

# K a b a r I t a h



Edition 13: January-March 2007

## Editorial

From time to time I find it necessary to remind the field staff about what we are actually attempting to accomplish, because sometimes that is not directly reflected in the activity they are involved with.

A few days ago we had a discussion about how best to organize a nursery for rubber seedlings in one village. The villagers proposed to give each person their own small plot within a larger plot that had been specially set aside for the nursery. Altogether about 42 people would be involved in this particular village.

On the surface this appears to be a logical arrangement, as each person is responsible for raising their own seedlings. However, given that our overall objective is to foster the strengthening of local governance - in other words to facilitate and support the strengthening of how the community functions working together as a community - then it would make more sense to find a way to collectively manage the nursery plot, and not divide it up into individual plots.

This would mean finding a few people in the group who would be willing and able to invest the time in tending all of the seedlings. They would have to be available every day, especial in the early weeks, because it is a sensitive time in the seedlings' development.

By giving over trust and responsibility to others, the larger group would strengthen as a group, and hopefully the effect of this would eventually ripple through the community, demonstrating the value of collective action.

This is a small example, but it illustrates well how easy it is to forget the wider objective when engaging with the community, and how good opportunities can be lost if the institutional setting is not organised correctly.

**Bardolf Paul**  
Director

## Comments on the *Musrenbang* Process



Government officials and village representatives discuss 2008 planning options for economic development in Gunung Mas District

This is the second full season that YTS has engaged with the *Musrenbang* process, the annual government-sponsored development planning process that extends from Village to Subdistrict to District to Province over a three month period, starting every January.

It is highly instructive to participate in the entire process, because it very clearly shows how difficult it is to achieve the main aim of the *Musrenbang*, which is to make sure that planning is informed with the needs and aspirations of the community. In reality, community inputs are seldom well-represented, and when they are, they are very quickly lost in the process, as government needs and interests take over the agenda.

The process is bedeviled by some very basic shortcomings:

First, the overall grasp of what is needed to make the process fully functional is missing. The very first step, participatory planning at village

level, just doesn't happen without substantial support and oversight. This is something YTS is very familiar with, as a large part of its work is focused on community development planning. The planning process requires a lot of facilitation and other support to make sure it happens properly, especially in the beginning because everyone is learning.

If the first step doesn't happen properly, how is it possible for the subsequent steps to function, because they are supposed to be dependent on inputs from participatory village planning? Therefore from a content perspective, the process is flawed from the beginning, and hence what happens in reality is that those who take part, mainly government officials, dictate the content of the planning, which is far from reflective of the needs and aspirations of villagers.

In order to improve the *Musrenbang* process, and make it adhere to its primary objective, several changes are required:

## Kabar Itah

Kabar Itah is the quarterly newsletter of Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS), an affiliation of Kalimantan Surya Kencana (KSK), a mineral exploration company.

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

- Provide information to villagers well before the process starts on the government services, programs, priorities, and indicative budgets.
- Provide technical and financial support for a meaningful participatory planning process in every village, and allow sufficient time for it .
- Establish a viable mechanism that compiles and consolidates data from each village for each stage in the *Musrenbang*, so that nothing is lost in the process
- Design and facilitate a review and consolidation process for each stage in the

- *Musrenbang* process that provides for all representative voices to be heard, so a balanced consensus can be achieved.
- Provide resources and a mechanism for selecting village representatives to attend all stages in the *Musrenbang* process
- Set a realistic timetable for the entire process, with fixed times for each event at each stage in the process, and circulate well in advance

If these items can be addressed properly, the *Musrenbang* would fulfill its promise of equitable bottom-up planning.



Drilling for copper in the KSK exploration area

## Pitching the Mining Community in Jakarta

In Jakarta at the end of January, we presented our strategy and approach for community development at an Australian mining conference called Austrade 2007. YTS attended this event together with directors from our parent company, Kalimantan Gold Corporation, and representatives from Oxiana Limited, our new joint venture partner.

The topic of our presentation was: *“The Key to Sustainable Development: Solutions from the Jungles of Kalimantan”*, and we made the following suggestions:

- That the mining companies in Indonesia establish an effective mechanism to pool resources and share results for finding solutions on common issues.
- Mining companies in Indonesia should collectively support the *Musrenbang* planning process as it is potentially the most effective mechanism for fostering sustainable local development in Indonesia.
- Focus non-mineral investment in capacity development for good governance linked to the *Musrenbang*, especially with local government, as this is where one of the greatest needs is, because it is critically important to have smoothly functioning government services and legislation.

Basically, these three points underline our focus on collective action, working with the government bottom-up planning mechanism, concentrating on capacity development for good governance.

