

SINGAPORE

S'porean helps fight Indonesian fires with 'solution'

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Singaporean helps battle forest fires with local firemen in Indonesia using product he invented

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Many Singaporeans have taken to donning masks or staying indoors as the Pollutant Standards Index climbs to unhealthy levels.

But not Mr Judah Jay, 60.

Instead, he headed straight for the forest fires in Jambi, a province in Sumatra, to help firefighters put out the blaze that has been causing the haze.

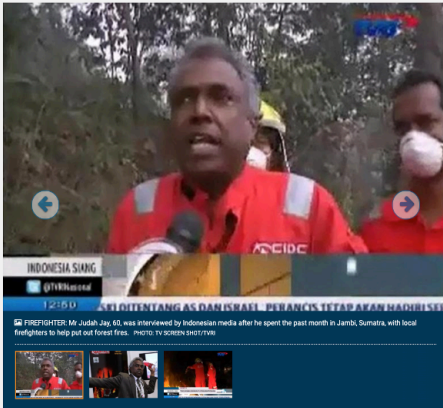
The Singaporean owner of a company that manufactures eco-friendly fire extinguishers also donated about 1,000 litres of a special fire-fighting solution to the Indonesian firefighters.

When asked why he chose to help Indonesia fight the fires for free, Mr Jay said he felt a sense of responsibility.

"It's like I am a doctor and I see someone getting hit by a car. I won't ask if he can pay me, I would help him immediately."

"In the same way, I have all this knowledge and resources, and it is my duty to help people who need it."

The managing director of Fire Terminator International (FTI) and his team arrived in Indonesia three months ago to market a product called JN1010, a fire-fighting solution that not only extinguishes blazes, but also rapidly cools surfaces, removes oxygen, and stops combustible gases from igniting so that the fire does not start again.



Plans to meet potential clients were out short two months in, after Mr Jay realised the severity of the haze and forest fires. He then shifted his focus to helping the Indonesians deal with the fires, instead.

He said: "I knew that this was beyond earning money. People there needed help, and I had the means to help them."

For four weeks, he donned fire-fighting gear and battled the fires shoulder-to-shoulder with others in Jambi, working day and night to extinguish the blaze.

Recounting his time there, Mr Jay said: "The heat from the fires was intense. Visibility was so bad that I could not see who was beside me. It was terrible."

Although he shipped 1,000 litres of JN1010 for the fire fighting efforts, it took less than a month to use it up.

"Even though the firefighters were so busy and tired, they gave their all and kept on fighting, so I gave them what I could too," Mr Jay said.

MEDIA ATTENTION

His efforts caught the attention of Indonesian media, with TV network TVRI interviewing Mr Jay and showing him putting out fires during a news clip.

He returned to Singapore about a week ago to attend the Fire and Disaster Asia 2015 exhibition, which was held at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre.

When The New Paper spoke to Mr Jay at the exhibition last Thursday, he said that he was raring to return to Indonesia to help again.

"We only brought 10 per cent of our supply that time. When I go back in three or four days, I am prepared to bring the remaining 9,000 litres to help fight the fires," he said.

Mr Jay added that he would be heading to Kalimantan, in Borneo, this time, and would stay there for as long as he could.

His wife, Mrs Davina Jay, who is the director for FTI, will stay in Singapore to look after the business while her husband is in Indonesia.

She said: "I have confidence that he will exercise due caution there."

"He has been blessed with wisdom and know-how to help minimise human suffering. It must be shared for a good cause".