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Public education on geoscience for sustainability of life in geohazard vulnerable area, Indonesia

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As a region of volcanic arc due to active plate tectonic subductio , Indonesia is highly prone to geohazards such as earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, landslide and floods. The population in this region is very high (more than 225 million) and they obviously vulnerable for all of those geohazards. Unfortunately, such communities seem to have quite poor knowledge and understanding on geological phenomena and their symptoms, which then this lead to substantially high socio-economical loss due to geohazards. Thus, development of public education on geoscience is urgently required in order to empower them to sustain their life in such vulnerable geohazard area.

Strategy and goal of the development on geoscience education for public outreach in Indonesia will be thoroughly addressed in this paper together with the formulation of the program. Several methods and mechanism of learning geoscience related to geohazards will also be discussed. However, it is identified that poor communication between geoscientists and their communities is the most significant root problem required to be solved. In fact, an effort to translate the scientific language into popular and easily understandable ones is the most critical challenge for geoscientists. Involvement of mass media is considerably beneficial to support this education program. Finally, it is realized that development of integrated disciplines among geosciences with other disciplines such as social sciences and environmental sciences is urgent to improve the capability of geosciences in serving the needs of public to sustain their environment.