

List of Laureate(s) and Recognitions rewarded in the context of the 2005 Sasakawa selection process

Laureate 2005

Mr. Chimeddorj Batchuluun, Mongolia

Nominated by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Government of Mongolia

Certificates of Distinction

Mr. Jaime Parejo Garcia, Spain

Nominated by Mr. Jose Ricardo Meda, Fire Chief of El Salvador, Mr. Francisco Barrios, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN in New York, and Mr. David Rodriguez Carrasco, Instructor del Metodo Arcon

Mr. Claude de Ville de Goyet, Belgium

Nominated by Pan American Health Organization

Certificates of Merit

Simeulue Community Group, Indonesia

Nominated by the Government of Indonesia

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Mr. Chimeddorj Batchuluun

from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in the Government of Mongolia

1. Could you give me some statistics about the impact of the Dzud? How does it affect the Mongolian people every year?

Mongolia is a large but sparsely populated country which often experiences extreme climate conditions. The economy is dominated by agriculture, especially livestock husbandry. Dzud is the Mongolian name for severe winter weather storms in which extreme cold, heavy snow and strong winds prevent cattle and other animals from feeding over long periods of time. The consequences of dzud can be very severe, especially when it involves the loss of livestock that is fundamental to

the economy. If a dzud occurs in combination with another type of disaster, the damage can be catastrophic. For centuries, dzuds have caused serious losses to livelihoods with important resulting social and economic impacts throughout the country. According to historical records, there were 15 occurrences of dzuds in the 18th century, 31 in the 19th century and 43 in the 20th century.

Climate conditions in the period between 1990-1999 were very favourable for Mongolia. Livestock grew from 25 million to 33 million animals. This was a period of considerable success for the herders who comprise almost 50 per cent of the country's population and for the economy of the country as a whole. Dzuds then occurred in Mongolia in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 with their effects compounded by accompanying droughts in the summer months. The period was also marked by some human factors in that there was only a limited preparedness for such potential and accumulated disasters. Thirty-four people lost their lives due to dzuds and snowstorms and more than 8.4 million livestock perished from the direct impact of dzud-related disasters. These losses to the country were estimated at more than US\$ 330 million. Many thousand households lost all their livestock, seriously increasing their levels of poverty.

2. What did you do to reduce the impact of this natural hazard on herders' communities?

I grew up in a family of herders and I spent my childhood in livestock pastures. Later, working for an emergency management organization, I participated in the following activities to reduce the impact of dzuds on livestock:

- I studied the impact of booklets distributed by the Central and local government during the Dzud disaster of 1999-2000 and concluded that they were very effective for young local authority leaders and herders.
- During the dzud period, special attention was given to the broadcasting and dissemination of best practices and measures to be taken to prepare for and help to reduce the effects of the disaster.
- As the manager of the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia, State Standing Emergency Commission and Disaster Mitigation Division, my primary responsibilities were to collect and process information in real-life situations in local areas, such as assessing the damages to submit it to the Central government for rapid decisions and implementation. I think I have contributed to reducing the impact of dzuds with my hard work.
- One of my main duties has been to organize training sessions, meetings and discussions jointly with the Government and agencies, local authorities and NGO's. These were able to introduce traditional knowledge and herding methods to young herders to help prevent dzuds. I also provided psychological assistance to herders in difficult situations.

3. How do you work with the meteorological services?

The meteorological and hydrological services of our country provide regular weather forecasts and warnings on hazardous phenomena on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. In order to improve disaster warning and disaster prevention, we work closely with the Institute of Meteorology for delivering timely warnings to herders so they can use it more effectively. We also organize monthly and weekly radio meetings with them about weather forecasts and to transmit urgent information. We also conduct joint research on hazardous phenomena and previous disasters.

4. How did you combine the cultural and traditional knowledge with modern capacities?

Mongols have a rich experience and knowledge on how to overcome natural disasters and have indeed a specific way of living and dwelling close to nature. The teaching of traditional knowledge about weather forecasting and its effects on livestock has become an important part of our approach to disaster management. We organize training sessions, meetings and discussions for

the younger members of the community. We publish articles in newspapers and booklets on traditional herding as well as giving lectures too, for the general population.

