



University of Massachusetts Boston

*Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters*

*John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies*

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*An international conference on*

## **Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for children and their families after Disasters**

November 16-19, 2008

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### **Tutty Alawiyah**



**Tutty Alawiyah's keynote presentation is titled:**

*"Rebuilding sustainable communities for children orphaned by the 2004 Aceh Tsunami: The Case of As-Syafi`iyah Special Boarding School for Orphans"*

Having sympathy and love to, and taking good care of, the orphans to be appropriately educated so as to lead them towards independent, and self-reliant adult life is a good deed of great significance to Moslems. Since the 10th of January 1978, Dr. Tutty Alawiyah, has run the orphanage and made it home for orphans in one complex of 3.5 hectares of land. This is an example of determined commitment to her life-long cause of teaching, feeding and training poor orphans free of charge. Over the last thirty years, thousands of orphaned children have been saved from ignorance and from conditions of being unattended and un-cared for, granting them a chance at a better life. This special *Pesantren* (Islamic Boarding School for the orphans) is the development of the concept of *panti asuhan* (an institution for the care of the less fortunate children) into a better one of Special Pesantren for Orphans, which has now currently become the home of the orphans. The Tsunami disaster of December 26, 2004, hit many Asian countries hard and hit Aceh, an area on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, the hardest. Dr. Alawiyah was suddenly entrusted with the care of hundreds of Tsunami survivors. There were about 307 children orphans from all over Indonesia. In the aftermath of the tsunami disaster, Dr. Alawiyah hosted about 500 children altogether. These children live and study in the orphanage. Currently, in 2008, there are still remaining 60 Aceh tsunami victims who are still continuing their study in the orphanage, while the rest have completed their studies and returned back to Aceh, along with 320 other orphans, some of whom are also victims of riots and natural disasters that have hit Indonesia. The paper highlights how to deal with children who are victims of disasters, in many aspects based on the author's personal and real experiences.

For further information, please visit our conference website:

[www.rebuilding.umb.edu/rscbfd](http://www.rebuilding.umb.edu/rscbfd)