



SEKOLAH BINA CITA UTAMA NEWS

The First National Plus School in Central Kalimantan

May 2011

BCU SCHOOL : THE FIRST SIX YEARS



Home tutorial Centre 2003-2005

As BCU School comes to the end of the sixth year of operations, we reflect on the growth and development of the school, the challenges and the rewards that have accompanied this process.

The School was founded and is managed by a non-profit educational foundation, Yayasan Bina Cita Utama, with the mission to raise education standards in Central Kalimantan. It was the intention of the many founders not to start an international school for expatriate children, but instead to start an Indonesian school, registered with the Indonesian government, catering mainly for Indonesian students yet with the option for foreign students to also be able to attend.



First year 2005 - 27 Students

BCU is a social project founded with the aim of bringing about positive social development in the province through quality education. It's a clear intention in the heart of every member of staff when they walk through the door of the school in the morning.

In terms of 'social projects' affecting positive change and development, the school will achieve this in a long-term and profound way, and these students will have an impact on Palangkaraya in the future. These children will develop as individuals who have good English, the ability to research, to think analytically and to interact positively with foreigners. Just as importantly, they are developing a social conscience.



2008 - 56 Students

The name Bina Cita Utama means "Nurturing Noble and Excellent Ideals". True to this end, the School 's mission is not only to bring quality education to the children of Central Kalimantan, with challenging programs of study, but also to nurture and develop the whole child with the hope that as adults they will make positive contributions to the development of their communities and the world.

In six years, the school has grown organically from a one room schoolhouse with 12 children of differing ages, to a registered and accredited school with 85 students between the ages of 6 to 18 years old. The majority of students are Dayak with others from different parts of Indonesia and several from overseas. Twelve students are on full or partial scholarships.



2011 - 85 Students

The following pages of this newsletter are a testimony to the generosity and dedication of many people both in Indonesia and around the world, and

demonstrates how the achievements of the School are the result of the efforts of so many.

As in the African proverb "It takes a community to raise a child", so it has been with the School. While the founders and management may be the parents or guardians of the School, it is the wider community that has given so much and made it possible for these children to have this unique education.

Thank you for your support,

From the members of the Yayasan BCU School Foundation and management team,

Patrons : Mansur Geiger and Hamid da Silva

Supervisors: Isti da Silva, Bardolf Paul and Muhammad Bachrun Bustillo

Executive Committee: Utami Geiger, (Chair) Litha Mustafa (Treasurer), Rashidah MacDonald (Secretary)

Management team: Michael van der Matten (Fundraiser & GM), Dr Gunarjo (Principal), Karim MacDonald (Principal Counterpart), and Endah Andayani (Office Manager)

2005 - 2011 ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The challenges of starting a school in a remote area with limited resources have been many, and therefore the achievements have been even more rewarding. In six years the Bina Cita Utama Foundation has:



Certificate of recognition for the highest scores in Central Kalimantan from the President of Indonesia

- ❖ Established the first registered National Plus school in Central Kalimantan, with English as the language of instruction.
- ❖ Provided quality education to more than 100 students in Central Kalimantan from Palangka Raya and the neighboring regency of Katingan.
- ❖ Provided teacher training and seminars to more than 300 Indonesian government teachers in Central Kalimantan and in the local village schools with the support of YUM and Barclays Bank, and AusAid, and has provided regular and ongoing in-house training to all BCU teachers.
- ❖ Developed positive links with the Central Kalimantan Education Department and other local government offices and the wider community through the scholarship program and teacher training programs.
- ❖ Achieved highest results in Central Kalimantan for national examination results in 2010 and in 2009 These achievements were recognized by the President of Indonesia and the National Education Department in Jakarta.
- ❖ BCU Students regularly participate in local, provincial and national competitions and have won places in drama, debating, speech and math and represented the province of Central Kalimantan in national competitions.
- ❖ These efforts have demonstrated to the government and the wider community, the commitment Subud has to contributing to human development in Central Kalimantan.