5. How did you work with the international community to make dzuds known and better understood ?

The international community and the humanitarian organisations have given us invaluable assistance and support in disaster response and recovery when dzuds occurred in our country. I have

had many meetings with ambassadors, diplomats and representatives of international organizations where I was able to provide reports to them about the situation of local herders and their extremely severe living conditions. I am proud that I have had a chance to meet and work with many specialists and representatives from international humanitarian organizations.

During the period of dzud, the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations representative Office to Mongolia issued an appeal for international assistance based on surveys and conclusions prepared by our working team. More than 15 countries and 20 international humanitarian organizations provided cash and extended their assistance. This enabled us to implement many projects and programmes to help in decreasing poverty. I am very proud of my contribution to disaster management.

Jaime Parejo The “Arcón” Methodology

[Version en español](#)

1) How did Jaime Parejo get involved in the field of disaster reduction?

Since his childhood, Jaime Parejo’s favorite pastime has been the study and observation of animal behavior, especially that of certain birds and insects. In 1982, this interest led him to focus his activities on canine breeds. Later, especially because of his previous experience as a volunteer at the Red Cross and the Fire Department in Cadiz (Spain), he discovered his second vocation: work on search-and-rescue activities. For many years, these two factors were the motive forces of his intense dedication to creating a new system that optimized the performance of dogs during search operations for buried survivors.

In 1994, he achieved his goal and named his own method in honor of his pioneer trainee and canine companion, “Arcón”. Through his persistent efforts, which involved observation, study, analysis, field experimentation and research, he was able to develop a set of novel techniques. These interrelated techniques optimized the levels of independence, motivation and concentration of canines and, therefore, their efficiency during search operations for people buried alive. This method was effective both outside and in confined places, in environments with zero visibility or spaces so constraining that it was difficult to move.

2) What are the results of this method?

Since 1999, after numerous operations in countries affected by earthquakes such as Colombia, Turkey, Taiwan and India, canine rescue teams from different fire departments in Andalusia, Spain, were the first ones to prove the substantial effectiveness of this system. The following are examples of these operations:

- Sakarya, Turkey: August 18-21, 1999. Rescue

The following are a number of events related to the Arcón Methodology, which illustrate the avenues that have been followed, as commented during the interview:

1994: Jaime Parejo believes that his system has been perfected as a novel and efficient method for

Canine Unit of CPCIS, Huelva (Spain)

According to eye-witness sources from rubble clearance teams, among the survivors was a man who was found and rescued from being trapped under four stories of concrete rubble by dogs trained with the Arcón Method. These dogs located him during a search conducted on top of the rubble. Turkish army soldiers who were present later communicated what had happened during the operation.

- Pu-li, Taiwan: September 3, 1999. Canine Rescue Units of CPCIS, Huelva and Ayto de Huelva
One man was found alive in the Pu-li market. Canine teams of the aforementioned units succeeded to locate him in a collapsed building where the possibility of finding survivors was considered impossible. These canine teams had searched in the same area on previous occasions. Taiwanese teams were then called in to clear the rubble. The Major of Pu-li himself officially communicated the news to the Head of Logistics of these units and to the EFE News Agency. It was reported that canine units trained with the Arcón Method had signaled the location of a marketplace merchant, which resulted in this man's rescue. The international media also disseminated the news worldwide.
- Düzce, Turkey: November 14-18, 1999. Canine Rescue Units of CPCIS, Huelva and AEPRI
Searches were carried out both outside and in confined spaces. During search operations in these confined spaces, canine teams of CPCIS, Huelva were able to find the location of survivors. Rubble clearance teams of the Turkish Civil Defense were then able to proceed to free them. The following day, the Turkish press communicated that a woman had been found where these canine teams had signaled her presence. Fortunately, she was alive and was brought to the hospital.
- Bhujarad, India, 2001. Canine Rescue Units of Fire Departments from town councils of Malaga, Cordoba and Huelva
Seven days after an earthquake, the dogs of the abovementioned units located a young male buried survivor. This rescue happened after the possibility of finding other survivors had been given up, and canine teams from other places had already withdrawn from the area. His rescue was carried out "live" before television cameras that were covering the area affected by the earthquake. The event was

training and conducting searches after disasters with canine rescue teams. He named this method after his pioneer trainee and canine companion. This is a method created as a result of 12 years of intensive work under rigorous research and scientific preparation that started in 1982.

