



**Susila Dharma
Indonesia**

E-News

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Message from editor

Welcome to Susila Dharma Indonesia's new look newsletter. It has been an exciting few months for us and we're thrilled to be sharing all our good news with you, our many loyal supporters.

Firstly, a big welcome to our new Executive Officer – Prasetya Subekti. I'm so happy to have Pak Pras on board to lead our Jakarta office staff. He brings a wealth of experience to his role with us and we're really excited about his vision for SDI. Many of you may already know of Pak Pras through his work as Executive Director of YUM. He has also worked in a number of other fields,

including roles as a journalist and editor for The Jakarta Post, Project Manager of Aussie - based mining company PT Maxidrill Indonesia, and Officer of USC Canada. Pak Pras started with SDI in May and has already re-energised the office with his enthusiasm. We look forward to him doing the same with all our work across Indonesia. Welcome Pras and good luck in your new role!

As you may be aware, SDI has moved offices – we're still located in Wisma Subud, Cilandak and we're now sharing office space with JakArt, an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the arts in Indonesia. We have also welcomed Australian volunteer Alison Martin to our team. Alison will work with Titin on SDI's communications, marketing and fundraising.

Our other exciting news is that SDI has a new website - visit us at www.susiladharm.or.id. There, you can read our vision and mission, learn more about our partners and projects and stay up to date with all our latest news.

As you may know, SDI is an umbrella organization for several social organizations. Please read on to get updates on our members' activity. This edition's spotlight project is the Susila Bhakti Cooperative, a successful cooperative project based in Blitar and Wlingi, East Java. SDI has supported Susila Bhakti in the past and would like to support the expansion of an existing successful program. We're appealing for funds to support this so please read on to find out more.

Enjoy reading!

*Ariana Susanti
Chairperson*

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Koperasi Susila Bhakti - Hope for East Java Youth

Hope for a happy and healthy future is something most of us take for granted. For many young people in Wlingi and Blitar, East Java, life is a daily struggle – many live on the streets or work as under-age prostitutes, and a large number also have drug addictions. For these young people, the idea of a happy and healthy future is too abstract to hope for.

SDI partner Koperasi Susila Bhakti (KSB), based in East Java, is working to provide hope for these troubled young people. It has been running successful community development programs in the region since 2006.

The Susila Bhakti Cooperative was founded on 25 June 2006 by Subud members Edi Mulyo Suprpto and Sri Mistyowati at Wlingi, East Java, Indonesia. The cooperative was granted US\$1,000 from SDIA in December 2006 and has since grown significantly.

The Cooperative has created a foundation - Perlindungan Anak dan Remaja (PELAR) - meaning Protection of Children and Young People. PELAR was established as a training institution for street children, under-aged prostitutes, teenagers struggling with drug addiction and other troubled young people. To date, the foundation has trained 125 young people in various skills such as carpentry, brick-laying, cattle breeding and snack production techniques.



The cooperative has also established two subsidiary organizations: CV Samma Group in Garum, and CV Sugesti Raja Jaya in Blitar - both located in East Java. CV Samma Group and CV Sugesti Raka both serve as construction contractors and employ the young people who have been trained at PELAR – thereby giving them the opportunity to gain valuable working skills and experience while earning money. These two organizations have proved to be extremely successful and have completed a number of worthy projects such as the construction of school buildings and an elderly home (recognized as the Best Elderly House Compound in Indonesia). These companies also supplied the furniture for those buildings - again, the furniture workshop employs young people who have been trained at PELAR.



Susila Bhakti Cooperative also runs a micro-credit program in the local region and has helped hundreds of beneficiaries to begin their own businesses. Beneficiaries have used loans to start a wide range of small businesses for example as food vendors, making and selling banana and cassava chips, producing herbal medicines, cultivating and selling vegetables and more.

The Cooperative currently needs an injection of funds in order to support its success and subsequent rapid expansion. It has received a number of job orders from government and private institutions however it currently doesn't have enough funds to undertake the projects or to service the number of people requiring micro-credit loans. With your help, the cooperative will be able to increase the number of beneficiaries it helps – and will continue to provide hope to those who have never dreamt of the possibility of a bright future.

Cipanas Children's Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM)



The Children's Village, a home for destitute children, is one of YUM's longest running projects. For over 30 years now, it has been home to hundreds of children, providing them with assistance and guidance in self development. To ensure its continual success in providing children and families with opportunities to improve their lives, YUM is currently developing a long term plan. This plan is

intended to help both the children and their families.

A plan of action has been identified by YUM to convert the Children's Village from a home for destitute children into a Community Development Centre (CDC) that assists families. The CDC will provide opportunities for families, mothers and youths to develop and strengthen their skills that will enable them to later provide for their families.

