

# K a b a r I t a h



Edition 9: January-March 2006

## Editorial

As noted elsewhere in this issue, we are rapidly approaching the closing act in the *Musrenbang* cycle in 2006. The final, national event is just underway as I write, and we have engaged actively in each step of the process in Central Kalimantan – at village, subdistrict, district and province. This provides us with a singularly unique perspective, as no one else that we are aware of has experienced each of these steps.

For us it has been a huge learning because it was the first time we followed the entire process. One of our main concerns is to ensure that the plans put forward from all of our villages are properly incorporated in the government planning mechanism. Much more work is needed to ensure that this does indeed happen.

It is instructive to note how the degree of freedom and possibility for villagers diminishes with each step up the *Musrenbang* ladder. The last key moment for direct community involvement has to be the District event, where there still is some room for individual voices to be heard and incorporated in the planning.

In order to short cut the year long wait for benefits to flow from the *Musrenbang*, YTS is providing a small fund to each village that they can use to act upon issues and needs raised during village planning. In learning how to make good use of these funds, villagers will strengthen their strategic thinking and management capacity. In turn, they also will become much more confident and proactive in their dealings with local government.

In the follow up to this year's round of *Musrenbang*, we intend to become much savvier about how government planning and budgeting systems work, to ensure that inputs from the village find their appropriate place and are acted upon.

**Bardolf Paul**

## Second Year of *Musrenbang* Bottom-up Planning Process



The Heads of Industrial and Trade, and Forestry Services discuss their program in the economic working group at the Gunung Mas District *Musrenbang*, Kuala Kurun, 4 April 2006

Coincidentally with YTS initiating participatory village planning, the Indonesian government in 2004 launched a bottom-up planning process called *Musrenbang*, which is the means for channeling Village Development Plans into the government system. The *Musrenbang* process starts in January with village level planning. This is followed by planning events at subdistrict in February, at District and Province in March, and at National level in April. This year YTS was active in all four levels of events in the province.

The key for a meaningful planning process and result is the quality of information that arises from the village-based planning. Village development plans provide data inputs to government that enables them to plan and design services and programs that will assist villages in improving social and economic conditions. Without these inputs, government planning and service delivery is based largely on guesswork, which is currently the case for most of the province.

Another problem that arises from government planning is the tendency to prescribe uniform blanket solutions. Such programs are much easier for government to implement and manage. However, because conditions vary from village to village, fixed government programs are very often unsuccessful in many localities. This problem is expected to be overcome once government starts incorporating inputs from villages that use participatory methods in their planning. The results from these processes provide an accurate picture of local conditions.

## Kabar Itah

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

### Table of Contents

Edition 9, January-March 2006

Editorial.....	1
Second Year of Musrenbang Bottom-up Planning Process.....	1
YTS creates a Village a Village Development Fund .....	2
Continuing the Regional Development Initiative .....	3
LIPI Expert review Clean Water Supply Systems.....	3
UNIDO Workshop Demonstrates the Danger of Mercury Exposure.....	4
Mining Asosiation forming in Kalteng .....	4
2nd Quarter Agenda 2006.....	4

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



The Head of Central Kalimantan Provincial Public Works answers some questions from participants in the infrastructure group at the provincial Musrenbang



The Head of Agriculture Services in Gunung Mas District, Ir. Mandarana, is discussing some issues to do with his programs for the Musrenbang

Immediately preceding each *Musrenbang* event, a forum is held that looks at three areas infrastructure, economic activities, and socio-cultural affairs. Representatives from government, the private sector, and civil society, including villagers and NGOs, discuss priorities for funding in each of the three areas.

At district level the discussion is most important because this is where decisions are made on what gets included in the annual plans and budgets. Thus, it is one of the last opportunities for villagers to influence planning and budgeting before they are locked in.

The *Musrenbang* is still in its infancy, so everyone is learning how to make the process work well. This year marks the first full engagement by YTS and we intend to apply the lessons learned to make the inputs from villages much more effective when the process starts again next January.

## YTS Creates a Village Development Fund

As an integral part of strengthening the capacity of local communities, YTS has created a Village Development Fund to support implementation of the Village Development Plan. Each village, after developing their plan, will be allocated up to Rp10 million, which can be used to hire in external technical expertise to assist villagers improve their livelihood activities.

In order to qualify for the funding, the village has to form technical Interest Groups of about 10-12 people, each of which focuses on one technology, such as rice, rubber, or livestock. Each group will develop a plan together with the technical expert, which can then be funded from the Village Development Fund. A minimum of 75% of the fund must be used for technical inputs to help improve the skills and expertise of the group members. A maximum of 15% can be used for material inputs such as seeds or seedlings. 10% maximum can be used to cover administrative and management expenses.

