

Extra-Lunch Seminar Invitation 28.10.2024 12:00 Large Seminar Room

Title: Transdisciplinary Coastal Research at the mouth of Citarum River, Java, Indonesia

Presenter: Gusmiati (Labtek Apung, IFA Fellow at ZMT)

Muaragembong, located in Bekasi Regency, West Java, Indonesia, lies about two hours by sea from Jakarta and provides a vivid portrayal of coastal life shaped by economic and ecological inequalities. Located at the mouth of the Citarum River, the region contends with issues such as river pollution, severe coastal abrasion, frequent tidal flooding, and hypersalinization. These challenges, driven by the combined effects of climate change and human activity, impact not only humans but also more than humans.

Labtek Apung (Floating Tech-Lab) has been exploring this crisis in collaboration with the local community since early 2023, using a transdisciplinary approach that blends anthropology, chemistry, architecture, visual arts, and WASH engineering. Our work extends beyond human-centered perspectives, including thirsty monkeys and chemical pollutants as our non-human collaborators.

Gaining new insights and shifting away from the mindset of human supremacy by recognizing chemical elements, animals, and mangroves as equal entities presents its own set of challenges. It is the unusual laboratory and colleagues that ultimately guide our efforts in developing a multispecies agreement and other creative initiatives (such as workshops, water desalination prototypes for langurs, exhibitions, and multispecies cinema), making us 'noisy' in raising awareness of the environmental issues affecting Muaragembong.



Photo journal of the dry season taken by Daman our wild diplomat