Invasion of marine species to Indonesian coral reefs

Since 2015, ITK Marine Biodiversity Lab (BIODIVS) has collaborated with Univ Oldenburg Germany, studying the invasive invertebrates (sponge and ascidian) on coral reefs, funded by RISTEK DIKTI. In addition, Biodivs extend the collaboration in studying the invasive species with Univ of Western Australia and Department of Fisheries Government of WA, funded by Australia National University Indonesia Program. These researches are investigated by Dr. Hawis Madduppa and his team.

"We need to take care of invasive species, especially in marine environment because they have a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health and also can be distributed by different vectors, which so far unknown" Dr Hawis mentioned. He added "We are currently preparing a checklist on invasive species in Indonesia, because no list so far available". A better understanding of marine species invasions into Indonesian coral reefs and their link to climate change is urgently needed as prerequisite for effective counteractions.

During the first trip in 2016 in Seribu Islands held on 22-25 March, three sites have been revisited. Two box plots per sites, 100 photo transects, 9 line and video transects, 9 sediment traps, 9 bottles for nutrients, 1 of 3 6-month-old temperature logger survived, and many other interesting observation. Dr Hawis and team are hoping that they could shed a light on this marine invasive species.
The student and me are collecting invasive black sponge overgrown corals in Seribu Islands, Jakarta