

# K a b a r I t a h



Edition 14: July - September 2007

## Editorial

This quarter has been another busy stretch for all of us. In the last two months, YTS has expanded in several directions.

In East Kalimantan, we have taken the initial steps to set up a new community development team, led by our former project leader in the UNIDO mercury project, Sumali Agrawal. Sumali has a background in environmental studies, which will be very useful in the new project area, where maintaining the integrity of the forests is a major concern. The local people are already making a lot of demands on the exploration team, so it will be a challenging assignment to keep them happy.

In June, we started collaborating with a coal exploration company, Borneo Prima Coal, who want to use our approach and methodology in their working area, which is located very close to the equator on another major Kalimantan river - the Barito. We have been hoping an opportunity like this would arise to enable us to spread our approach more widely - both in the mining industry and in the province.

You may notice that we have begun yet another collaboration - this one with several service departments in the district government in Gunung Mas, which is where all the villages we work in lie. This is a very welcome initiative, as it shows that the local government service departments recognise the advantage we can bring in linking their services directly to the villages.

We have also just finished the documentation package in English for the UNIDO Global Mercury Project. The multi-media CD ROM contains all the documents, photos, videos and media from the project. We would be happy to send copies of it to anyone requesting. The Indonesian version will be available very shortly.

Another summer is upon us! We wish all our readers a very pleasant holiday.

**Bardolf Paul**

## Voices from the Field



*Villagers discuss and map out seasonality factors during participatory planning exercise in Mahuroi village*

In the second quarter, the YTS field team facilitated participatory appraisals, household analysis, formation and training of village management and technical interest groups, as well as visits for village training from local technical experts.

### Participatory Rural Appraisals

Five new villages carried out appraisals - Tumbang Siruk, Penda Rangas, Tumbang Sian, Tumbang Mahuroi and Rangan Hiran. The level of participation and dynamic was different in each village, with some villages unable to complete the entire process, so the village development plan and election of village management group was postponed.

### Rejuvenating and Strengthening Village Management Groups

Some villages are having problems with the smooth implementation of their development plan and activities, due to internal conflicts, inactive management group members, and low participation from village government officials. To remedy these problems, the YTS field teams organised meetings in five villages - Tumbang Lapan,

Takaoui, Mangkuhung, Tumbang Korik and Karetau Sarian. Each village decided to rejuvenate their village management groups either by replacing inactive members or electing new ones.

Training for management group members took place in six villages and focused on basic skills for managing field activities, financial administration, contracts with outside experts, and interest group sustainability. After the training, the village team is expected to manage the village development fund provided by YTS, and assist the interest groups in managing inputs from outside technical experts and other sources.

Part of the training focused on consolidating interest groups to include only those who are still fully active. In some villages the numbers of groups reduced from five to one, which made the management group task much easier, and simplified their training. The trainers emphasized that the interest groups are primarily learning groups, and not recipients of material benefits.

## Kabar Itah

Kabar Itah is the quarterly newsletter of Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta, an affiliate of PT. Kalimantan Surya Kencana, a mineral exploration company.

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We welcome any news, comments and articles related to community and regional development, but we reserve the right to edit any material in order to fit the available space.



Coming home from transect on the Marinyoi River in Mahuroi

## New Opportunities Open in East Kalimantan

At the end of May, YTS traveled to the East Kalimantan district of Bulungan where a subsidiary of Kalimantan Gold Corporation, PT Jelai Cahaya Minerals, has begun preparations for gold exploration activities.

This was a short familiarization visit of only two days, in preparation for a full scale community development program, similar to what YTS is doing in Central Kalimantan. During the visit YTS saw three main settlements, and met with local people to introduce ourselves and talk about how we normally work with communities, which is very often different from what most people expect from a company-sponsored foundation.

The discussions also gave YTS staff a chance to learn something about local conditions and local peoples' thinking and expectations. One very unique feature is that these villages were artificially created by the government in 1982 to collect together Dayak people who were living in scattered locations to one spot, where it would be easier to administrate them. What this means in reality is that very often people are not always in the village, because they are looking after business in their traditional areas.

A major concern of the villagers is employment, and the possibility of getting a job with the company or selling some of their provisions like vegetables to the company. Currently, their main livelihoods are growing rice and vegetables. As the company is only in the exploration stage, there will be some limited work prospects for locals, but should the deposit prove mineable, it would have a very positive impact on the local economy and employment possibilities.