May 1998: After obtaining the compulsory legal qualification, the Arcón Method is registered and legally protected at the General Registry Office for Intellectual Property, in Spain.

November 1998: In Madrid, Jaime Parejo officially receives the First Award to Research granted by the Royal Canine Society of Spain. During the awards ceremony, a number of political figures and filmmakers from Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Germany, Russia, England, the United States, Portugal and Spain, including Her Royal Highness Infanta Alicia de Borbón were present. After assessing its novel nature and valuable scientific contribution, a prestigious panel of judges agreed unanimously to grant this award to Jaime Parejo for his work entitled "Arcón, a new method for training dogs for catastrophe rescue".

December 1998: Jaime Parejo publishes a book in Spain which, among other aspects, presents a descriptive synthesis of this innovative method entitled "Arcón", intended for canine rescue after the occurrence of a disaster.

1999: Real-life cases confirm the Arcón System as being highly effective in earthquakes such as those that occurred in Turkey in August and November of that year. Rescue efforts were officially recognized by various authorities and experts, including Mr. José María Castroviejo, who was the

covered by news programs in Spain and other countries.

3) How many lives do you think have been saved with your method?

With respect to the number of lives saved, just as in the cases already mentioned, we have learned after the fact of stories that recount amazing situations. These have involved the rescue of people after days of being trapped or those who were found in areas where all hope of finding someone alive had been given up. But certainly, the number of people saved increases as we locate them and immediately notify the rubble clearance teams so that they can begin their excavation work. We then continue with the arduous task of finding people buried alive where time can be against them as they face the imminent and critical threat of death. It is clear that if areas coping with high seismic or man-made risk factors that may lead to catastrophic or calamitous situations had "Arconian" canine teams, they could immediately begin search operations. The number of lives rescued would be significantly higher since they could be found sooner and before they succumbed to hemorrhaging, dehydration or other traumas. In addition, they would not have to wait until foreign teams arrived or for units to come from areas far from those hotspots where potential interventions may be needed.

4) From what you have observed, how can the impact of disasters be reduced in building construction?

From what we have been able to verify and confirm in terms of those buildings affected by a large number of earthquakes, regardless of the anti-seismic structural calculations (which must be carried out especially in high-risk places), what is important is the adequate and orderly distribution of support columns and beams in each story of a building. As a result, buildings would be as homogenous as possible, which will enable them to better resist the oscillations caused by a seismic event.

5) What can be done to improve the current situation?

Currently, the main problem regarding the rescue of survivors buried by slides caused by disasters is that, with the exception of the Arcón Method, training and intervention systems for canine rescue teams are insufficiently effective. The efficiency of this method has been shown to numerous United Nations officials and it can be demonstrated again whenever and wherever appropriate, through relevant practice and drill activities. In order to substantially improve this lack of effectiveness, we propose that the Arcón Method become the official United Nations training

General Consul of Spain in Turkey at the time, and is now the Ambassador of Spain in Tanzania.

September 2003: The Arcón Method and its corresponding training program are officially recognized by the IberoMAB network, UNESCO.

2004: The Arcón Method is now recognized at the international level as a result of its proven level of scientific soundness and remarkable effectiveness in finding and rescuing survivors buried in slides caused by disasters. This is the only system approved by governments from different countries as the official training method for canine disaster rescue teams:

- Ecuador, by Ministerial Agreement N° 009, dated January 27, 2004;
- El Salvador, by Ministerial Agreement N° 103, dated June 2, 2004;
- Honduras, by Agreement N° 683-2004 of the Secretary of State, the Interior and Justice of the Republic of Honduras, dated July 23, 2004; and,
- Paraguay, by Presidential Resolution N°05/2005, dated March 14, 2005.

