

December 2005

JBPI
Jaringan Bantuan dan
Pengembangan Indonesia

IRDN
Indonesia Relief and
Development Network

A member of Susila Dharma Indonesia

Students delighted by gift of bicycles

At this time of year - with the Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's upon us, it is often good to be reminded of the spontaneous and giving nature of people and of the delight and surprise that can result from such loving acts. It is with this in mind that the following story is highlighted on the front page. This charitable act is not a part of any regular IRDN project; rather, it is as if IRDN served as a witness and conduit for these spontaneous acts of kindness:

On a recent trip to Central Kalimantan, Bill and Micki Evslin, visiting from Hawaii, had the opportunity to visit several IRDN's projects with Mohammad Hafid, IRDN's project coordinator in Palangkaraya. During their tour of the social projects, the Evslin's became aware of a common dilemma for students: many of them must walk several kilometers every day to school and back home - up to 10 km a day - under the blistering sun or through drenching rains. The Evslin's were touched by the children's plight and donated US\$1,000 via Susila Dharma Indonesia - enough to purchase 12 bicycles for the children.

Melani, the IRDN secretary, wrote a thank you to the Evslin's, which included a report with photos and thank you's from the children themselves. As a result of this report, and the awareness that yet more children are in need, the Evslin's immediately sent more funds - this time enough to purchase 15 bicycles!

Maryam David, a resident of Pamulang, hearing the story, added more money - enough to buy 5 more bicycles. Thirty-two bicycles in all - and dearly appreciated by 32 children and their families.

*Happy holidays to all and may your New Year be blessed,
Marmitasari, IRDN Chair*



Mohammad Hafid, IRDN Project Coordinator, warms up the crowd with a speech before presenting the bicycles to the students



Mohammad Hafid, IRDN, and Gaye Thaivisin, of Kalimantan Meeting Center, present a bicycle to a happy student



A proud student gives instructions to Mustafa Syafrudin, of Rungan Sari, on how to ride her new bicycle

Photo, right: Students, in front of their school building, proudly display their new bicycles



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IRDN Projects – looking ahead to 2006

Women-to-Women (“WTW”) in Central Kalimantan

The WTW Program is a participatory social activity initiated and implemented by local women, aimed at improving their families' income through microcredit. IRDN facilitates the process by providing a micro-credit scheme managed by local women (WTW) organizations. The returned credit (from the member) is rolled over to other women. The project started in April 2002, with 20 members of Rural WTW and 20 members of Urban WTW. Today, total number of members is 60.

Budget for 2006: US\$6,000, if the number of WTW members is not significantly increased.

Funds pledged: Some funding still available. A proposal will be sent out once steps have been taken to train staff in the Grameen system, with a view to expanding the project.

Balance needed: none to maintain current levels, but **added funding would allow the program and number of beneficiaries to increase.**

As little as US\$70 will provide a woman in Central Kalimantan with the means to increase her family's monthly income by helping her to establish her own small enterprise, and to help enable IRDN to start to establish a registered cooperative for the future.

Donations can be sent to Susila Dharma International Association. For instructions, please go to: http://www.susiladharm.org/giving_now.html Credit card payments as well as bank transfers are accepted, and US tax receipts are available upon request.

Preschool in Teunom (Aceh)

As a result of the tsunami, the Teunom preschool, in a small village on the West coast of Aceh, was completely destroyed. Thanks to available funding it is presently being rebuilt.

Budget for 2006: US\$11,000

Funds pledged: sufficient funding available for this project from Subud Crestone

Balance needed: none

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you enjoy reading the IRDN Newsletter, why not tell your friends about it! Contact Ala Sulistyono at: alas@cbn.net.id to add your friends and family to our e-mailing list.

Malaria Control in Central Kalimantan

This project aims to improve current malaria conditions in 6 villages of Central Kalimantan (near Rungan Sari), where 60% of inhabitants suffer from malaria, through socialization of malaria control measures, test, diagnose and administer medication, teach villagers in the prevention and treatment of malaria. Started in April of this year as a pilot project, it has continued since.

Budget for 2006: US\$37,000 (*possibly more if we get BMZ funding and extend to more villages during the course of the year + introduce microcredit in those villages as recommended by the Ministry of Health*)

Funds pledged:

1. 3,900 Euros (US\$4,680) from SD Germany
2. £10,300 (US\$18,200) from the Jephcott Charitable Trust (U.K.) – confirmation pending
3. presently preparing a proposal for BMZ with SD Germany's assistance for 30-40,000 Euros (US\$36,000-48,800)/year for 3 years.

Balance needed: If items 2 and 3 above are confirmed, no additional funding required. If neither, will need US\$10,000 to continue at 2005 level (not including insecticide-treated bednets and indoor residual spraying).

TBC program in Cipanas

To assist the YUM Clinic in Cipanas, YUM's Supervisory Board members asked IRDN to help raise funding to run a TBC program there. In response, to IRDN's appeal, SD USA raised +US\$6,000. However, due to worsening problems at YUM, IRDN was not welcome to start this program before a change of Board and staff took place. Recently a survey was conducted and it became apparent that the clinic was beyond recovery and should be closed. This current project has now been cancelled. A study is currently being conducted into the better use of the land and buildings.

