

Dear Friends of East Bali Poverty Project

East Bali Poverty Project's Newsletter is back reporting on our latest initiatives in our mission to empower these remote mountain communities to determine their destinies with community based sustainable social and economic development.

Children's relevant and integrated education was the community's first request in 1998. This year, 35 of those children graduate high school and aim to lead their respective communities forward with many new skills training courses, relevant to their aspirations. Converting the harsh steep and arid mountain slopes into lush food forests has also begun with bamboo-based reforestation and agroforestry with our partnership with Ubud-based Environmental Bamboo Foundation. Our tuberculosis awareness and intervention programme is a major step towards ensuring a healthy community enabling them to focus more on sustainable social and economic development.

Thank you all for your generous support that has helped us to help thousands of impoverished families towards a future of hope and aspirations that they never dreamed of in 1998.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Kind regards,

David Booth MBE
Founder, Trustee & CEO

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BREAKING NEWS:

[FIRST EBPP STUDENTS GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN 2011](#)

We are very proud that 2 children in EBPP schools since 2000 and 2001 respectively have graduated high school and have been accepted at Ganesha University in Singaraja for 4 year degree courses starting in 2011:

- I Wayan Lias from EBPP Cegi School has been accepted to study Fine Art. EBPP's Cegi School sponsored by Bali Dynasty Resort from launch in April 2000 till the end of 2005 & since 2006 by Joure Church in Holland
- I Ketut Jati Artana from EBPP Manikaji School will study Mathematics to become a teacher in his village. EBPP Manikaji School is sponsored by The Annika Linden Foundation since 2005

EBPP SOON-TO-BE GRADUATES: FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

By Julita Mekaria, EBPP Secretary



11th May 2011 BALIEPICTURE presentation in EBPP Bamboo Centre

On Thursday, 30 June 2011, at 6.15 am, I went up to Daya with David Booth, Elia Simantov, (EBPP volunteer Music Teacher) and Aris Harianto (EBPP Marketing & PR) with 2 key objectives:

- To prepare 2 of EBPP best young graduates, Wayan Lias [EBPP Cegi School] & Jati Arthana [EBPP Manikaji School] for taking their university entrance exams at Ganesha University in Singaraja at the beginning of July 2011. We were lucky that Sadi Ariani, presently completing her 4 year teaching degree course at Ganesha University, was home in Ban for the Galungan holidays and could provide good information for the boys.

Sadi was in EBPP's first group 12 of sponsored students that had graduated from Desa Ban Elementary Schools in 1999 and continued their study to Junior & Senior High school in Singaraja, sponsored mainly by Danu Enterprises from USA. After graduating from Senior High School in 2005, EBPP took her as a trainee teacher for 2 years and in 2007 she enrolled to University of Ganesha in Singaraja to do a degree to be a primary school teacher, sponsored by Tim Palmer-Pattison & Robert Fields. Jati and Lias will enrol to the same University this year. Hopefully they will be accepted.

- Provided cooking course questionnaire to be filled in by Cegi & Pengalusan EBPP Kejar Paket C (Senior High School) students for evaluation by the sponsors, BALIEPICTURE (BE), "one of the largest companies in Bali providing high quality villa and catering services."

Jati stated Elementary School student in EBPP's Manikaji Mekar, in January 2001, graduating from EBPP senior high school in 2010. EBPP took him as a trainee mathematics teacher in August 2010 and since, he has proved to be exceptionally capability in teaching in a refreshing style. He chose mathematics to enrol University which will be sponsored by Mr. Barry Thomas of Australia. Lias, in his final year at EBPP Senior High School will graduate this year. Lias has the amazing quality art spirit particularly painting, therefore he chose art as his major so that both Jati and Lias would then be qualified to teach mathematic and art. Sadi, Jati and Lias will dedicate themselves to be teachers at EBPP schools on completion of their degrees.