January 2005: In the autonomous city of Melilla, Spain, the Arcón Method and its corresponding training program are declared of Public Humanitarian Usefulness by UNESCO.

such as El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador and Paraguay.

6) What are the obstacles to achieve this?

In terms of obstacles, to date, I do not think that we have identified any. This would only require a noticeable progress in terms of reducing the number of deaths caused by disasters. The United Nations could verify and confirm through its appropriate officials the incomparable effectiveness of the Arcón Method and the International Specialization Program that draws on it, making them a priority among emergency services in countries with the highest levels of disaster risks, which may include the collapse of buildings due to earthquakes and hurricanes, etc.

7) How could this issue be included in the current political agendas?

To incorporate the important progress to which we referred previously into political agendas, it would be necessary, even essential, to have the support of the United Nations to make the Arcón Method and the corresponding International Specialization Program official. I would propose carrying out a drill activity with an "Arconian" team during the next awards and distinctions ceremony to be held in Bangkok. It would also be important to be able to carry out an audiovisual presentation of this methodology, in order to show our interventions, drills and comments from different authorities that endorse this methodology, as well as examples of Arcón's behavioral techniques and the different phases of its training process.

Claude de Ville de Goyet
A Pioneer Of " Safe Hospitals"

You have been working for years to make health facilities more resilient to disasters. What are your main achievements? How and why did you get involved?

I was asked in the early seventies by Prof Lechat, a Public Health Epidemiologist from the University of Louvain in Belgium to launch and manage the International Research Center on Disaster Epidemiology in Belgium. His original approach was to consider disaster as a health issue (a disease) that needed to be studied, prevented and acknowledged at the community and country level, rather than as a problem of first aid and relief operations that was addressed by aid workers who would leave a few days later.

After 10 years of preparedness work in Latin America, the 1985 earthquake in Mexico taught us that there is no point in preparing medical staff for recovery operations if hospitals are not properly protected and equipped. Thus, we shifted from preparedness of response to risk mitigation.

Do you have any statistics showing that hospitals are now safer in the world?

It is impossible to know the number of hospitals that are currently at risk but some hospitals were saved in recent disasters thanks to measures taken to strengthen them. Retrofitting existing hospitals is expensive and often not affordable by the developing countries. However, including resistance measures against earthquakes, winds or floods in the design of new installations is cost effective and cheaper. Countries and donors are now gradually adopting such measures; they will pay off over the decades ahead.

What remains to be done to improve the current situation?

We still need to investigate every major disaster and assess the damage to hospitals. We need to publish and learn from the lessons learned in recent disasters. Politicians and finance ministers are often reluctant to allocate funds for long-term prevention and risk reduction. Documenting all

serious disasters ensures that politicians in affected countries and their regional neighbours will not bury the issue and forces them to include mitigation measures in the reconstruction process. Public awareness is the most effective and democratic leverage to make risk reduction a reality.

What are the main obstacles to this improvement?

The main obstacle is that we cannot predict when the next disaster will hit and if all prevention measures have been taken. We need of course to start somewhere and often disaster strikes elsewhere. Risk reduction requires a lot of public education and support.

How much does it cost to make a hospital safer?

For an existing hospital, it may cost up to 15% of its cost to make it safer - unfortunately, complete safety does not exist. But when it is included in the first discussion about a new facility (for instance when the site is selected) it might be as low as 1% or 2 % of the construction cost. Insurance is often more expensive! Preventing damage from wind (typhoons) is less costly than minimizing damage from a strong earthquake.

How did you work with the international community to make this problem known?

Lobbying, cooperating, co-publishing with other partners are ways to make the entire international community aware of the issue. The more we can document damage to hospitals, the more effective we will be in promoting the issue. Presenting positive success stories are very useful. Unfortunately, societies learn mostly through tragic errors and disasters.

What do you have to say to put this problem on the political agenda?

Making new hospitals safer is feasible and it is cost effective. It is politically costly not to do it.

