REPORT OF SDGs 13: CLIMATE ACTION

USK's Commitment to Tackling Climate Change and Advancing SDG 13

UNIVERSITAS SYIAH KUALA
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
2023

13 CLIMATE ACTION

USK's Commitment to Tackling Climate Change and Advancing SDG 13

SDG 13 is vital for safeguarding the planet's future, as climate change affects every aspect of life. Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK) is dedicated to addressing this global challenge through long-term programs and policies integrated into all campus activities. The SDG 13 report highlights USK's efforts and contributions in combating climate change throughout 2023.

1. TDMRC-USK Advances Disaster Preparedness with Updated Risk Assessments for South Aceh

The Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC) at Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK) recently held a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) at the South Aceh Regent's office to present findings from its Disaster Risk Assessment (KRB) and Flood Risk Map for South Aceh. This discussion followed a comprehensive study launched in August 2022. Representing the Regent, Drs. H. T. Darisman emphasized the importance of the KRB document in informing spatial planning and reducing regional disaster risks.

H. Zainal A, Head of the South Aceh Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), highlighted that the new KRB document, developed with TDMRC-USK, replaces outdated assessments, enabling more effective disaster planning. TDMRC experts, Ismiatul Ramadhian Nur and Dr. Shylvanna A., reported high flood risks across nearly all villages in South Aceh's 18 sub-districts. Dr. Saumi Syahreza, project coordinator, added that in 2023, TDMRC will expand its mapping efforts to include risks from landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, forest fires, and extreme weather. The updated KRB documents fulfill legal mandates (Law No. 23 of 2014 and Permendagri No. 101 of 2018) and support South Aceh's proactive disaster risk reduction strategy.

2. TDMRC USK Conducts Ongoing Surveys to Identify Causes of Flash Floods in Southeast Aceh

After severe flooding in Southeast Aceh Regency (Agara) resulted in two fatalities, the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC) at Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK) conducted a comprehensive survey from December 3-6, 2023, to uncover the flood's root causes. Researchers from various TDMRC divisions—including Hydrometeorological Disaster Research, Disaster Risk Management, Disaster Education, and Human Security—participated in the investigation.

Initial results suggest that river overflow flooding stemmed from changes in the Lawe Bulan River's morphology, which has narrowed and silted over time, increasing susceptibility to flooding. The flash floods, however, were primarily caused by the steep and landslide-prone terrain in the river's upper regions. Dr. Saumi Syahreza, Coordinator of the Hydrometeorological Disaster Research Division, noted that intense rainfall combined with landslides in the mountainous upstream areas triggered the flash floods in Semadam and Bukit Tusam sub-districts on November 13.

The TDMRC team collected qualitative data on community experiences in flood response, disaster preparedness, and recovery efforts. These insights will be analyzed to create technical and policy recommendations for improving flood management and disaster resilience in Southeast Aceh Regency.

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3. TDMRC Hosts International Young Pro – DRR 2022 Training on Disaster Communication

The Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC) at USK organized an international training, Young Pro – DRR 2022, from January 17–20, 2023, to enhance science communication skills for 40 young disaster researchers from Japan and Indonesia. Supported by UNESCO and the Japan Fund-In-Trust, the program emphasized effective communication strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR), particularly focused on tsunami readiness. Program Chair Dr. Haekal A. Haridhi highlighted the goal of equipping participants to convey scientific insights on disaster risks more effectively.

The Young Pro – DRR training included five core modules on tsunami mitigation, disaster knowledge management, and innovative communication strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR). Renowned experts from Indonesia, Japan, and Argentina led these sessions for participants from diverse backgrounds—including museum curators, students, graduates, and disaster activists—selected from over 100 applicants.

Upon completion, TDMRC USK and UNESCO will hold a competitive selection from January 23-27 to identify three Young Professional Champions in DRR. Judged by international experts from Indonesia, Japan, Australia, and Argentina, the competition will award top participants with recognition and prizes from UNESCO, TDMRC USK, and the Japan Fund-In-Trust, promoting their continued dedication to DRR in Aceh and beyond.

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LOW CARBON ENERGY USED

2023 Agenda