Before accessing the fund the village has to fulfill these requirements:

1. Conduct a Participatory Rural Appraisal (macro level planning)
2. Produce an annual Village Development Plan that integrates the rural appraisal plan with individual household plans (micro level planning)
3. Form a three person Village Management Group to facilitate planning and manage implementation of the annual plan, including contracting technical expertise
4. Form technical Interest Groups based on priorities in the annual plan

5. Each Interest Group creates a technical support plan and budget for one year
6. Keep accurate records of activities and fund expenditures
7. Monitor, evaluate, and report on implementation activities

Funds will be released regularly according to need and after timely reporting on prior expenditures. YTS will provide training to the Village Management Group on basic management skills for accounting, reporting, coordination, and facilitation, and will provide ongoing coaching and support until the group is fully capable of managing on their own.

In March, USC SatuNama - an NGO from Yogyakarta - conducted Training of Trainers for YTS staff. The key topics were group formation, planning, management, and evaluation. Fajar Sudarwo was the trainer, and in April YTS staff began training Village Management Groups in 12 villages.

One of the main concerns is to form the technical Interest Groups as soon as possible, because funds will not flow until these groups are formed. This type of group is a new concept, so a lot has to be learned in how to form and get these groups to function. With YTS support, this will be one of the main responsibilities of the management group. And with most support from YTS directed towards capacity development rather than providing material inputs, it will take some extra effort initially to mobilize and motivate the group members. YTS is also working on mobilizing material inputs from other sources, such as government and donor programs.

## Continuing the Regional Development Initiative

At the end of January 2006, KSK and YTS organised a meeting between the provincial Planning Board and the Center for Local Governance & Innovation (CLGI), one of our NGO partners that provides capacity building for regional development. The meeting was an opportunity to share experiences and to move forward the initiative on regional development. The Head of Planning, Syahrin Daulay, suggested convening an informal coffee session for interested parties to come and raise common issues in a non-formal setting.

Alit Merthayasa, currently Executive Director of CLGI, has worked in 27 districts and cities throughout Indonesia. He pointed out the differences between regions whose economies were based on mining or agriculture. Regions dependent on non-renewable resources, have to plan well in advance for industry closure in order to build up other economic activities that will continue after closure. Government must balance its investment between infrastructure and strengthening the capacity of communities.

## LIPI Experts review Clean Water Supply Systems

In early March, Pak Sudirman and Pak Dadang from the national research body, LIPI, made a critical review of four clean water supply systems that utilize hydraulic ram pumps - "hydram" provided by YTS. None of the systems was working, and the LIPI team looked at alternative sites, in case they provided better conditions. They were accompanied by two staff from Gunung Mas district, Helbong from Planning and Sidan from Health and Community Empowerment.



Pak Sudirman, The hydram expert, from Indonesian National Research (LIPI)-Subang

The hydram is a low-cost, low-maintenance, mechanical water pump. It therefore is very well suited for remote, rural areas. Under the right conditions, it can raise water ten times higher. A one metre drop will be translated into a 10 metre rise. The main requirement is a constant, year round water source. The minimum flow rate is 5 litres per second, and minimum slope is 15%.

The LIPI experts found only one site suitable for the technology – the one in Napoi Village. All other sites had insufficient water flow, except a site in Anoi Village that had plenty of flow, but was quite far removed from the village. The District was asked to make a small survey to determine the cost-benefit of this location, but they lack the basic equipment.

There are other technology alternatives for clean water supply, including rainfall harvesting, filtration systems, and installing wells and hand pumps. A ground water survey would identify potential locations for the location of bore wells.

In the District office in Kuala Kurun, Sudirman and Dadang presented their findings to about 30 officials and staff. The Second Assistant to the District Secretary, led the discussion, assisted by the Infrastructure Head in the Planning section. They also presented other LIPI services, such as micro-hydro technology and food processing. LIPI has their own budget and would like to collaborate with the District on technology development and dissemination. They suggested signing an MOU together.

