About Mt. Merapi

Located just north of the ancient tourist city of Yogyakarta, Mt Merapi is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. In the 20th century the volcano erupted at least 28 times, with the latest in 1931. On 26 October 2010 the volcano began an increasingly strong series of eruptions, the largest since 1872 at the scale of VEI 4, spewing an estimated 140 million cubic meters of sediment. More than 250 people died during this latest eruption, and at the peak of the volcanic activities, around 320,000 people had to be evacuated in a 20 kilometer radius from the crater. More than 2,600 homes were destroyed mostly by hot pyroclastic materials, some were burned down by hot ash clouds and others swept away by cold lava flows. Today, volcanic activity has returned to normal, however hazards from cold lava flows remains high.

About the Field Trip

The field trip will first visit the primary impact areas of Mt. Merapi, touring the settlement devastated by the volcanic eruption. The trip then continues to one of the temporary shelter areas where the impacted communities currently stay. The shelters were built through a partnership between the Government and private sector donors. The trip will then visit the adjacent housing reconstruction project of the Government with the support of about seven donors from the Java reconstruction Fund, and six donors from the PNPM Support Facility. Participants of the field trip will also have a chance to interact with the community members and the local facilitators who worked hand-in-hand to reconstruct the houses and the settlement infrastructure using a community based approach. Throughout the field trip, participants will have a chance to see the social, cultural and economic intricacies of the recovery process. The post-disaster reconstruction in Merapi is an excellent example of GFDRR’s support leveraging existing activities and bringing multiple stakeholders together. GFDRR initially provided capacity building support to strengthen the disaster risk reduction element of the housing and settlement reconstruction program called REKOMPAK which was financed by other multi-donor funds managed by the World Bank operation in Indonesia, and implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and local governments. GFDRR also supported the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB) and the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) in conducting a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and in the preparation of the rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for Merapi. With intensive facilitation and support for cross sectoral dialogues, today Merapi has become a model of a well coordinated reconstruction, combining government and donor resources into a single program, with the affected community and local governments as the main executor of the reconstruction activities.

Participants of the Field Trip will depart from Jakarta in the evening on 15 November 2011 to stay overnight at the City of Yogyakarta. A tour to local cultural sites will be organized including a stop at the ancient Hindu Temple of Prambanan.