This plan was identified in recognition of recent research from leading development bodies such as UNICEF and 'Save the Children' that showed that where appropriate children should be raised among family rather than in institutions. The strong bond of family remains a key factor in the child's emotional development. In addition to this, YUM has also recognized that the costs of running the Children's Village have proven unsustainable, especially now with the current economic crisis.

YUM's decision to re-direct the Children's Village goal also draws upon current best practices in child protection. Multiple studies suggest that children should only be placed in an orphanage environment as a last resort. Poor families should be supported to be able to care for their own children themselves.

By 2013, the Children's Village will be converted into a Community Development Centre, where YUM plans to provide educational and empowering activities such as sewing workshops, computer classes, cooking classes, mechanical workshops, micro-credit projects for women, and day care and after school programs for children. The conversion will start with a gradual phase out of children living at the Village. The remaining children, aged 12-18 will be kept at the Village until they graduate high school or undertake university studies.

Free General Check Up For Sponsorship Beneficiaries

YUM initiated its first Biannual General Check Up program in June 2009. As part of YUM's Sponsorship program, this additional service is designed in cooperation with Yayasan Balita Sehat (YBS) to offers beneficiaries medical check-ups, free consultative advice on the health of the child and the availability of affordable multi vitamins.

In February 2009, YUM has provided up to 30 children with birth certificates, and are currently preparing 10 more for its

newly sponsored children in Cipanas. Many of these sponsored children lack a birth certificate, which meant continued hardship for the child throughout their life – as government institutions and programs, including schools, require a birth certificate to participate.

Activities that are educating in nature are also implemented as part of the program. Bimonthly meetings for parents are conducted and made compulsory. Parents/guardians are educated and made aware of issues related to child care and child welfare.



A medical staff checks up the teeth condition of a kid of Children Village, Cipanas

Yes, this program is very important! It's necessary that families, mothers especially, are made aware of the importance of basic health care early on so that they are able to better monitor their children's development.

Dr. Elsa, Health Educator. Yayasan Balita Sehat (YBS)

Alhamdulillah, we feel very much helped with this program. The illuminating sessions that we receive, in my opinion, are very useful and educational. I have always noted down the sessions and then discussed them together with my husband and children. We have changed as a family! We have started to leave all our old habits of buying unhealthy food outside, as we now know that they are very unhealthy for us, especially for my children.

Ibu Tri



Reducing Mercury Emissions & Engaging the Community

YTS update from Kalimantan



Towering mountains, dark ancient forests and raging mighty rivers - Kalimantan is rightly respected as a province of unique environmental importance. Its ecosystem supports a fascinating and varied plethora of plant and animal life, from the crocodiles and macaques of the mangrove swamps, to the gibbons, giant butterflies, clouded leopards and orangutans of the jungle. Unfortunately Kalimantan's rich biodiversity is constantly under threat due to the logging and mining industries.

SDI partner Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS) is working to protect Kalimantan's unique environment, particularly through reducing mercury emissions from small-scale mining. YTS has been running successful programs on the upper Barito River at Mt Muro, and in three towns on the upper Kahayan River. The program promotes the use of retorts, containers in which mercury can be burned, recovered and recycled. The use of retorts saves small scale miners money while also preventing pollution.

YTS is currently improving the capability of the retorts it distributes in the region – the retorts can currently hold 1kg of mercury amalgam, however YTS is developing retorts capable of burning 10 to 20 kg of mercury at a time. Each retort that YTS distributes will play its part in preventing mercury from being released into the atmosphere, soils and rivers of Central Kalimantan.

YTS is also collaborating with mining companies to represent the interests of the local people and environment. In June 2009 YTS consulted Strait Resources, and Australian-based company preparing to mine a coal deposit close to Dayak communities in the Berau district in East Kalimantan. YTS worked with Strait Resources' community development team to start participatory planning activities that will identify the needs and priorities for development in each community, and the types of support that government and the company can provide.

Commemoration of Bapak

In commemoration of the birthday of Bapak Subuh, Subud Indonesia National Committee organized several activities. On Sunday June 7, 2009 there was a bazaar in parking area of Wisma Subud Hall. SDI joined and promoted its social activities. Then SDI participated in a mass circumcision on 13 June 2009. The event was held in Cipanas. SDI board members helped in the organization of the event and SDI helped in the selection of children from Sukamulya and Bogor, West Java.

SDI would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this event: Dr Sri Durjati Boediharjo, a Subud member and USAID consultant; Subud group Bogor and Subud Indonesia National Committee.

