

Article about Build Change published in ASRI Magazine – April 2013



Below is the translation of this article published by ASRI in April 2013 about Build Change Indonesia.

Earthquake-Resistant House Campaign and Demonstration

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Photographer: Aditya P. Pratama

Disaster is unavoidable. Some are planned by God and some are caused by the neglectful human being. Indonesia lies on the so called “ring of fire” and earthquake is one catastrophe that occurs often.

That being said, what have we done to prevent the damage? Of course, we cannot stop the earthquake from happening, but the casualties can possibly be decreased. One way to do that is by building an earthquake-resistant house. “Earthquakes don’t kill people, but poorly built buildings do” is the motto of Build Change, an international nonprofit organization based in the United States. Build Change focuses on an earthquake-resistant housing and has been working in Indonesia for eight years since right after the 2004 tsunami that happened in Aceh. Padang – West Sumatera was chosen as the location of Indonesia main office because of its high potential to get hit by the earthquake.



After focusing the activity in Padang, on February 2013, Build Change held its new office grand opening at Horison Hotel in Bandung – West Java. This is one of Build Change’s ways to promote to local activists, students and professionals. This grand opening was done informatively through exhibitions and workshops. There were photos from activities in Aceh, West Sumatera and Bengkulu as well as some mock-up constructions of earthquake-resistant houses. Build Change also explained and demonstrated how to build an earthquake-resistant house and all its essentials from cornerstone, brick laying and bar bending.

Representing Build Change were Tom Corcoran, program manager of Build Change Indonesia, Gordon Goodell, director of engineering from Haiti and Allison Heyne, fund development officer from Build Change’s headquarters in Denver, Colorado. Abur Mustikawanto, the vice of ministry of education in West Java, also spoke at the event. On this occasion, Gordon Goodell explained about the work Build Change is doing in Haiti. Gordon also mentioned the post-earthquake activities such as checking the condition of the building, retrofitting buildings and designing earthquake-proof housing.

On this event, Allison told the audience that Build Change’s mission is to greatly reduce deaths, injuries and economic losses caused by housing collapses due to earthquakes. Furthermore, Build Change commits to increase people’s awareness towards the earthquake-resistant houses and educate others about the earthquake-resistant design and construction to the vocational students by doing seminar, workshops and field trips to vulnerable areas.

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