



# IRI COLLABORATING INSTITUTE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: BUILDING REGIONAL CAPACITY TO MANAGE CLIMATE RISKS

Decision makers are increasingly aware of the climate-related risks they face in managing agricultural production, food security, water resources and health. In Southeast Asia, a highly variable climate leads to frequent droughts, floods, and other hazards with serious livelihood impacts. Human-induced climate change may be increasing these risks. A special collaboration between the International Research Institute for Climate and Society and the new Center for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management at Bogor Agriculture University in Indonesia is helping build regional capacity to address these challenges.

## CCROM at Bogor Agriculture University

For more than five years, IRI has collaborated with government agencies, research institutes and NGOs in Indonesia and Southeast Asia to help address climate risks in sectors such as water, agriculture, food security and fire management. IRI has conducted much of its work in Indonesia in partnership with researchers at Bogor Agriculture University (Institut Pertanian Bogor, or IPB), a leading research and teaching university in Indonesia.



Outside CCROM's office on the Baranangsiang Campus, Bogor Agriculture University, Indonesia. Photo: Kiki Kartikasari.

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In recognition of the growing need to integrate an understanding of climate risks into development policy, IPB established the Center for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (CCROM) in 2008. Its mission is to "enhance society's capability to understand the impacts of climate variability and change and to manage climate risks and opportunities to improve human welfare and the environment." With core expertise in climate, agriculture, forestry, health, remote sensing and social and economic analysis, CCROM works with government agencies, universities and NGOs across Indonesia and Southeast Asia to formulate tools and approaches to manage climate risks in multiple sectors.

## An IRI Collaborating Institute

Building regional capacity in climate risk management is central to IRI's mission. As an IRI Collaborating Institute, CCROM works closely with IRI to put climate risk management into practice in Southeast Asia. By combining CCROM's extensive regional knowledge and ability to engage local stakeholders with IRI's global expertise in climate risk management, this partnership increases potential for sustained uptake of project outcomes.

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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*“By having a special collaboration like this, we will accelerate the transfer of knowledge and technology to developing countries.”*

~ Dr. Rizaldi Boer  
Director, CCROM

26 - 27 August 2009

International Convention Center



Dr. Rizaldi Boer addresses CCROM audience on opening day; Mr. Cecep Abdul Wahab/IPB Public Relations

Currently, IRI and CCROM are collaborating on agricultural planning and food security in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, and on peatland fire management in partnership with the provincial government of Central Kalimantan. In May 2009, IRI and CCROM organized a training on seasonal early warning of peatland fire risk, the first event hosted at CCROM's new office and training facilities on IPB's Baranangsiang Campus. Planning is underway for additional collaborative projects. In August 2009, CCROM was selected as a finalist in the World Bank's Development Marketplace competition for a proposal developed

## Selected CCROM Projects (2009)

Theme	Project Areas	Funders/Partners
Climate risks in agriculture and food security	Food security and climate change, increasing agricultural resilience in Indonesia	Indonesia Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Higher Education
Climate risks in health	Risk analysis for dengue and malaria in Indonesia	Ministry of Research and Technology; Ministry of Health
Climate vulnerability and adaptation assessments	UNFCCC NATCOMs (Indonesia and Cambodia); Global/regional climate impacts and adaptation in water and land management	UNDP; Indonesia Ministry of Public Works; Ministry of Environment; GTZ; Potsdam Institute; JICA
REDD/forest degradation	REDD approaches; measurement of GHG emissions from peat fires	National Agency for Planning and Development; DfID, World Wildlife Fund
Urban climate risks	Indonesian Cities Project	Mercy Corps, Rockefeller Foundation

in partnership with IRI to launch index insurance to manage agricultural risks in Indonesia. IRI also supports CCROM in developing its scientific, technical and organizational capacity to become a regional center serving Southeast Asia and the Pacific. For example, IRI is providing guidance in establishment of climate modeling expertise, and in developing capacity to store and analyze collections of climate, environmental and socio-economic data for the region. CCROM has already launched a range of project activities that bring climate knowledge to bear on critical development decisions (see table).

CCROM and IRI share a common approach to climate risk management. As CCROM's director Dr. Rizaldi Boer explains, "Dealing with climate risks is not only about the climate. It's about development." Updated information about IRI and CCROM's collaboration can be found at: <http://iri.columbia.edu/asia/partners>

## About the IRI

The IRI works on the development and implementation of strategies to manage climate related risks and opportunities. Building on a multidisciplinary core of expertise, IRI partners with research institutions and local stakeholders to best understand needs, risks and possibilities. The IRI supports sustainable development by bringing the best science to bear on managing climate risks in sectors such as agriculture, food security, water resources, and health. By providing practical advancements that enable better management of climate related risks and opportunities in the present, we are creating solutions that will increase adaptability to long term climate change. IRI is a member of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.