## Meeting with the Governor

On 17 March YTS joined a presentation by KSK’s Mansur Geiger to the Governor of the province, Teras Narang. The presentation was designed to provide a clear picture of current exploration and community development programs, and to give explanations on the reality and potential impact of a world class copper mine.

The session was very interactive: the Governor responded very positively to the material and asked many questions about the potential mine and issues of economic development at community and regional levels.

One of the prime issues facing KSK is the difficulty in getting a forestry permit. The Governor assured us that he would take care of such difficulties himself, as he is keen to see the economy of the province develop more rapidly, and he could see how important mineral development was to achieving that.

## Social Mapping Support for YUM

In February and March, Yayasan Usaha Mulia, a Jakarta-based development agency initiated a participatory social mapping process in six villages close to Tengkilung, 35 km west of Palangka Raya. The objective was to obtain baseline data on each community, particularly details on education, health and livelihoods. Former staff member Ros Siana led the process together with YUM local staff, and YTS provided advice on the design and execution. A particular challenge was the large number of households – up to 900 in some cases.

## World Subud Association Visits

In early February, the World Subud Association’s chair Osanna Vaughn and vice chair Frederic Richard visited PT KSK and YTS in Palangka Raya for a briefing on the activities of the exploration team and the community development group. This visit was part of a review of all activities currently taking place in Kalimantan in order to get a better understanding of the overall state of development.

## More and More Villagers take up Rubber Production

Rubber cultivation is very familiar to the Dayak people. For generations they have been growing and tapping rubber trees in the forests surrounding their communities as a means of generating extra cash income.

In the past few years the government of Central Kalimantan has been paying more attention to improving the quality and quantity of rubber production in the province, and has instigated programs to provide free hybrid rubber seedlings to villagers, as part of a national movement for reforestation. YTS has been instrumental in helping villagers gain access to these seedlings.

Although rubber production has been rising, there has been no effort to introduce improved cultivation technologies and practices. Without these the possibility for productivity gains is limited. Therefore, there should also be programs aimed at helping villagers improve their skills and knowledge on rubber production, in order to contribute to higher volume and better quality yields.

One suggestion is to establish locally a technology research and development centre for rubber and other commodities that could provide appropriate technical support to rubber producers in the

province. This establishment could partner to share knowledge and experience with other similar institutes, such as the World Agroforestry Center in Bogor.

One of the philosophies of this centre and the government should be to support local economic empowerment, starting first with improving the existing livelihood activities that people are most familiar with. Local rubber production could easily be improved with the introduction of appropriate management and professional practices through a program that runs over an extended period of time, and is not just a short term or one-off effort. This same approach could be applied to other local livelihood activities, such as livestock or crop production.

Current government programs focus on providing limited quantities of free or soft loans for seedlings, piglets or other material inputs. These programs have very limited impacts, benefiting only a few and creating a situation of dependency. It would be far more effective to 'empower' local communities by increasing their capacity to improve their production activities. The government could provide programs of continuous hands-on technical support to local producers that would cover all stages of production and post-production, including marketing.



Local woman tapping rubber in Takaai Village

Circumstances can vary widely from place to place, even from village to village, and these differences have to be recognised and well understood by those designing, planning, and overseeing any technical assistance programs. There are many examples of waste and failure when this is not taken into account.

In 2007, YTS will continue to test a pilot program of technical support for rubber growers that follows the above principles. One new initiative is establishing village nurseries for propagating rubber seedlings. This activity will be guided and assisted by Fried Bandjang, our local rubber expert.

## Five More Villages join the YTS Network



Villagers create a village map during a participatory planning process in Takaai Village

In the beginning of this year, YTS invited five new villages to join our network, bringing the total to 17 villages that we actively support. The new villages are Tumbang Tajungan and Tumbang Takaai on the Hamputung River, and Tumbang Siruk, Penda Rangas, and Tumbang Sian on the Miri River.

Before a new village joins the network, the villagers are informed about how YTS works and what obligations and benefits there are in joining. The entire village has to understand and accept this, before we sign an agreement to work together.

The two main areas of support are (1) to help each village make an annual village development plan and present this to the government through the annual *Musrenbang* planning mechanism, and (2) to provide technical support for economic development via a self-managed village development fund.

The village development plan is central to everything else, so YTS makes a substantial investment to ensure that it is done well and represents the local reality, especially the needs and aspirations of every individual in the community.

With a well-developed plan, the village has a clear sense of what realistically they can do to improve local conditions and livelihoods, and the plan can be used to get outside support from government or non-governmental agencies, such as YTS.

In the new villages the planning process has gone fairly well, although due to overlapping with rice harvesting, the level of participation was lower than expected. The variation between villages is always interesting. Even though they are culturally homogeneous, belonging to the Dayak Ot Danum ethnic group, there can be significant differences in social and institutional dynamics, as well as in social and economic welfare, despite having similar livelihood activities.