Villagers in Bunau, East Kalimantan sketch out village map

## President Launches Community Empowerment Scheme

In March, Indonesia's president launched a national community empowerment program for all 31 provinces. The program will focus mainly on village infrastructure, with funding shared between central and local governments.

One set of activities will take place in a sub-district where YTS currently works, so we have started discussing with the project facilitators and government services how we can collaborate and assist them to implement the program in that area.

## Showcase Workshop in Yogya on Local Planning

On April 25th, two YTS staff attended a special workshop in Yogyakarta, sponsored by USAid that showcased the release of a set of publications to assist local government planning. The publications were designed by the USAid-funded Local Governance Support Program, and cover all aspects of government planning and budgeting.

The workshop was designed to introduce and explain the materials to non-governmental organisations that are currently working with local government on participatory planning initiatives. The publications contain detailed reference materials describing the intricacies of the government planning processes and the relationships between all players. This information is very useful to YTS for understanding how government works.

## YTS Hosts Green Forum

The Green Forum, a network of non-governmental organizations in the province, met in the YTS office on May 30th to discuss the low level of engagement between NGOs and the government planning process. NGO involvement in this annual process is important to ensure there is good inputs and participation from communities, and to check that the process incorporates and reflects people's needs. The meeting proposed that NGOS take an advocacy role to follow up on budget implementation.



Observing the planning process in Mahuroi village

## Villagers Benefit from Technical Advice



Pak Fried provides advice on rubber tapping to Interest Group members in Buntoi Village

This year villagers are working on improving three main livelihood activities - rubber, pigs and chickens. Villagers have formed small groups called 'interest groups' of about 10 persons in order to work together and share experiences in each of these activity areas. These groups are active in every village we are working in, with rubber groups in four villages, pig groups in five villages, and one chicken group.

### Rubber Nursery Starts in Posu Village

The rubber interest group in Posu village is raising 10,000 high quality seedlings in the first nursery project in all our villages. The interest group bought the high quality seed from a supplier in Banjar Baru in South Kalimantan with the help of YTS.

The nursery is also raising seedlings from seeds collected locally and will compare any difference in growth and yield between both types. So far, the local variety is growing faster than the hybrid variety, but the quality looks better in the hybrid. Villagers learned an important lesson before they even started planting - they lost 25% of the seed stock to mould when they left them unsealed in the sacks they were transported in.

The group is working well together. Each week a four person team waters, weeds, records growth, and protects the plants from bugs and disease. A weekly report is submitted to the village management group that is coordinating the activity and managing the finances

and technical inputs. Any problems are discussed with an expert that visits the village from time to time.

### Improving Productivity

In other villages, similar processes are underway with local experts providing much needed training and hands-on coaching in each of the three livelihood areas. Those groups growing rubber are being shown ways to improve techniques for tapping the latex, planting seedlings, making organic fertilizer, and combating pests and disease. The pig and chicken rearing groups are learning how to deal with lack of appetite, low fertility, worms and other pests and diseases in their animals.

Kresken, the animal husbandry expert, has trained group members to give injections to pigs and chickens to improve their health and nutrition. Already there is visible evidence of weight gain and improved health in pigs belonging to interest group members, confirming that this approach is working well.



Rubber Interest Group members Warno and Hepi

## Bridging the Gap between Government and Communities

YTS staff met with six government service departments in the district town of Kuala Kurun at the end of May. The purpose of the visit was to look at their work plans for 2007, and see if we could help coordinate their service delivery to the villages where we are working in.

YTS had a very cordial exchange with the six departments - Community Empowerment, Planning, Agriculture and Plantation, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Forestry, and Cooperatives and Small & Medium Enterprises - and they welcomed the offer to link their services to communities where we are working. The Agriculture and Plantation service specifically asked YTS to identify locations in villages for a program to raise rubber and patchouli plants.

To facilitate this exchange, YTS agreed to provide information on village potentiality, recommend beneficiary groups, and assist with any field activities. We will also ensure that the village annual plans are tailored to fit the government's development priorities.

One suggestion was for the government to broaden its level of support beyond simply material inputs; and to make it more comprehensive, encompassing technical and institutional support as well. So not only providing one off grants of seedlings or soft loans, but also including the overall technical support, training, and institutional strengthening to ensure that people are more able to use the material inputs successfully.