The many challenges of starting and developing a school of this type in a remote area are:

- ❖ Shortage of skilled human resources. Adequately trained local teachers are scarce and many teachers prefer to work as civil servants to ensure a job for life. BCU teachers are paid above government rates in order to retain them, resulting in higher costs. Teachers from Java generally have better English and training but can be reluctant to settle in Kalimantan as they suffer with the separation from their close knit families.
- ❖ The distance of the School's location in Rungan Sari 36 km from Palangka Raya was alleviated in 2008 by the significant contribution of a school bus from Subud Japan. As student numbers grow transport needs are an ongoing issue; presently the school rents an additional bus and another will be needed in 2011/2012. The distance adds to the financial cost to parents as well as acts as a deterrent to parents who wish to enroll their children.
- ❖ The School Board and Management has consistently strived to achieve financial break even in order to reduce the need for donations. This has not been achieved as quickly as hoped for, as inflation and teachers salaries have increased while the school fees have remained constant for the past two years. With increased marketing and an increase in school fees this year we hope to address the deficit in operations.
- ❖ Although BCU School is the first of its kind in Central Kalimantan, there are plans for similar type schools to be built in Palangka Raya. The growing competition from other schools will become more and more of a challenge as those in Palangka Raya would have lower overheads due to their proximity to the city (no transport fees), and lower overheads of rent and electricity as exist in Rungan Sari. The School Board is monitoring this situation.
- ❖ Space in Rungan Sari is limited and the School board is working on developing a larger school nearby, on 10 ha of land that has been donated to the foundation. The management team is already stretched with the existing running of the school, and this new project will require a significant amount of additional time, financial and human resources.

GIVING TO KALIMANTAN

Contributors in Kind

S & S Dick Le Clare (Canada)
Chad & Margaret Foulkes
Rashid Carre (France)
Raphaëla Schipper (Holland)
Owen Riparetti (USA)
Brianna Bryson-Haynes (UK)
Stephen Bryson-Haynes (UK)
Felix Hude (Australia)
Sylvana Gleeson (USA)
Lucinda Young (Australia)
Jaclyn Payne (Australia)
Radya Umbas (Indonesia)
Lalita Geiger (Australia)
Davina Haizman (Spain)
Maia Jones (UK)
Maya Purbo (Indonesia)
Evelyn Haizman (Spain)
Emily Pez (France)
Rosalie Graham (UK)
R & M Gleeson (USA)
Mahrus Dewes (USA)
Hugh & Murianti Lynn (NZ)
Halim Korzybski (France)
Harris Smart (Australia)
Jonathan Bray (USA)
Alina Woodhouse (UK)
Samuel Hull (UK)
Bjorn Vaughn
Pierce Vaughn
Immanuel Bryson-Haynes (UK)
Michael van de Matten (UK)
Lorna Dowson Collins
Gaye Thavisin (Australia)

The students at BCU have the unique opportunity of having volunteer teachers from all over the world. They know that these teachers have worked hard and saved money in order to fly thousands of miles to work at their school. This gives the students a tangible example of social work and selflessness: seeing people who are willing to give of their time and skills without material reward.



Emilie Pez from France

In cooperation with the Australian government AusAid /AusTraining programs, BCU School has benefitted from having expert Australian volunteer teachers. Jaclyn Payne, an environmental science teacher, has contributed an article to this newsletter (see below).



Alina Woodhouse writes: *No words could really describe my experiences in Rungan Sari, the Subud-compound in the heart of Borneo. The heat was intense, the silence was.... well... loud. The jungle was overwhelming and the people full of the life-force which I was so hungry for!*

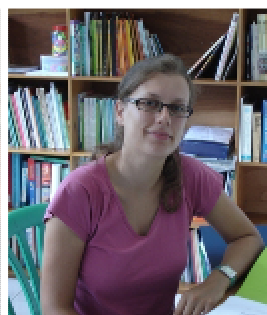
The school 'Bina Cita Utama' was amazing. Filled with children who laughed and who wanted to LEARN, this place made teaching a joy and learning was a side effect for pupils and staff alike! Subud and non-Subud volunteers lived in this other-worldly place, working on humanitarian projects, personal journeys and other projects.