Thirty years ago, no health sector in the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean had a prevention programme. Thirty years later, every single country of this part of the world has disaster units to respond to disasters and to deal with the health consequences of hazards. Thousands of people have contributed to reducing the vulnerability of the citizens of this hemisphere to disasters, and countries have been equal partners. Claude De Ville has contributed a great deal to achieve this enormous progress.

Claude de Ville de Goyet 's vision and steadfast guidance over the last 30 years is recognized as a key contributing factor to the substantial progress that has been made in making all the health facilities more resilient to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

30 years ago, disaster response was in the hands of a limited few in each country, today the health sector is a key player at the national level and all the countries in the Americas have disaster units in the Ministry of Health to carry forth national disaster reduction activities.

One of the earliest promoters of the "Safe hospitals" initiative which called on disaster-prone countries to make health facilities safe by reducing their vulnerability, Claude de Ville de Goyet championed work in this area not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but also in Asia and North Africa and he made specific contributions to the adoption of earthquake-resilient designs of hospitals in many countries.

His contributions had a significant impact on advancing the agenda of disaster mitigation globally. This was evidenced in 2004, when Latin American and Caribbean nations joined forces at Paho's 45 Directing council meeting to urge Member states to adopt "Hospitals Safe from Disasters" as a national risk reduction policy and set the goal that all new hospitals are built with

a level of protection that better guarantees their remaining functional in disaster situations. This call was echoed in January 2005 at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, where “ Safe hospitals” was mentioned as one of the sectoral indicators of global disaster vulnerability reduction.

Claude de Ville de Goyet has raised the profile of disaster reduction and convinced decision makers of the importance of disaster preparedness and risk reduction in the health sector. His strategy has always been to minimize the number of victims and materials losses before an intense event occurs and to improve the safety of hospitals.

If you want to know more about his work, you can consult:

Safe hospitals: A collective responsibility, A global measure of Disaster Reduction

<http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/SafeHospitals.htm>

Protecting critical health facilities, particularly hospitals, from the avoidable consequences of disasters, is not only essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, but also a social and political necessity in its own right. This is the message that Safe Hospitals—A Collective Responsibility, A Global Measure of Disaster Reduction, prepared by PAHO/WHO for the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction, puts forth.

According to the publication, the vulnerability of a hospital is more than a medical issue. Other factors must be taken into account: public health, socio-political significance, and the economic aspects. It is possible to reduce the vulnerability of a hospital by raising the levels of life, investment and operational protection not only in existing facilities, but in the plans for new installations as well. It has been proved time and again that disaster mitigation measures pay off when health facilities are able to withstand the effects of devastating disasters and continue to offer their services. Although the financial investment can be high (and it is not always possible to protect an installation against all kinds of disasters), the cost of ignoring the risks can be much higher, not only in terms of money, but more importantly on the loss of human life.

The importance of hospitals goes far beyond the role they play in saving lives after disasters. They are powerful symbols of social progress and a prerequisite for economic development, and as such, special attention must be given to reducing their physical vulnerability.

Tsunami and the People of Simeulue

General Information of Simeulue Regency

The Regency of Simeulue with the capital Sinahang is located in the North East of the Province of Nanggroe Acch Darussaia, about 105 miles located above the sea of Meulaboh, 85 miles above the sea of Tapak Tuan in the Regency of West Aceh. The Regency of Simeulue embraces 41 islands and is located on the scale of 95 43 – 96 26 East Longitude and 2 19 – 2 26 North Latitude. The length of the island is about 100,2 km with the width of 8-28 km that makes the overall size approaching 198,021 Ha.

Population

There are 82.555 people living in the Regency of Simeulue as per the condition of June 2005. They are scattered in 8 regions which consist of 16 bano/mukim and 13 villages, in which 77 are considered poor with a total population of 46,604 people, out of which 39.000 people live near the beaches and small islands. About 30% of the people live in the Region of East Simeulue where in situated the local administration office of Simeulue. The population growth is of 3% per year. Only some 23 people live along a distant of one kilometre.

