ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF URBAN FLOOD AS AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH FOR DISASTER MITIGATION: EXAMPLE FROM TULUNGAGUNG, INDONESIA

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The purpose of this paper is to highlight the importance of people's response and their perceptions of urban flood to establish effective policies and strategies for disaster management. Tulungagung Regency, Indonesia, was focus of the study. The data were obtained from field investigation and interview survey. It is interesting to note that most of respondents recognized themselves to be in high risk of flood, however they prefer staying at home rather than evacuation during flood event. They voluntarily establish emergency countermeasures. The study revealed that overall, attitudes towards urban flooding in this study area was positive, although knowledge of their flood prevention and flood risk was poor. Therefore, the information obtained on the perceptions both of flood disaster and flood risks could be more effective tools in the hands of policy makers in determining the appropriate strategy for disaster prevention, particularly in sustainable urban flood management.

Key Words**:** *public perception, awareness, disaster mitigation, sustainable urban flood management.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Normal monsoon patterns of Asia are responsible for floods and other hydro -meteorological disaster events. It is widely reported that global climate change may increase the trend of floods. Scientists predict that with the apparent changes to weather patterns (as shown by increases in average temperature and frequency of storm, drought and flood events) may induce even greater impacts upon cities, especially those located on riverbanks, in river catchments or along the sea coast. Recent flood disasters in the cities are good examples of the severity of these extreme climate events upon urban areas[1)].

Urban floods are a great disturbance of daily life. It causes inundation on the settlement and agricultural land. Roads can be blocked and people can't go to work or to schools. The economic damages are relatively high but the number of casualties is usually small[2)].

Even though the inundation depth usually does not reach life endangering heights but gauging public awareness and attitudes to urban flooding is important for flood management. Urban flooding should be mitigated by having a judicious mix of both structural and nonstructural strategies, which are selected with the full participation of all