Beside mass circumcision, SDI also joined an exhibition (Cilandak Festival), which conducted in Wisma Subud hall (June 20-21, 2009). In this event, SDI shared booth with YUM. Located in the corner, many people, mostly from different Subud groups in Indonesia, visited and shared stories with SDI team. Members from Cooperative Susila Bhakti came in this event and we had time to discuss in SDI's office.





Staff Profile –Yunika

“It’s so exciting to see the enthusiasm and hard work of our beneficiaries. I have a wonderful job working with SDI and I love being able to get to know people within my community. And I have a great group of friends - life is good!”

- Yunika (Yuni Kurniyatiningsih)
Project Manager, SDI Micro Credit Programs, Jogjakarta and Pangandaran

Every month we profile someone who is involved with SDI and this month we’re talking to Yunika, one of our Project Managers. She talks family, friends, work and life with Titin Suwartini.

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I was born in Jogjakarta and am the youngest of 3 children. I’ve graduated from Law and French Language and Culture at Gadjah Mada University, Jogjakarta. Now I am the Project Manager for SDI’s Micro Credit programs in Jogjakarta and Pangandaran.

How did you get involved in the work you’re doing now?

I was introduced to Susila Dharma Indonesia’s work by Murray Clapham. Murray was a friend of Lea Jellinek (a researcher from Melbourne University, who I knew through my university). Murray suggested that I should volunteer with SDI to help the victims of the earthquake in Jogjakarta in 2006. As the economic recovery program continued, I helped SDI manage the project and it proved to be very successful. I was then offered the opportunity to manage SDI’s micro credit program in Jogjakarta and I have recently also started managing the program in Pangandaran too.

What do you like best about your work?

I really enjoy being involved with the communities because I can get to know our beneficiaries and try to understand their problems, what they need and how we might be able to help.

It can be challenging at times but I really enjoy developing innovative programs for our beneficiaries- it has been a great experience and our programs are always improving. It’s so exciting to see the enthusiasm and hard work of our beneficiaries.

What is the best thing that has happened to you or that you have achieved in your time in working with SDI?

Last year I was lucky enough to be selected to live in Japan and study social work, with the support of the Japan National Council of Social Welfare (JNCWSW). It was an amazing experience for me; I learnt so much about the Japanese language and culture while at the same time learning fantastic



Yunika, four from right, with her friends from other countries during the social training in Japan, 2008

professional skills in development and social work. JNCWSW has been a wonderful support to me and also to SDI; they continue to provide financial support to a number of our projects and partners’ projects. Most recently they supported SDI’s proposal to conduct training for micro credit beneficiaries in Jogja.

What’s your favorite food? Where’s the best place to get it?

Oh that’s a hard question! Probably tempura. One of the fantastic things about Jogja is there are so many great places to eat! I love catching up with friends and eating in the angkringan (traditional food stall in Jogjakarta).

What do you love about your life?

I have a wonderful job working with SDI and I love being able to get to know people within my community. And I have a great group of friends - life is good!

Ok, last question. What is your suggestion to improve SDI’s services in the future?

(Laughs) Well, we should maximise our technical capabilities for training people and we should also focus on developing more innovative and interesting programs to help our beneficiaries.

Do YOU want to help us make Indonesia even better?



Indonesia is a wonderful country and we are so lucky to live here. But as we all know, there are many people living across this archipelago who face incredible challenges every day of their lives – many live in poverty or are made destitute by natural disasters and shocking life circumstances. Sometimes these people are our neighbours and friends; sometimes they are the people we see on television who have lost their livelihoods in tragedy; and sometimes we will never even hear about their struggles. Helping these people is an important mission and it is a mission that we all must share.

SDI works with a number of inspiring organisations and many extraordinary people with the aim of improving the lives of impoverished Indonesians and also protecting the environment of this beautiful country. And you can help too. What we need most is money – a donation of any amount will go to supporting the programs we have mentioned in this newsletter, as well as many others.

It includes YUM (Cipanas), Micro Credit project (Situ Gintung, Jogjakarta & Pangandaran) and Yayasan Saudara Sejiwa (Bandung).

Rp 200,000 or USD 20 will provide books for a reading community of underprivileged children in Bandung, West Java

Rp 500,000 or USD 50 will help an earthquake victim in Yogyakarta set up small businesses selling bakso (soup with meatballs, sliced cabbage and bean threads).

Rp 1,000,000 or USD 100 will help a micro-credit beneficiary open a silk-screen workshop in Situ Gintung (recovering from the devastating flood in March 2009).

Rp 1,500,000 or USD 150 will sponsor a child at Cipanas Children's Village to attend school for a year.

Thank you again for your support, please feel free to write to us if you have any suggestions or feedback. Until the next edition,

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