Economic and Social Activities of People

People in general work in the agricultural sector (62,8%), with few others in trading, art and handicraft, civil service, labour, etc. Therefore, the biggest contribution of the gross domestic regional product is the agricultural sector (67,01%). One of its sub-sector which is animal farming comes the second (23,39%), with other sub sectors such as forestry, plantation, estates and fishery, each contributing as much as 21,48%, 12,02%, 7,26% and 2,85% respectively (BPS 2003).

The agriculture that is developed by the people here is of multi-culture in nature with the production of various kinds of commodities such as local paddy, vegetables, cengkeh, coconut, coffee and cacao. There are huge areas of potential agricultural growth with 18,700 hectares of paddy field and plot for dry paddy field 3580 hectares. The cengkeh product (2003) was up to 2,846 ton cultivated on the land covering 16,868 hectares. There is 4,200 ton of coconut product.

Fish called as dimersal and pelagic are found aplenty. Simeulue 305,000 hectares (4 miles) fishing ground. Apart from that, the Western and Northern beaches of Simeulue are where the tuna fish frequently cross and stay.

Animal breeding does also have a quite good prospect here. The community here have long deal with the breeding of cow, bullock, goat, buras hen and itik.

Based on the latest data, forestry area of Simeulue covers up to 100,436 hectares or 53,63% from the total area. Trade, industry and service too have good prospect. Small industry such as bamboo handicraft, wood and silver related work are also in the up.

The tourism of Simeulue is of two types, ecotourism and culture tourism. The Western and Southern beaches have big and beautiful waves which are suitable for surfing.

Up to November 2001, transportation means in the form of ring road covers up to 458 km. There is also a circling bridge along 3,456 m with permanent building of 1,168 m and the rest of it as non permanent building. There is one airport called Lasilan that could be landed by small aircrafts as Cessna and Cassa.

The island has not been entirely equipped with telephones lines. The region that has telephone lines here is only East Simeulue with a total 703 lines.

The development process since the year 2001 up to now showed a gradual increase in its indicator of economic growth and the level of the welfare of the community. During the period of 200-2003 the agriculture sector increased from 1,98% to 2,50%, shaping up industry from – 1,58% to 4,99%, electricity and drinking water from 1,32% increased to 5,98%, trade from 2,60% to 6,10% and service from 0,97% to 2,70%. Overall in that said period gross domestic regional product of the Regency of Simeulue increased from 2,27% to 3,53%. There are several indicators that can be seen as having contributed to better situation to the welfare of community. During 2001-2003, death rate decreased from 58 to 39 per 1000 births. Children of 7-12 years of age that go to school increased from 64,41% to 98,90% and the people of the age 10 and above that are illiterate reduced from 13,21% to 4,72%. Meanwhile joblessness increased from 6,46% to 8,12%. The population that work in the agriculture sector decreased from 76,57% to 69,55%. Something that gladden many here is that the people who work in trade sector increased from 6,25% to 16,44% during the above mentioned period.

Earthquake and Tsunami (Smong) of 26 December 2005-09-23

The History of Earthquake/Tsunami of Simeulue island

The ethnic group of Simeulue is of a distinct nature and unique compared to other ethnic groups

in Aceh. There is almost no clue of fact that can best explain the origin of that uniqueness. In general, Simeulue people have small eyes and yellow colour skin which made the different from those Acchinese people in the mainland. There are several local languages which are used, such as Aneuk Jamee, Devayan, Sigulai and Leukon. The one mentioned the last has now become minority in the Region of Alafan and is on the brink of vanish. Though the situation was such, the involvement with mainland Aceh is very good and that is reflected from the Islamic culture found among the people of Simeulue.

The variety of the said cultural and ethnic situations is considered as the national asset and very distinct for the Regency of Simeulue. In principle, some of the population of Simeulue came from other islands such as Sumatera, Jawa, Sulawesi and Nias. Therefore, the ethnic group that dwells in Simeulue should be seen from their background of origin. At present, some ethnic groups that exist in Simeulue are Pamuneak, Rainang, Lanteng, Abon, Fangaon, etc.