After one hour discussion with them, I went to EBPP Bamboo Training & Learning Centre where David presented and explained about EBPP training programmes to EBPP Kejar Paket C (Senior High School) students of Cegi and Pengalusan, both are integrated children education programme that were launched in 2000 with sponsorship from Bali Dynasty Resort, which still is our proud sponsor of our Pengalusan School, Cegi now being sponsored by Joure Church in Holland. The children listen attentively about some training which they have opportunity to attend after taking National Exam on 19-22 July 2011.

The training courses are [1] Spa therapist training, [2] Cooking course, [3] Bamboo Field School and [4] Bali Traditional dancing training which will be implement in early August 2011 onwards. Spa therapist training & Cooking course will be held and supported by BE, they have sincere willingness to share knowledge, information and experience through training. The goals are [1] they have a knowledge and skills, [2] have a dream job in the near future and [3] able to stand on their own feet.

As a screening step, we provided a questionnaire to know their talent and interest in each programmes. The questionnaire should be filled in based on their hearts without influence and interference from their friends because surely each child has different interests and talents. Finally, the

six children who are interested in learning cooking completed the questionnaire. To my surprise all are boys from Cegi and the remaining four questionnaires, which were completed one day later, and sent by Komang Kurniawan [Team Leader] were from boys in EBPP Manikaji School, an integrated education programme, sponsored by Annika Linden Foundation. We then submitted all 10 forms to BE. A few weeks before the questionnaire for Spa Therapist training had submitted to Bali Epicure to be reviewed and evaluated. After having had tough consideration, one boy and one girl for Spa training and two boys from Cegi and two boys from Manikaji for cooking course selected as the participants for first initial training in early August 2011.

I have no doubt that they can achieved their ambition to have a dream job in the future because they have enthusiasm, excitement, positive thinking and eager to learn new things in order to develop their own village for sustainable social and economic development.

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HISTORY OF THE EBPP - EBF PARTNERSHIP

Devin E. Bramhall, The Jakarta Post | Thu, 07/14/2011 10:28 AM

Reprinted with permission from The Jakarta Post:

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/07/14/history-ebpp-%E2%80%93-ebf-partnership.html>



Hope for the future: Seedlings are carefully planted on the barren slopes of Mount Agung in the hopes that they will later provide shade, block the wind and encourage precipitation. JP/Devin E. Bramhall

The Environmental Bamboo Foundation (EBF) was founded in 1993 by well known British interior designer Linda Garland, with the mission of protecting tropical forests by promoting and demonstrating the conservation and development opportunities that bamboo offers.

The East Bali Poverty Project (EBPP) was founded in 1998 by David Booth, a civil engineer from England who identified Desa Ban and its 19 sub-villages as one of the largest and most impoverished in Indonesia based on research and interviews he conducted with 1,056 Desa Ban families in 1998.

From those interviews, Booth found that thousands of people were living without water,

sanitation, roads, schools, health facilities and electricity, as well as suffering from widespread illiteracy. So, with the commitment from the community to participate, Booth developed a sustainable development plan that included improvements in education, health and nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation, prioritizing children and the harnessing of natural resources.

Booth and EBPP are inspired by the philosophy of “helping people help themselves” by implementing programs that could be replicated and executed by the community, who can then pass on knowledge and education to each new generation.

“From education as a starting base, we have grown and are running various environmental initiatives that harness human and natural resources for mutual benefit to improve living ecosystems, provide sustainable food sources for thousands of people, provide sustainable livelihoods for the present and future and ensure the preservation of the local environment and ecosystems,” the EBPP website states.

The latter is where EBPP and EBF’s missions overlap and is what spurred the partnership between the two organizations that continues to this day.

Booth and Garland met in 2003, at which point Booth explained his ideas for Desa Ban and discovered that Garland was already working in East Bali to plant more than 45,000 hectares of degraded land in other districts of Karangasem, said Arief Rabik, coordinator for the EBF.

“Linda was shocked to hear about the plight of the region and my idea as a layman to reforest with bamboo,” Booth said.

Garland offered to lend her expertise in bamboo to his organization, and in 2004 the two held a meeting with the kepala desa of Desa Ban to get his permission to execute a reforestation initiative.

Following his approval, Booth and Garland began the planning phase while EBF began training EBPP staff in the science of bamboo planting.