Raphaëla Riparetti: *"For everything I have given to this project I have already received blessings in all aspects of my life of immeasurable value - and the process is ongoing. Even though I am far away in California now I think of BCU often and feel very connected."*



Rosalie Graham:

"...the real difference for me is the ethos and the feeling. I have worked in many schools, in Britain and Australia, and been involved in many others as I raised my children, but this one is in a class of its own.... This is a happy, busy, hard working place where the children are encouraged to be themselves. Staff and kids inter-act easily and comfortably and the ambience is relaxed but the children are always respectful, and there is structure and order. The timetable offers a good balance between academic, creative and physical classes... These children are the future administrators of Kalimantan, and beyond. Some pay for their education, others are on scholarship but they're all going to go out there and make a difference. The feeling is very tangible. "



BCU FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2011

The growth of BCU School has been possible only due to the collaboration and generous contributions of many Subud members all over the world, both in kind and in financial contributions. The School board and management have worked hard to reach the financial break even point to reduce the need for donations. Although it was hoped this could have been achieved after five years, the increased expenditure due to inflation and rising teacher salaries has delayed this goal of achieving a sustainable school.

In 2010, the operating deficit was US\$ 20,000. The School board has been reluctant to significantly increase fees in order to enable as many students as possible to benefit from this type of education. However in 2011 school fees will be increased to address this deficit, together with more marketing to increase student numbers.

The school appreciates the generosity of so many and continues to appeal for donations and volunteers to help this worthwhile project of improving education in Central Kalimantan. For further financial information please contact Michael van der Matten on: michaelvdma@btinternet.com

BCU CONTRIBUTORS

Ibu Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo Susila Dharma International Susila Dharma France Susila Dharma USA Susila Dharma Britain Susila Dharma Germany Susila Dharma Netherlands Susila Dharma Canada Raymond & Muti Lee Subud Japan Subud Germany Subud Perth Subud Adelaide Subud Brisbane Subud New Zealand Kal-Teng Consultants: Victor & Lucia Boehm Lienhard & Anne Marie Berger Lilian Cadera Valentin & Roswitha Willecke Luqman McKingley & Family Abdullah & Salamah Pope Khalid & Raquel Al Khudayri Ramzi & Arifah Winkler Harris Madden James Hayward Laksar Burra Latif Vogel Maynard & Liliana MacDonald Michael & Heather Chapman	Murray Clapham, family & friends Rachman & Rochana Mitchell Sofia Blake Masayuki Nagamine Maiko Lawton M. Wildsmith /F. Waddington Nicholas Mawdsley Masnafiah Versteeg & Hardwin Blanchard Saodah Hayashi Bpk Muhtar Siregar Bpk/Ibu Widarbo Wisnu Family in memory of Ibu Wisnu Pudji & Toro Purbo Kristi Fumagalli Van der Matten Siti Ismana Tsjamura Faustine Leroy Milan Glac Miriam Knoke Robert Winter Astuti & Albert Harris Meldan & Serena Heaslip Howard Aschoff Ismutiah Davis Marcus Mackay Halimah Armitage Drew Burra (UK) Muchtar Nankivell Howard Ray
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BCU FOUNDING PARTNERS

The Founding Partners of Bina Cita Utama School are the hero's in the background that you don't often hear about. Founding Partners are donors who have contributed a substantial sum or a regular monthly amount to school operational costs. The typical FP has provided a donation of US \$500 each month for a period of two years. Some FP's have continued longer, and others for less.

In October 2006, an appeal was sent out by the School Board for Founding Partners to help the school during the crucial "start up phase", when student numbers were low and fees were not able to cover operating costs. The Founding Partners contribution have been vital to the development of the School.

Major Donors and BCU Founding Partners:

David Warrior (Indonesia)

Subud Japan

Barclays Capital

Guerrand Hermes Foundation for Peace

Muhammad Subuh Foundation

Anonymous (Perth Australia)

Inner Glow, Latif Alston (Australia)

Andrew and Stephanie Holloway (UK)

Susila Dharma Brisbane - Ludwig and Renee Goetz (Australia)

Susila Dharma Germany

Hamid and Isti da Silva (Portugal)

Mansur and Utami Geiger (Indonesia)

Kalimantan Surya Kencana (Indonesia)

Kalimantan Support Group (UK)

Afal Group (Indonesia)

Istafiah Vogel (in memory of Hassan) (Thailand)

Sharif and Tuti Horthy (UK)

Halim and Maya Korzybski (France)

Mahrus and Hamidah Herhacker (Austria)

Our sincere apologies if your name has been inadvertently left off this list of contributors.