In the Regency of Simeulue, a group of several ethnic groups living together is called 'Bano' and in the midst of 18th century, or during the Dutch colonial era, there were five 'Bano', such as Tapah, Simulaj, Alang, Sigulai and Leukon. Some changes took place with the system of 'Bano' as Dutch made it to comply with their own government system and also the Japanese later. The people of Simeulue have strong social values. There is also the practice of animism among the people. However, it is slowly diminishing. Tradition practices could be seen during the religious rituals, deaths, marriages and the new born baby ceremonies.

During the XVI century Simeulue which was known as Island U was the region reigned by Sultan Iskandar Muda. During the sultanate of Iskandar Muda and in the framework of developing the region to enlarge Islamic teachings, the Sultan sent a priest (ulemma) of Minang tribe that who was on to hajj pilgrimage to Makkah. The 'ulemma' then postponed going to Makkah and followed the Sultan's command and went to Simeulue to develop Islamic teachings. The 'ulemma's' name is Tengku Kiujung alias Tengku Haliullah. He later married to the prince of U Island named the Prince of Meulur. It happened that the island of U was then given a new name as 'Simalur'.

The Philosophical value of Earthquake and Lightning

Mr. KTH Van Langen as the Assistant to the Deputy of the Representative of East Indies Dutch Government in his research conducted on 25 March 1881 did not report that the big sea waves took place due to the eruption of mountain Krakatau in the year 1833. Meanwhile, in the encyclopedia of the Dutch edited by DG Stibbe that was published in 1909 mentioned that there always took place light earthquake in Simeulue and in the year 1907 the whole area of the western beach was swept away by the sea waves and this has resulted in huge casualties. At that time many villages had really disappeared due to big waves. People in Simeulue called this happening as "SMONG". 'Smong' made the land infertile then and the population there had never been successful in overcoming this disaster and the welfare that was aspired had never been achieved.

On Friday in the year 1907 with not date or month was on record, it was mentioned that a big earthquake jolted this island and several days after that the sea water was distracting at fast pace and made the rivers dry and fish dying. Being Friday many people got together for prayers and that congregation at a place had made the human toll higher, moreover when the people went to rivers and beaches to collect the dying fish.

However, when they were busy collecting the fish in happy mood, they heard from afar a sound something like the dry wood being burnt which was slowly heard in higher tone and with that appeared a feeling of disturbance among these people. Nobody knew exactly what sound was that, but alas big waves came approaching them, sweeping them away and drowning and distracting them to the sea. After that, there were so many human casualties. Some people were hooked by the bamboo trees, children separated from their parents and some were found under

the mud and many others missing.

'There is no instrument or material that can save a person from the disastrous 'smong', says a message of the elders. Mr. Sutan Ruswin, the oldest respected person in the community of Sinabang City conveyed a story he learnt from his parents that during the 'smong' in 1907 there were a lot of people of Simeulue that couldn't save themselves, except those who had earlier listened the story from their forefathers. Mr. Sutan gave warning 'if there is big earthquake and the sea water distracting, do not wait or bring your belongings, the important thing just save your own self first'. It denotes that people should always be careful. It seemed that since olden days there were no media that is used in the efforts of saving people from the killer wave 'smong' except the message and the story that is told by generations.

The tragedy of 1907 was then told repeatedly by the elders to their children, by generations. That is known as the story of 'smong' in the island of Simeulue that had carried with it the sadness and very sad feeling for those who lost their children, their parents and relatives. The elders reminds the youngsters that that whenever big earthquake take place, it may then be followed by water distracting to the sea which is an indication that 'smong' will come.

'Smong' of the year 1833 and 1907 has a time span of 74 years, meanwhile smong during the year 1907 with the one happened in 2004 has got a longer time span which was 97 years. With the time span of above 70 years, it is considered that there is enough time to retell the message from one generation to the next one on the experience of earthquake and smong.