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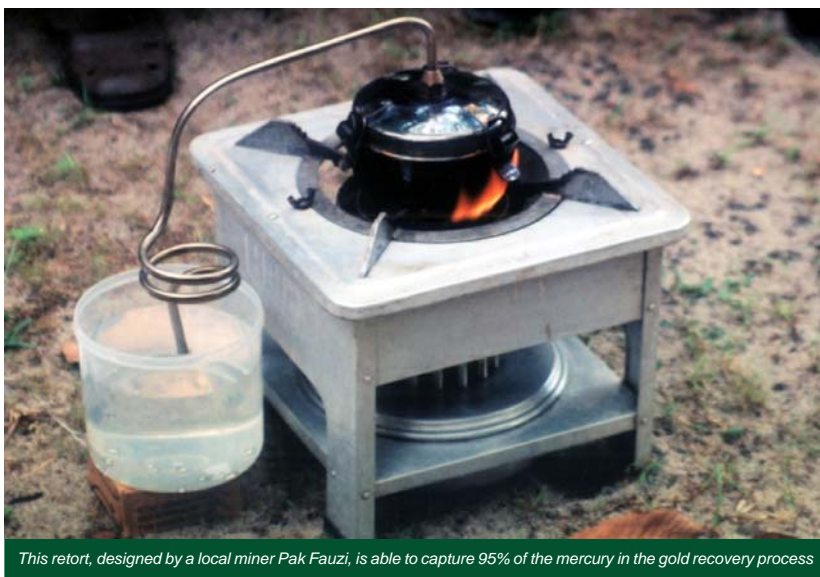
Villagers from Tumbang Anoi and YTS staff discuss details about the inoperative hydram pump instalation in Anoi with Pak Sudirman, technical expert

## UNIDO Workshop Demonstrates the Dangers of Mercury Exposure

In February, UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, held a three-day training-of-trainers workshop in Rungan Sari, close to Palangka Raya. The theme was "Alternative Technology", and the objective was to prepare local facilitators to implement a public awareness campaign on the hazards of improper handling and use of mercury in artisanal gold mining. Participants were shown what hazards to be aware of and how to minimize and mitigate the impact of mercury use through improved equipment and practices.

Duwel Rawing, the District Head from Katingan, where the campaign will be launched, opened the event and stated his strong support. He looked forward to UNIDO implementing the program in his district so miners and the rest of the community would be more aware of the dangers and better prepared to reduce the threats from misuse of mercury.

The 41 participants included government staff from district mining, health, environment and education departments; NGOs; and villagers from the affected area. A four-person Global Mercury Project team led the training sessions, with support from Coal and Mineral technology research Center, and Lead Information Center



*This retort, designed by a local miner Pak Fauzi, is able to capture 95% of the mercury in the gold recovery process*

On the first day a local person, Mr. Fauzi, demonstrated the retort he had developed to capture mercury vapour during the gold recovery process. His retort is able to capture 95% of the mercury. At room temperature mercury is in a liquid state. It easily bonds with gold creating a solid amalgam. By heating the amalgam, the mercury evaporates and the gold separates. Gaseous mercury is invisible and has no smell. In this form it is most dangerous, and easily adheres to any solid surface – skin, clothing, walls, and furniture. Breathing the vapour can be deadly, and long term exposure permanently damages the nervous system.

The participants split into two groups, according to their background and interest – a technical group and a health group. The technical group looked at mercury use and exposure in the mining site – Galangan, and in the nearby town - Kereng Pangsi. In Galangan they were able to observe first hand the mining and amalgamation processes. In Kareng Pangsi they visited gold shops and saw the amalgam burning, gold recovery process. The health group focused on how mercury can affect human health, and what can be done to prevent and detect mercury poisoning. By the end of the training, all of the participants had a much greater awareness of the dangers of mercury, and what measures could be taken to avoid or reduce exposure.

## Mining Association forming in Kalteng

As a follow up to the Governor's mining sector workshop last November, the provincial Mining Department and Planning Department hosted a two day meeting in January for all companies in the mining sector. The focus of the meeting was on three items – establishing a provincial mining association, guidelines for community development practices, and plans for a railway to transport coal.

There was active discussion on all three topics. A small group was appointed to continue work on forming the mining association. This was after much discussion about whether or not to have two associations, one for coal and the other for minerals; and if the provincial association should be a branch of the national association. It is hoped that the association will form a useful bridge between government, industry, and communities directly affected by mining. The association would also serve as a much needed information exchange and experience sharing between companies.

In the community development session, some saw community development as a mechanism for ensuring smooth company operations, while others felt company-sponsored community development should support existing government programs. Moreover, the government recommended that the investment in community development be spread more widely, with only 50% for the area directly affected by mining, 30% for the district, and 20% for the province.

From the discussions, it was clear that the present level of understanding about community development is very low, reflecting a lack of real hands-on experience. The emphasis was exclusively on infrastructure, with no mention of community empowerment and capacity-development. At the end of the session, the participants suggested convening a workshop focused solely on community development approaches, methods, and issues. The workshop could help generate a common understanding among all stakeholders – government, companies, NGOs, and local people – about each of their roles and responsibilities for sustainable community development. Community development should not be viewed as solely the responsibility of the mining company, but should be a shared and collaborative set of responsibilities between all concerned parties.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Agenda 2006

**Village Management Group Training.** YTS will give training VMG to manage Village Development Fund, April-June

**Technical Support.** Field visit of rubber, pig, and paddy to Interest Groups at villages, June 2006

**Presentation to Gunung Mas District.** YTS will be delivery presentation about Community Development approach to Gunung Mas District, May 2006