If we have, please let us know:

bcuschool@gmail.com

BARCLAYS TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

YAYASAN
USAHA MULIA



YAYASAN BINA
CITA UTAMA

DINAS PENDIDIKAN, PEMUDA DAN OLAH RAGA

BCU TEACHER TRAINING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

From the inception of the Yayasan BCU, teacher training was considered a way in which the foundation could make a significant contribution to improving the overall quality of education in Kalimantan.

BCU in cooperation with Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM) with funding provided by Barclays Capital, was able to carry out a teacher training program to government schools in the surrounding villages. The government teachers in the impoverished district of Bukit Batu have limited opportunities for teacher training and thus this program conducted by BCU has been greatly appreciated both by the government and the teachers in the area.

The past two years have been exciting for hundreds of teachers of 13 government schools in the area, as they embarked on a teacher training program that was very different to anything they had experienced before. These teachers attended at BCU a series of participatory workshops exploring the new paradigms of child-centred learning through discovery, creativity and interactive education. This was a major shift from the old paradigm of education they were familiar with, in which the students were fed information through rote learning and memorization.

With a new understanding of the "child centred" paradigm in education, the teachers of the local schools have been enthusiastic to continue the training with more in depth courses on how the Indonesian curriculum can be enriched. Additional Teacher Training courses have also been offered in computer training specifically for teachers, and advanced courses in teaching science, math and social studies in child-centred methods.

The program has already provided training to over 250 teachers in the 2009-2011 period and is part of the BCU School commitment to improving education in Kalimantan.



3RD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES - PALANGKA RAYA



By: Jaclyn Payne,
BCU Environmental Studies Teacher, Australian Youth Ambassador for Development Program

Two Grade 12 BCU Students, Chandra and Fenny, recently found themselves speaking to a group of international scientists and leaders from countries including Germany, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The 3rd International Seminar and Workshop for Sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources was held in Palangkaraya on the 27th of September 2010 and was organised by the Planning Board of Central Kalimantan (BAPEDA). BCU submitted a brief abstract detailing the work that our students had done in conjunction with Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS) as part of the UNIDO the Global Mercury Project. This submission was accepted and Chandra and Fenny were given just days to prepare a presentation that was of a very high standard.

With their presentation scheduled for 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the girls had the opportunity to witness a variety of presentations that were given by various world experts. The topics ranged from the harvesting of rainwater in Central Kalimantan to the implementation of festival markets to aid in the sustainability of Palangkaraya.

Fenny and Chandra were surrounded by experts; however their BCU education had ensured that they too had valuable expertise - particularly in the field of peer-to-peer education. As children become teenagers they begin to see and become aware of the world in new ways. They compare the realities of what they see with the possibilities of what could be and often seek to improve their world. This teenage idealism can be harnessed and utilised to create positive change – particularly at a grass roots level.

The BCU School community takes pride in the fact that it not only fosters our students' social consciences, but also gives them the opportunities and support to share their ideals with the wider community. Fenny and Chandra's presentation demonstrated the power of students teaching other students using the BCUs involvement in the Global Mercury Project as an example.

Students considered the issue of mercury entering the river system from a variety of perspectives. It was important to them to take into account the environmental, social and health issues that resulted in and from the use of mercury in gold mining. Whilst sometimes these issues can be viewed with concern from a purely academic perspective, the students of BCU became aware that illegal mining using mercury was occurring an hour away from their school. This really brought the issue home for them!

In order to raise awareness of the dangers that occur when mercury enters the river system, the BCU students decided to visit a school in Kareng Pangi where many of the students' parents make their living from illegal mining. The students from BCU presented posters that they had made as well as speeches to over one hundred students the same age as themselves. This peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and ideas was powerful, with the BCU students sharing not only their research on the dangers of mercury and the impacts it can have on a river system, but also what alternatives are available to help the mining become less devastating to the environment and the people.

At the seminar the girls explained this work to the participants in a passionate and engaging manner. Glancing around the room it was obvious that the audience was very interested in what Chandra and Fenny had to say. At the conclusion of their speech, one of the organisers indicated her desire to have BCU students return to present at next year's seminar. The girls were also congratulated on the quality of their performance by other international speakers and mention was also made about the high standard of English of spoken by Fenny. Those of us that were able to attend the presentation were extremely proud of the girls and of the efforts of all BCU staff and supporters that ensure BCU is able to provide an education that equips students with not only knowledge but also the skill and poise to communicate that knowledge with both their local and global community.

