

Diah Iskandriati

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Dr. Diah Iskandriati first became interested in biosafety as a visiting scientist at the University of Washington in 1992. Upon returning to Indonesia she transferred what she had learned there to the Primate Research Center at Bogor Agricultural University (PRC-IPB), and later throughout Indonesia. She began advocating for biosafety at her own center by educating her peers and introducing new safety procedures and guidelines on a voluntary basis, at a time when there was no national biosafety legislation or guidelines, and biosafety awareness and appreciation were low. Eventually her work earned the recognition of institute management, and in 2003 she was officially appointed as Biosafety Officer. She played an instrumental role in implementing biorisk management at the PRC-IPB, which helped it become the first Indonesian animal facility with AAALAC accreditation. She then began to develop an institute-wide biorisk management framework that extended beyond her own center. In 2006 she was involved in designing what became the first ABSL-3 facility in Indonesia. Dr. Iskandriati next began to advocate for biosafety beyond her home institute, over the years training more than one thousand people in biorisk management, including scientists, health care workers, and others from both private and government institutes. A number of those people went on to become trainers themselves, and to implement biosafety programs at their own institutes. She has played various roles in the Indonesia Biorisk Association (IBA), where she currently serves as Secretary. Within the IBA she participated in drafting the Code of Conduct of the biosecurity guidelines of the Indonesian Academy of Science, and she and her team have advocated for creating a national certification scheme under the National Standardization Body of Indonesia, based on the CWA15793 Biorisk Management standard. Currently Dr. Iskandriati, together with IBA and national authorities, is campaigning for certification to be made mandatory for all laboratories working with high risk biological agents in Indonesia. She also actively contributes to regional biosafety, and currently serves as Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association. As both a leader and a team member she effectively and enthusiastically champions biosafety in Indonesia and the wider region.



Faizatul Lela Jafar

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Faizatula Lela Jafar has passionately advocated for biorisk management at the institutional, national, and international levels. At the international level, she assisted with the development and implementation of the IFBA Professional Certification program, and was among the first candidates to earn Professional Certification in both Biorisk Management and Biosecurity in Southeast Asia. She is actively involved as a resource person and trainer for the Professional Certification in Biosecurity, and has coordinated numerous training and certification sessions, benefiting more than 300 biosafety professionals from Malaysia and the ASEAN region. At a national level, she serves as Assistant Secretary for the Malaysia Biosafety & Biosecurity Association, and was a part of the committee that developed the Malaysia Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy and Guidelines under the Ministry of Health. She was also an editor of the document, and participated in awareness-raising activities to distribute information related to it to the community. As the Biosafety Officer of an Institution under the Institutional Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee she was involved in developing, establishing, and implementing the biorisk management program at her university, as well as a Biosafety and Biosecurity Manual and Code of Conduct. Despite many challenges, she has worked tirelessly to improve the safety and security of institute personnel and communities in Malaysia and throughout Southeast Asia.