



**MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

## **REMARKS**

### **THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

#### **ON THE INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS WATER- RELATED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) UNDER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Jakarta, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

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1. Chairman of HELP, Dr. Han Seung-soo;
2. Honorable co-organizer of this online conference;
3. Distinguished speakers, presenters and experts;
4. Ladies and gentlemen.

***Good afternoon,***

- It is great pleasure to join all of you here this afternoon in the International Online Conference to Address Water-Related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) under the COVID-19 Pandemic. I would like to express my enormous appreciation to the organizing committee for arranging this online conference, as the COVID-19 is still spreading globally.
- I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Chairman of HELP, Dr. Han Seung-soo, for all his efforts to lead the initiative in water-related disasters risk reduction and making this online conference possible.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

- Firstly, I would like to share my sympathy for the victims of the recent floods in Kyushu and the Gifu prefecture and my compliments for all the efforts of Japanese government and especially all the courageous rescue workers.

- While COVID-19 is occurring where social distancing is required, and this will involve more complex rescue efforts and evacuation options when disasters strike. Additional structural and non-structural measures are necessary to manage current situation, including in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector necessary to counter the COVID-19 Pandemic spread.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> HELP Principle "Strengthen Global Solidarity and International Cooperation to Cope with These Co-Occurring Challenges towards Building Our World Back Better" underlines the important of new plans and designs to ensure public and private systems are made resilient in the face of future hazards. In addition to that, the need to circulate the "HELP principles to address water-related disaster risk reduction under the COVID-19 pandemic" to the local levels and general public is expected.

## ***Ladies and gentlemen,***

- In this remarkable occasion, I would like to report and share considerable points to address water disaster risk reduction and the COVID-19 response and preparedness which have been implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Indonesia.
- To begin with, I would like to emphasize the water disaster risk in Indonesia. During this COVID-19 Pandemic, Indonesia has been hit by several water-related disasters:
  - 1) North Konawe Flood occurred in June 2020. High intensity rainfall has caused three rivers to overflow (Konaweaha, Lahumbuti, and Pohara). Damage on road infrastructure, rice fields and community settlements can be identified.
  - 2) Wajo Flood occurred in early July 2020. High intensity rainfall for 3 days causing Walanae River's embankment collapse. Damage on

road and bridge, public facilities and community settlements.

- 3) Gorontalo Flood took place in early July 2020 due to moderate to heavy rainfall for 2 consecutive days with significant damage on Alalae Dam, road infrastructure and public facilities.
  - 4) Lastly, in mid July 2020, severe flood hit North Luwu, South Sulawesi. Heavy rains caused flooding from three rivers (Masamba, Radda & Rongkong River), affected more than 4,000 residents. Damage on public facilities, houses, drainage, road and bridges.
- To encounter the disasters, our Ministry is focusing on the following measures:
    - 1) Mud clearing in affected areas;
    - 2) Road rehabilitation to ensure the logistics flow;
    - 3) Clean water and sanitation provision;

- 4) Construction of geotextile sandbags as temporary dykes;
- 5) Settlements relocation from riverbanks.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

- The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) revealed that Indonesia has been mostly hit by Hydro-Meteorological disasters, which include flood, mass-flooding, landslides, drought, and forest fires. Those are driven not only by climate change, but also by environmental degradation leading to increased critical watersheds. The impact is more severed sometimes by inadequate maintenance of water infrastructure.
- From December 2019 to July 2020, it is reported that 621 flood disasters in 229 regencies 48 regencies/cities were occurred. The Flood Early Warning System has recorded 7.226 potential flood events during January to July 2020 due to rainfall above 100 mm or cumulative three days

rainfall higher than 200 mm. Moreover, 21 basins have more than 100 times flood warnings.

- Emergency response is mandatory in retrieving people's activity and productivity, since community settlements and public infrastructure were mainly damaged by disasters.
- The Ministry together with the Agency of Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG) have currently been working to improve Flood Early Warning System. It is equipped with automation and telemetry devices in operation and maintenance of water resources infrastructure. With more accurate weather prediction, water can be managed as it will have a longer 'lead time' to anticipate various disturbing events such as floods, water shortages and droughts.
- We also need to improve water infrastructure monitoring capacity such as dam operation and irrigation system. Through better data collection

and analysis, we can generate more reliable result in water management.

- In the future, the development will require adequate big data analysis which consist of:
  - 1) Time series data geospatial dan statistic acquisition;
  - 2) Comprehensive infrastructure data and information;
  - 3) Standardized data and information exchange among agencies; and
  - 4) Disaster management data analysis.
- I consider the importance of water-related disaster amidst COVID-19 Pandemic precaution. Preparation of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for emergency evacuation with strict health protocol is significant. This includes the preparation of appropriate evacuation site equipped with tents, cubical-knock down compartment, mobile water processing installation, and mobile sanitation.

- These facilities should be easily mobilized and installed so as to make the refugee safe under COVID-19 protocol during the critical post disaster period.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

- Economic uncertainties, which occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, led to increased unemployment. In the midst of the outbreak of the COVID-19 the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing also remains committed in completing infrastructure development in order to maintain the sustainability of economic activities.
- The current vaccine development effort will certainly reduce the uncertainty and bring more expectation to better situation after COVID-19 pandemic. I hope it will largely benefit the construction industry and at the same this lowering vulnerability level.

- Construction industry will ensure mobilization of workers, materials and tools are implemented by complying the COVID-19 prevention protocol: washing hands, wearing masks and implementing physical and social distancing.
- In addition to our regular programs, our Ministry undertakes Cash for Work Program (CfW) to reduce unemployment and to maintain people's purchasing power. This program is intended to absorb 614.480 labors with total state budget of Rp 11,3 Trillion (USD 780 Million).
- On the other hand, we also convert partially the regular programs to CfW with an allocated budget of Rp 654,4 Billion (USD 45 Million) and 80.888 targeted beneficiaries.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

- During this difficult situation, I believe it is time to strengthen close partnerships and cooperation to reduce water-related disaster risk while at the same time to overcome the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I would be greatly supportive to strategic efforts taking into account preparedness and response to cope with these co-occurring disasters and mitigate their impacts.

Jakarta, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

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**M. BASUKI HADIMULJONO**