## Interest in London on Mercury Project

In early June, YTS met with two London-based organisations to share information about our experience in working with artisanal miners, gold shops, and mercury.

The first meeting took place with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the second with the International Council on Metals and Mining (ICMM). Both agencies were given the complete documentation package on the mercury project in Kalimantan, while YTS provided an overview of the project and the issues involved with mercury use by artisanal gold miners and processing by gold shops.

Both promised to share the results with their colleagues and constituencies.

## Viewpoints on Kalimantan from London and Australia



*Kalimantan Gold visitors with villagers at rubber seedling nursery in Posu village*

On June 21st, three hardy visitors from Kalimantan Gold Corporation made a 14 hour roundtrip by speedboat on the Kahayan River between Palangka Raya and Posu Village. The group included Kalimantan Gold's CEO, Rahman Connelly from Australia, and Londoners Gerald Cheyne, the company broker, and Nick Cottam, corporate communications adviser. They were accompanied by the YTS director and assistant.

### Rubber, Pigs and Sweet Tea

It was a unique opportunity for those involved in promoting the company to experience first hand conditions along the river, and in a typical Dayak village that receives support from the company. In Posu Village, villagers showed the visitors their newly-established nursery for rubber seedlings, and then demonstrated some rubber tapping in the forest.

Afterwards, in the rudimentary elementary school, villagers explained some of the difficulties they face regarding child education. Before returning to the river for the trip back to Palangka Raya, the group made a final stop to observe some improved pig stock, and then shared sweet tea, coffee and biscuits in a villager's home.

### Drilling in the Jungle

In the days before, the group went by helicopter to the current exploration site Beruang to observe drilling operations and to meet with field staff to discuss how the work was proceeding. They were joined

in this visit with another advisor from Australia, Stuart Liang.



*KSK staf preparing drilling unit*

### Gold Fields and Gold Shops

After their return, they went to the site of the UNIDO Global Mercury Project – the gold fields of Galangan and the small town of Kereng Pangi – where they observed artisanal mining operations in large open pits in the ground, and saw the mercury recovery equipment that YTS had provided to gold shops in the town to capture and recycle mercury vapour.

Just before leaving for Jakarta, Nick Cottam gave some good pointers on improving the quality of writing and reporting for the YTS newsletter.



*Gold Shop owner shows visitors recycled mercury*

## 100% Success in Kereng Pangi

YTS has now achieved 100% coverage of the 18 gold shops in Kereng Pangi town responsible for releasing large quantities of hazardous mercury vapour into the atmosphere.

In the aftermath of the UNIDO Global Mercury Project, and with the help of Mr. Fauzi, a local mercury recycling expert, YTS has continued to supply equipment and guidance to enable the shop owners to capture and recycle mercury that otherwise would have continued to poison the small urban community.

On an average, the gold shops are recovering one kilogram of mercury a month. One shop is capturing up to five kilograms per month.

YTS has just released a multi-media CD ROM that documents the mercury project. Copies are available to anyone who requests.

## New Venture with Coal Company

YTS has just begun a collaboration with Borneo Prima, a Surabaya-based coal exploration company working in the upper Barito River area in Central Kalimantan. We will help the company initiate a small community development program in villages close to their concession.

The company wishes to follow the same approach YTS is using in the upper Kahayan River, which employs a participatory planning methodology that links the village more closely with outside support services from government and other sectors. The first major activity will start in early July.

## Two Needy Dayak Students win Scholarships

YUM, an NGO based in Jakarta, has started a full scholarship program for talented students with financial difficulties. The scholarship covers all costs for schooling and living.

YTS provided inputs for selecting two of the five beneficiaries: Rillida Yuliwulanni, who wants to study nursing, and Benny A.K.Tanum, who is studying agricultural socio-economics at Palangka Raya University.

## Agenda for 3rd Quarter 2007

### July

- Participatory planning for Borneo Prima Coal in Murung Raya District
- Training for rubber and pig groups

### August

- Strengthening rubber, pig and chicken interest groups
- Initiation of community development program in East Kalimantan

### September

- Village assessment presentations to subdistricts
- Continuing participatory planning for Borneo Prima Coal