Some communities have good leadership and a strong level of social cohesion, while others may suffer from internal conflicts and division. There can also be differences in access to good quality land and other natural resources, as well as economic resources such as gold. These differences have to be well understood and adapted to when providing support for community development.

## Final Workshop Wraps Up Global Mercury Project



Budi Susilorini from UNIDO with District Head Duwel Rawing during Final Workshop

### Final Workshop

The UNIDO Global Mercury Project officially closed March 15th. Prior to that a Final Workshop took place in the district capital of Kasongan. The project presented key findings, results and highlights to staff from district Mining, Environment, Health and Education departments. The workshop was opened by the District Head, Duwel Rawing, and altogether 50 people attended, including UNIDO's Country Coordinator, Rini Sulaiman, and Assistant to the Country Focal Point, Budi Susilorini. The local community was well represented, and 2 executives from Kalimantan Gold Corporation took part, Mansur Geiger and Murray Clapham.

The highlight of the workshop, after discussions in working groups was the commitment from the four major district departments to carry on various aspects of the project. Already the province has committed up to US\$45 thousand to address environmental issues created by artisanal miners.

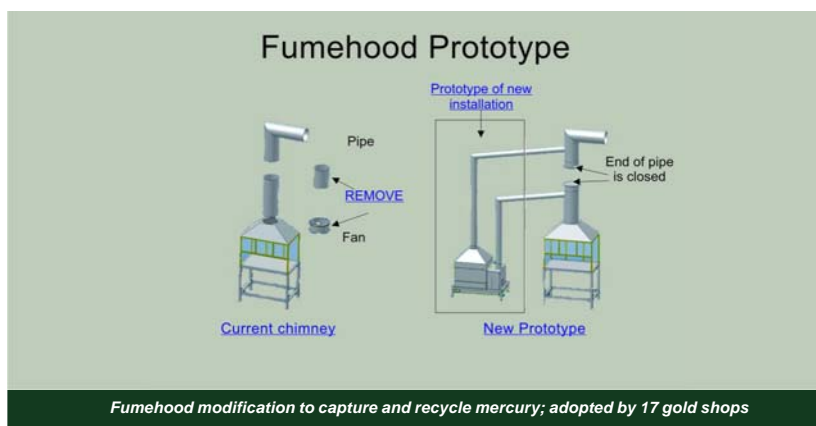
YTS will be distributing a multi-media CD-ROM that documents project activities and results. Copies are available on request from the YTS office.

### Policy Workshop

The UNIDO policy advisor, Darmae Nasir, conducted a one-day Policy Workshop March 30th with participants from the Katingan District government, YTS staff, and others involved in the gold trade from the project area.

The focus of discussions was a draft set of policy guidelines aimed at controlling the distribution and handling of elemental mercury in order to minimize human health and environmental impacts. One guideline specifies the use of fumehoods and retorts to capture mercury vapour during the burning of gold-mercury amalgam by miners and gold shops.

A full report on the policy findings and recommendations will be included in the project documentation package.



Fumehood modification to capture and recycle mercury; adopted by 17 gold shops

## Revising the Spatial Plan for Central Kalimantan

The new provincial spatial plan will provide a long term framework for land use zoning and development over the next 15 years. One of the main concerns is sustainable land use, balancing economic exploitation of natural resources with protection and conservation of rare, sensitive, and valuable habitats.

The spatial plan, therefore, is a strategically important document that needs to be carefully reviewed by a wide range of concerned and interested parties, especially communities and those working at the grass roots, and those from the private business sector who are working with natural resources such as forests and minerals.

On February 21st in Palangka Raya, the government conducted a half-day public consultation on the proposed spatial plan. The main audience consisted of government officials from five districts, with some non-governmental and private sector organizations also taking part.

The event was not well-organised: the time was far too short, and insufficient information was provided beforehand. This severely limited the opportunity for meaningful feedback, commentary, and discussion.

The spatial plan that was presented contained elements that appeared to be completely arbitrary, with no rationale basis for their designation. One of these was the boundary in some cases for protected forests, which was delineated as a series of straight lines. Forest boundaries never follow straight lines, so seeing this raises questions about the whole basis for the plan.

If the spatial planning mechanism is to be meaningful, there must be a much more open and less time-bound arrangement. Inputs are needed from a much wider array of stakeholders - from villagers in remote areas to those living in urban centres. Much more time, information, and much better facilitation is needed to ensure this will happen.

### Agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

#### April

- Participatory Rural Appraisal in 3 villages: Tumbang Sian, Siruk, Penda Rangas
- Training for rubber and pig Interest Groups

#### May

- Village Management Group training
- Present planning outputs to Subdistrict

#### June

- Strengthen rubber and pig Interest Groups