Another highlight of the day was an invitation to dine at the Governor's residence in Palangkaraya. In addition to a delicious meal we were treated to a fantastic Dayak dance performance. Fenny also added to the occasion by stepping up to the microphone and sharing her beautiful voice with us for a few songs.

When speaking at the seminar, Chandra spoke of the sense of accomplishment that students can feel when they are able to help both people and the environment by passing on information in a productive way. She and Fenny were proud to share the education that they have received. Anyone lucky enough to hear them speak surely must feel the same.





BCU Weekly Staff Meeting

STAYING OUT OF THE WAY

Karim MacDonald (Principal Counterpart) writes:

An old friend came to Kalimantan to visit. He asked me what I had gotten out of being here for the last six years and my answer came out before I had a chance to think about it. I said, I think I'm learning to stay out of the way. What I meant was that I think I'm learning not to let my ego get in the way of God's grace.

In the environment of the school God's grace is evident almost daily. There are group of people working selflessly and harmoniously to make something useful. No one wants to get rich or famous out of it. Consequently God's grace rains down; it rains busses and teachers, volunteers and computers, just when they are most needed. (In management theory there are probably more politically correct theories, not mentioning God, to explain the phenomenon of synergy, but in the context of where we are "God's Grace" sums it up best for me.)

Recently I got an email from a woman in Europe that made me want to get in the way. That negative/ego thing in me arced up as soon as I read it. The email said, I am coming to Kalimantan. I must have a letter for the Education department so that my son can accompany me. The letter must say he will be attending BCU School for one month and I need the letter by tomorrow. My immediate reaction was to think, "I've got a hundred more important things to do." "We're a school, not a babysitting service." "Does the kid even speak English?"

Thanks to some forewarning from my lovely wife, I didn't get in the way. I swallowed my ego and wrote the letter she asked for, signed it, stamped it, scanned it and sent it off. From a practical standpoint, if the boy had of turned out to have had behavioural problems, we could not have accommodated him. However at this stage there was no reason for me to get in the way just for the sake of satisfying my ego's need for recognition. The German lady and her son arrived and it turned out they were both assets to the school and the community and the boy fit into the grade seven class, much to the delight of the grade seven girls.

Then I got sick. My stomach trouble flared up again and I was very worried that I would end up back in hospital in Jakarta. It turned out that the German lady works as a psychologist/corporate level art therapist who flies around Germany doing art therapy with top level executives. She heard I was sick and stopped by our house offering to help. She did a session with me and it really helped me sort through some stuff that had been bothering me for a long time, and I was well again within a few days.

If I had of let myself get in the way, I might have wound up back in hospital in Jakarta. It also turned out that the lady from Germany got a lot out of her time in Kalimantan, and so did her son. Once they were back home she sent me an email which included the following. "I don't have the words to describe how precious our time in Kalimantan was. It brought my son back to his deep belief and trust in God." I didn't get sick, the German lady received what she needed, the boy returned to believe in God and all I had to do was stay out of the way.

So often we get in the way of God's grace, or obstruct the synergy which is possible when people work harmoniously toward a common goal. The most valuable lessons I've learned come from my two fathers; my dad, Maynard, who taught me to pay attention to detail and to be polite, and my father-in-law Abdullah Pope, who, along with my dad, taught me the importance of being quiet and patient. I hope to be able to pass those understandings on to the students at BCU School, along with my own simple understanding about not letting our ego get in the way.

I wonder how to teach that? Probably the answer to teaching children important lessons lies in the way I was taught, by example and with love. Actually I can already see with the children at the school, they are already getting it. It's probably just a matter of staying out of the way.

HOW TO SUPPORT QUALITY EDUCATION IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN:

Credit card donations can be sent through Susila Dharma International, earmarked for BCU School at www.susiladharma.org

Or directly to the School at : Bank: Bank Negara Indonesia **Branch :** Palangkaraya

Account Name: Yayasan Bina Cita Utama **Account no:** 0083731002 **Swift code:** BNIN IDJA

CONTACT US:

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