduced the concept of flexible emergency tents for natural disasters. ITB has also demonstrated its dedication in the field of community service by routinely educating the community by providing socialisation regarding earthquake and tsunami mitigation, where this socialisation provides knowledge for the general public about what steps they should take when natural disasters occur in residential areas and their economic activities, in order to reduce the number of fatalities.

I sincerely hope that the positive influence that ITB researchers and academics have had on their students and the Indonesian people can be passed on to all of our Caribbean and Central American friends.

This is the ideal time for developing countries around the world to promote innovation and become more daring in dealing with disaster risk. Scaling up disaster management efforts and climate change adaptation from the domestic to international levels, as we are doing now, is the only way to save and sustain the planet.

Honourable Dean,
Directors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the NAM Centre, I have a few messages of recommendation for those present today as we work towards a brighter and more sustainable future.

First and foremost, may the relationship between participating countries not end with the completion of this training on August 12, 2022.

We hope that through this training, international coordination and synergy in disaster risk reduction, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals-"SDGs," and climate change policies will be strengthened. Coordination and synergy will improve disaster risk management on a global scale.

Second, participants are expected to be able to disseminate the conceptual framework for integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation to their colleagues in their respective offices. Of course, as more stakeholders become aware of it, joint implementation efforts will intensify.

Third, I encourage participants to provide feedback so that the lessons learned and successfully implemented in Indonesia can be refined to suit the geographical conditions and situations in the Caribbean and Central American countries. I recognise that there is no one-size-fits-all solution due to the diversity and uniqueness of each country. However, I am confident that modifying existing lessons learned will result in universally applicable guidance.

More than these three points, my deepest hope is that all countries participating today, whether Indonesia or countries in the Caribbean and Central America Region, will be able to take a unified stance in international fora in response to disaster and climate crisis issues.

Honourable Dean,
Directors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The NAM Centre is dedicated to assisting NAM member countries, CARICOM, and SICA with disaster risk reduction policies and resilience building in disaster situations.

Only through close international cooperation will we be able to achieve the SDGs.

Thank you once more for your contribution to the success of this event's organisation.

I wish you the best of luck with your training.