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OPENING ADDRESS BY
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AT

WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT
IN DISASTER MITIGATION

BANDUNG, INDONESIA, MARCH 28, 2007

Mr. Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of ITU

Mr. Nyoman Wiryanata, on behalf of President Director of PT. Telekomunikasi Indonesia

Distinguished speakers and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to the workshop on the Role of Telecommunications/ICT in Disaster Mitigation in Bandung, Indonesia. On behalf of the people and government of Republic of Indonesia – as your host – I beg your understanding and forbearance if some circumstances in our country do not meet your expectation. We have, I assure you, done our best to make your stay among as memorable and comfortable as possible for both our guest and your hosts. We hope that the warmth of our welcome and sincerity to serve you would compensate for whatever material shortcomings there might be.

This workshop is held as one of the series of workshops conducted by ITU-D in 2007. It commenced in serial with the ITU-D Meeting of the Rapporteurs' Group on Question 10-2/2 : *Telecommunication for rural and remote areas* and followed tomorrow with the ITU-D Meeting of the Rapporteurs' Group on Question 22/2 : *Utilization of ICT for disaster management and active and passive space-based systems as they apply to disaster prediction, detection and mitigation*.

Allow me to extend my highest gratitude to the ITU who has provided us with the honour and opportunity to host this important, crucial and interesting workshop. I would like to thanks PT.

Telekomunikasi Indonesia, TELKOM, and all parties supporting this event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is not very comfortable for us to say that Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries. Almost every year, disasters of many kinds happen in our country. Regardless of the sources, whether it is natural or is caused by human errors, it always resulted in an enormous loss of lives and properties. Floods, droughts, landslides, land/forest fires, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions are currently the most threatening disasters that seems to become more and more commonly to happen in Indonesia. These facts have opened our eyes for the crucial necessity of having disaster mitigation techniques that would perform well in a timely manner.

There are many ways of preventing severe loss of human life and properties in a disasterous environment. One of them is to have reliable disaster mitigation techniques. These techniques are not only important in the prevention stage but also in disaster recovery efforts. Telecommunications and ICT infrastructure, therefore, have crucial roles in providing means of propagating and disseminating disaster-related information. Often by providing such informations in time, could then give the society time to prepare themselves for avoiding the impacts of disaster once it occurs.

Several measures have been carried out in Indonesia as part of our efforts to become more prepared in case if another disaster strikes our country. Among these are by having rapid assessment system for tsunami disaster with village level GIS (Geographical Information Systems) data and medium to high resolution space-based passive sensor image, establishing an action plan on ICT for strategies in

emergency and disaster rapid response, preparing a trial project regarding emergency medical care information system (EMCIS) for remote sites, and maximizing space-based sensing information to support disaster management in Indonesia.

By conducting this workshop, I truly hope that we will be able to gather knowledge and to share experiences from our distinghuished coleagues who share similar problems in terms of utilizing Telecommunications and ICT infrastructure for disaster mitigation. I also hope that we will be able to learn the most appropriate measures that fit our conditions on disaster mitigation activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

For tomorrow ITU-D Meeting of the Rapporteurs's Group on Question 22/2 : *Utilization of ICT for disaster management and active and passive space-based systems as they apply to disaster prediction, detection and mitigation*, Indonesia has submitted <u>four (4) contribution papers on Disaster Management</u>. The first is titled "*DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMCIS) FOR REMOTE SITES*", experimented by TELKOM in cooperation with Japanese experts. It would be interesting to view the diagram of this pilot project network on the screen, where laptops are used as EMCIS (Emergency Medical Care Information System) terminals in the surrounding villages and connected with reliable VHF links to the main hospital in Garut, West Java, as well as the Central hospital in Bandung, disseminating vital data of a victim patient.

The second contribution is titled "*SPACE-BASED INFORMATION TO SUPPORT DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN INDONESIA*", regarding the use of earth observation and meteorological satellites data to support disaster management in order to avoid the increasing social, economic

and environmental impacts of disasters by our National Space and Aeronautical Agency.

The third contribution is titled "*ACTION PLAN: ICT FOR STRATEGIES IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RAPID RESPONSE*", contributed by a team of the Institue of Technology of Bandung, which describes a disaster mitigation communication system implementation between the Hasan Sadikin Hospital in Bandung and Zainul Abidin Hospital in Banda Aceh by establishing a VPN-IP 512 kbps emergency telemedicine.

The fourth is titled "*RAPID ASSESSMENT FOR TSUNAMI DISASTER WITH VILLAGE LEVEL GIS DATA AND MEDIUM TO HIGH RESOLUTION SPACE-BASED PASSIVE SENSOR IMAGE*", is a case study showing an application of medium to high resolution space based passive sensor combined with village level GIS data for rapid assessment of tsunami impact in West Coast Aceh for ILO (International Labour Organization).

Then we have a slide presentation for the Workshop on Disaster Management, titled "*EMERGENCY ALERT AND DISASTER MITIGATION - A LESSON LEARNED FROM INDONESIAN DISASTER EXPERIENCE*", regarding the general objectives of disaster management, the established organizational structure of our national disaster management, and providing a summary of the EMCIS (Emergency Medical Care Information System) pilot project by TELKOM, and the use of earth observation and meteorological satellite data to support disaster management by LAPAN as contained in more detail in the contribution papers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, we feel that the time has come for all of us to sit together and discuss the problems faced by all nations. I believe that there may be differences of opinions and therefore it is important for us to listen to each other and to work together in order to reach a conclusion that represent the needs and conditions of all nations' device relatively solid actions in order to be able to mitigate disasters.

Once again, on behalf of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to thank the ITU and other institutions, companies and organizations for facilitating the workshop. I wish you all would have a pleasant time here in Bandung and I wish for a successful Workshop.

With the Blessing from of God the Al-Mighty, I now declare the Workshop on the Role of Telecommunication/ICT in Disaster Mitigation opened.

I thank you.