Budget for 2006: US\$9,000

Funds pledged: US\$6,000 from SD USA (approval has been given to now apply these funds to the Clean Water Project in Central Kalimantan)

Balance needed: project cancelled

Clean Water in Central Kalimantan

By community request, a previous successful project completed in 2002 is to be carried out in a new area. This project involves construction of water reservoirs, pipelines, and pumps to provide homes with good water in a specific area. Several communities in the region have requested this project which, until now, IRDN has not been able to accommodate. (*For more details on this project, see page 3*)

Budget for 2006: US\$7,000

Funds pledged: US\$6,000 from SD USA (originally earmarked for a TBC program in Cipanas)

Balance needed: US\$1,000

Clean Water – the continuation of a great project

In 2000, IRDN undertook to initiate the Clean Water project in association with Rungan Sari Permai and TSLiCK. Two ten-meter high water towers were constructed to serve a transmigration settlement in Sei Gohong, Central Kalimantan, providing clean water to 102 homes.

The purpose of this project was to improve the general health condition of the community through a clean water supply. This was accomplished through the construction of the water towers, educating the residents on personal and environmental hygiene, and by encouraging community leaders to support, promote, and maintain further development of clean water policies and lifestyles.

For a while, the management and maintenance of each clean water facility was carried out by an organization run by the local community. The local Primary Health Center personnel provided monthly health education on waterborne diseases, personal hygiene and environmental hygiene. In October 2004, the facilities were officially handed over to the stakeholders, under the auspices of the local village administration.

Technically, as well as financially, the construction of clean-water facilities was carried out under a joint cooperation of the following three parties:

- IRDN: program designer and providing capital (Rp. 30 million).
- Rungan Sari Permai: construction technicality, logistics and supplies, and providing capital (Rp. 30million)
- TSLiCK: socialization and advocacy, construction supervision and providing capital (Rp. 7 million)

IRDN received funding for this project from Susila Dharma Canada (Rp. 30 million).



Typical rain water collectors



Construction of one of the two towers built by IRDN in cooperation with Rungan Sari engineers

Proposed clean-water facility

A request from the local community and observations revealed that it is was necessary to build a similar clean-water facility in another transmigration site, namely, Kelurahan Habaring Hurung, a very isolated village but still within the working-area of IRDN.

Geographically, this village is quite remote and is mostly constituted of peat land. Not unlike other communities in transmigration villages in general, their social-economic level as well as health status are very low.

Fortunately, IRDN has trained many Posyandu (local primary health centre) cadres and community facilitators of this village when IRDN launched its Protema Distribution project in January 2004, paving the way for further involvement.

IRDN now plans to build a similar clean-water facility in either the Sei Gohong or Habaring Hurung transmigration village. Marmitasari, Chair of IRDN, and Olvia Reksodipoetro, IRDN Board of Counselors, are currently on their way to Kalimantan to assess priority needs.

Thanks go to Dr S Sinto, MPH, who provided the material for this article.

Rebuilding the Teunom Pre-school in Aceh

Thanks to funds received from Subud Crestone, the rebuilding of the Mekar Belia pre-school in Teunom, Aceh, has started. The Project Monitor, Bpk Rusdi, reports that already US\$2,000 (Rp 20 million) has been spent on the first three phases of the project which are now complete: preparation, ground-breaking, and foundation-laying. Ibu Lili, in charge of construction, reports that the pillars have already been erected. Unfortunately, the rainy season has just set in, so construction will continue as weather permits.

Marmitasari, IRDN Chair, will visit the project at the end of December 2005. There is no balance of funds remaining for the time-being, so Marmitasari ("Mita") will be bringing the second installment of funds for the construction to continue. Thanks to assistance from IBU4Aceh (Destrian, Riki, and Dr Ridwan), Mita will be able to use the UN flight facilities to reach Teunom instead of using roads which, at this time, can be very muddy and damaged by the rain. Mita will be meeting with Bpk Rusdi, Ibu Lili, and Ibu Rohana, the School Headmaster whose bank account is used to channel the funds.



IRDN gets new office in Central Kalimantan

IRDN has just moved into their newly rented premises in Bukit Batu, very close to the Sei Gohong and Tengkilang areas where most of IRDN's social activities are located. IRDN's previous office, shared with the TSLiCK Foundation, was located in Palangka Raya, and was quite far from where IRDN's social projects were located.

IRDN Palangka Raya Office:
Jl. Padat Karya RT. 7 RW. 11 No. 591
Kelurahan Banturung Kec. Bukit Batu
Palangka Raya



Mita, with a traditional Maduran fishing vessel 'good luck charm'
(photo by Hannah Baerveldt)

Meet Marmitasari

Marmitasari ("Mita") is the Chair of IRDN. Mita has an educational background in psychology, has lectured for several years at the University of Indonesia, and has had clinical work as a psychologist. She recently completed her Master's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at the University of Indonesia. In addition to these impressive achievements, she has had extensive experience in traveling and working with various social and humanitarian projects around the world, as a result of her husband's diplomatic postings in places like Norway, Brunei, Thailand, and Papua New Guinea.

Mita first started working with IRDN three years ago after returning from Bangkok where her husband, Marsudi, was posted. She met with Olivia Reksodipoetro, heard about IRDN, and was willing to become involved. Mita firmly believes in practical, hands-on participation by the people at the local level in the social projects initiated and supported by IRDN. This ensures sustainability for the projects, even after IRDN has completed and relinquished their part. Mita also supports the social development aspect of charitable work, as opposed to the industrialization aspects, and prefers to begin with "PRA" - Participation Rural Appraisals - where needs are assessed first and there is a social mapping of the situation before any project implementation.

Mita is the mother of three, and proud grandmother of her first granddaughter.

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