



## ***Man-Made Natural Disasters and the Tsunami Project***

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**Monday, January 23  
4:30 PM  
Paino Lecture Hall  
Beneski 107**

Post-tsunami Meulaboh, Aceh Province, Indonesia  
January 2005  
*Photo by Brian G. McAdoo*

“Natural” disasters are not simply the result of the overwhelming forces of nature, but rather a deadly and expensive interaction of geophysical hazards with vulnerable human landscapes. We use the dynamic environments of Asia/Pacific to study the evolution of disasters by using geoscience to constrain the frequency and magnitude of impacts, and by comparing the vulnerabilities laid bare by recent events to identify weaknesses in systems that need reinforcement. The increasingly erratic climate is generating events of a scale never before seen in this region already replete with tectonic hazards including the largest volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis in the historical record. Adding to this, ecosystems strained by stupendously rapid urbanization, industrial-scale forestry in the hinterlands and large-scale resource extraction in degraded marine environments are approaching a point where they can no longer deliver buffering services that help protect people and property from loss. Without action, populations will continue to suffer losses that will set nations back decades in terms of development.

The Tsunami Project is a transdisciplinary approach to disaster risk reduction. We bring together researchers and practitioners from a diversity of fields to better understand the factors that contribute to losses from disasters, and explore solutions to reduce economic losses and save lives.