The Roles of University and Research Agency in Managing Ecological Risks and Natural Disasters

Bambang P S Brodjonegoro



Globally, in the past 10 years, 83% of all disasters were caused by extreme weather and climate related events



An aerial view of flood in Germany in July 2021 resulted in at least **184 fatalities** with estimated **economic losses of USD 10 billion** (photo from Christoph Reichwein/DPA/AFP)



100 disasters occurred during **the first 6 months** of the COVID-19 pandemic



More than **50 million people** have been affected



99% of people affected wereimpacted by extreme weatherand climate related disasters

Source: FRC GO, EM-DAT, World Disasters Report 2020 Notes: Figures are from 1 March 2020 to 1 September 2020 Throughout 2020, BNPB data showed that **99% of disasters** in Indonesia were **hydrometeorological**

- Ministry of Finance estimated that economic losses due to disasters reached an average of IDR 22.8 trillion per year.
- While the death toll due to natural disasters in the last 10 years reached 1,183 people.



An aerial view of the aftermath of **tropical cyclone Seroja** in East Timor in April 2021 that **killed at least 165 people**. This disaster also caused **economic losses** totaling **of IDR 1.3 trillion**. (photo from Aditya/Antara)

Climate change also poses major threat to our food security

- Climate variability, extreme weather, and rising temperature can reduce crops yields by 5 – 10%.
- By 2050, IFPRI estimated that climate change causing an additional of 12 million people at risk of hunger in Southeast Asia.



Source: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). 2019. IMPACT Projections of Food Production, Consumption, and Hunger to 2050

On the other hand, one third of all food produced is either lost or wasted



- During 2000 2019, food loss and waste (FLW) in
 Indonesia amounted to 115 184 kg/capita/year.
- Of which, **44%** was **edible food waste**.
- The loss of nutrition from FLW in 2000 2019 could have fed 61 – 125 million people.
- Potential economic losses was IDR 213 551 trillion/year or 4 – 5% of Indonesia's GDP.
- FLW also contributed to global warming by generating 1,702.9 Mton CO₂-eq or equivalent to 7.29% of total GHG emissions Indonesia over the past 20 years.

Climate change not only inducing natural disasters but also affecting the outbreak of infectious diseases



Relations between climate change and infectious disease



Climate change made conditions **more favorable** to the spread of some infectious disease, including Lyme disease, waterborne disease, and **mosquito-borne disease** such as **malaria** and **dengue fever**.





3 educing air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas also helps keep our lungs healthy, which can protect us from respiratory infections like coronavirus.

Deforestation, either through human activities or wildfires, may accelerate the spread of Ebola disease by increasing human-bat interactions.

Climate crisis should be mitigated to prevent further economic losses

- Bappenas estimated that potential economic losses due to climate change reach up to IDR 115 Trillion in 2024.
- It can be reduced by 50% through intervention in 4 sectors: water, health, coastal marine, and agriculture.







COVID-19 VS CLIMATE

\$**600**tn

The **climate** crisis, under current pledges to cut carbon emissions, could cut \$600 trillion from the global economy by 2100.**

The economic cost of climate change is equivalent to

1.8x covid-like contractions each year for 80 years

Source: https://manifestclimate.com/blog/climate-change-comparable-covid/

Economic activity should fall within the doughnut: **respecting planetary boundaries** while meeting basic needs and **ensuring well-being** of the people



The Roles of University and Research Agency



- Technological innovation is crucial in addressing societal problem. For example, Singapore is rapidly embracing labgrown meat as a solution to tackle land scarcity and food security.
- Technological innovation can also resolve trade-offs, between production and the ecosystem. For example, through innovation in nanotechnology for solar panels, makes solar power cost-competitive with fossil fuel energy, making energy production more equitable and sustainable.



- Direct community engagement to educate local communities like on how to enact environmentally friendly measures or what is the impact of climate change mitigation can enable a more sustainable society.
- Bridging research-policy gap, to provide policymakers with robust and high-quality researches. For example, providing the true cost economics by internalizing externalities can build confidence in government concerning climate policy and push for more ambitious national goals.

Thank you.

The future will be green or not at all. - Jonathan Porritt

