

Interactive comment on “Research trends on hazards, disasters, risk reduction and climate change in Indonesia: a systematic literature review” by R. Djalante

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The discussion paper has given a good overview on the development of the research on disaster risk and climate change related issues in Indonesia. I would like to comment on the following issues

With regard to the overall topics and place where most research have been identified: It has been demonstrated in the paper that the publication on the DRR / DRM has the lowest citation rate, indicating a possible slower take-up of the publications and/or that the topics of “hazards, risks and disasters” has been more of the most interest of the research communities. It is necessary to support more research activities in this field, quantitatively and qualitatively, since DRR is, to my opinion, an important and

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necessary follow-up of the knowledge about “hazards, risks, and disasters”. There have been – and should be more – efforts to reduce disaster risk in Indonesia that need to be scrutinize scientifically and continuously improved also by means of science. Furthermore the finding of this paper outlines that the publication in this topic tends to decrease, which may be or may not be linked with the “trend” of research and political activities focusing on climate change. Indonesia has been dealing and will continue to deal with various hazards and I would like to maintain the importance of geophysical hazards and other hazards which are not directly linked with climate change.

I also observed the tendency that researches have been focusing on Java and Sumatra, and agree with the author that more researchs in other areas are needed, especially in the eastern part of Indonesia. Additionally, it may be helpful to locate areas where the research activities and measures are needed by existing hazard (and vulnerability) maps (e.g. from BNPB or existing research findings) to be able to focus on the current issues.

Other issue related to the citation number and impact factor, high citation number of papers that contain mega-disasters (e.g. Indian Ocean tsunami) might have more citations may be explained by more international attention on those events. It might support the citation/impact rate if the publication is linked to such events and current international issues, however this does not downplay the importance of research on small-scale but frequent as well as slow-onset hazard events.

With regard to the role of Indonesian researchers: I agree that most likely there are many other publications, which are not submitted as peer-reviewed articles in the well-known international journals, conferences, or books, which were not counted here and might provide different figures that the finding in the paper. Those may be research reports or papers in national publications e.g. LIPI publication series, ITB Journals etc., or relevant PhD theses. Indeed I would also see that the finding in the paper highlights the – still – lack of publication culture and limited access to publishing in international journals in Indonesia, despite of many research activities by Indonesian researchers,

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especially the case when there is no collaboration with international researchers / institutions. Capacity building of Indonesian researchers to meet international publication standards is still necessary. Additionally, language and writing skills need to be improved. Collaboration with international researchers / research institutions may foster improvement of publication skills, but also involvement in international events will be a good opportunity to get up-to-date on the global issues or publication topics which is “in”, as well as to make own research activities known among the international “peers” doing research in the disaster-related fields. I have met and believe in many young Indonesian scientists, highly motivated and bright ones, which have the potential to alter the publication quantity and quality in international arena. Collaboration and networking between Indonesian scholars who have studied abroad to do joint publications may also be helpful.

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