Those two happenings have made people there in sorrow and at the same time have given a good lesson and philosophical values that is very useful for them. The earthquake which is known locally as LINON is not something new for the people of Simeulue in that the outcome of an earthquake has made people stronger and also in the mental development of a child. There was then a special message made that reads 'kadang kadang mo clacktuwak-uwak mo lion' which means that a boy should not be afraid of whatever comes in his life and he should have stronger motivation, achieving the maximum and be brave with strong mentality.

As was apparent, the 'swong' that took place on 26 December 2004 during a bright Sunday morning swept away many villages in Labuhah Bakti in South Teupab, some villages in West Teupah, and almost all villages in Alafan I Simeule. But to many peoples' surprise, there were almost no casualties. There were no people who ran to the sea or rivers to collect fish as was the situation in 1907. There were only seven people in Simeulue who died due to the Tsunami of 2004. All people ran to the hill, mountain or other highly located places. The people there quickly recalled the story and advice of the elders that was passed to them through generations. Therefore, the story has become a legend and regarded as a savior for them from the latest disastrous 'smong' (and of course with the blessing of the Almighty God).

It is a fact that the earthquakes and smong (tsunami) last December caused panic to the society, some of them ran for escape to mountains or higher grounds. Some of them even ignored those who ere running for escape to higher grounds and questioned why they were running. Theq question was based on their unawareness and was from people who were not Simeulue natives or immigrants from Acch and Sumatra mainland, mostly they were concentrated in Sinabang, the Capital of Simeulue Regency. But silently they also followed the escapees without really knowing what was really happening.

12 hours after tsunami at 12.00 local hour, through the radio communication between Indonesian Army and Police, it was discovered that tsunami had caused 300 casualties and even many more. The world was shocked, Aceh was crying. This condition had proven that Simeulue natives who were running to mountains or higher grounds had an extraordinary instinct.

Desa Latak Ayah, Center Simeulue Regency, had a different story. After the earthquake, a herd of buffalo ran to higher grounds, a member of the society said it might be an indication of a disaster. They also ran to higher grounds although they were not sure what was going to occur. Not long after that, the smong came and destroyed their houses and properties. Finally, they were aware that God had given clues through animals. Although buffaloes are just animals, but God could use them to His plan, and men could learn from that situation.

The stories of the smong were quoted from the late Mohd. Roesli's tutur timular (story telling) writing to his son. Mohd. Roesli lost his elder brother and he almost lost his baby cousin, that was saved by a bunch of bamboos, later was named M. Yatim. The writing was also gone with the smong that occurred on 26th December 2004 in desa Blang Oi, Mieuraxa Banda Aceh. St. Ruswin's tutur timular was added with writings from Persatuan Ilmu Bumi (geography association) magazine, 1981, 5th edition, in Amsterdam under Dr. C.M. Kan and N.W. Psthumus.

Rescue Efforts

Smong that occurred in Simeulue regency, as also happened in other areas of Aceh, moved a little slower. This was because there were still many mangrove trees preserved that slowed down the smong. Based on this fact, the local Government of Simeulue protects Mangrove trees by issuing a Qunun (policy) Nr. 30/2003 on Protection and Preservation of Coast Water and Islands in Simeulue Regency. It prohibits the society to cut Mangrove trees. On the contrary, to urge the society to preserve and protect Mangrove trees as natural bastion to anticipate smong.

Some of the efforts in anticipating smong are making escape pathway to hills and higher grounds and making logistic houses on hills.

Casualties and Damages

Tsunami on 26th December 2004 and earthquakes on 28th March 2005 had caused casualties and loss of properties. The condition of Simeulue, post earthquakes, can be described as follow:

A. Casualties, Internally Displaced Persons, and Houses

Nr.	Remarks	Amount	Loss Prediction (in Rp.)
1.	Casualties- earthquakes/tsunami 26th December 2004- earthquakes 28th December 2004	7 people	37 people
2.	Internally displaced persons	40,378 people	
3.	Badly destroyed houses	7,081 units	223,051,500,000
4.	Lightly destroyed houses	7,458 units	74,580,000,000
	Total		297,631,500,000

B. health Infrastructure

Nr.	Remarks	Amount	Loss Prediction (in Rp.)
1.	Badly destroyed public hospitals		12,482,188,532