“This is the beauty of the relationship: EBF knows how to grow bamboo in the hardest conditions and EBPP is successfully managing a community in the hardest conditions,” Rabik adds.

Later, in 2006, Garland donated 420 bamboo seedlings to EBPP, which they planted in 12 different locations on the east and northeast slopes of Mount Agung and Mount Abang. As the seedlings developed, their growth was photographed and documented weekly so they could use the data to improve upon future plantings.

After the success of the test planting, EBPP and EBF received additional funding to conduct a pilot reforestation of almost two hectares in Desa Ban.

“Linda and David saw the opportunity for synergy by starting in Desa Ban, which was approximately 7,200 hectares of land, more than half of it almost barren and ideal for planting with bamboo,” Rabik said.

The partnership between EBF and EBPP continues and has culminated in the June 23, 2011, planting expedition, one of many that will be conducted to help reforest the barren hills and rehabilitate the community.

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BAMBOO AND THE POOR ON THE SLOPES OF MT. AGUNG

Devin E. Bramhall, The Jakarta Post | Thu, 07/14/2011 10:28 AM

Reprinted with permission from The Jakarta Post:

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/07/14/bamboo-and-poor-slopes-mt-agung.html>



Groundwork: Volunteers help to carry bamboo seedlings to be planted in Desa Adat Cegi near Mount Agung in Bali. JP/Devin E. Bramhall

“Okay guys, let’s get something into you and then we’re gonna work you!” said Environmental Bamboo Foundation (EBF) coordinator Arief Rabik to the group who had arrived to plant bamboo seedlings on the barren northern slopes of Mount Agung. The group had congregated in Desa Adat Cegi in Desa Ban on June 23, the gathering part of a joint reforestation project between the East Bali Poverty Project (EBPP), an organization created in 1998 to reduce poverty in East Bali by developing sustainable improvements in education, nutrition and the harnessing of natural resources, and EBF, group that promotes the use of bamboo as a fast growing,

high strength timber.

Starting with Desa Ban, the joint mission is to implement a community development project focused on restoring Mount Agung’s arid slopes, which have been destroyed from massive clear-cutting and a 1963 volcanic eruption that covered the area in volcanic ash and left everything dead.

The eruption had a devastating effect on the environment and on local residents, for they lost their entire environmental infrastructure — the ecosystems that provided them food and life.

“The EBPP and EBF will hopefully establish a world model that provides a sustainable environmental economic development solution for impoverished mountain communities who subsist

on steep and arid slopes with no rivers, government water supply or other essential infrastructure,” EBPP founder David Booth explained.

Their strategy is to plant a 25-meter-wide shelter belt on the dry hills with bamboo trees that block out the sun, slow down the wind and encourage more precipitation.

“We’re creating a microclimate so the sun track and frequent winds in the area don’t dehydrate the landscape and plants start growing again.”

According to Rabik, the height of the canopy, depending on the gradient of the land, can protect 10-20 times the height of the canopy in distance, which means that if a bamboo tree is 15 meters tall, it can protect 150 meters in distance. Eventually, with enough trees, they will cause a “rain suck” from the evaporating leaves, Rabik explained, and this will help return more moisture to the now dry, dusty slopes.

“Five years after all the seedlings are planted, their ecosystems are going to be rehabilitated,” Rabik said. “With the right kind of pioneering species, we can get life going again.”

Each bamboo seedling is planted inside a 30/30 centimeter hole then covered with mulch that is piled another 30 centimeters above ground. It is topped with a plastic bottle containing a seaweed-based water thickener and two pin-sized holes allowing the water to drip slowly into the plant and keep it from evaporating.

The latter is particularly important, as Rabik said that up to 80 percent of irrigated water is lost from evaporation and infiltration past the root zone, especially in dry-land areas.

“If you don’t plant correctly and get a good soil mix, the plant is going to take a long time to find the right access to food and water. If you do it right and plant the right species at the right time, in the right place, then you can quickly get a new ecosystem,” said Rabik.

It took only three hours for the volunteers to plant 45 bamboo seedlings.

“It is so hands-on — we don’t use a lot of tools,” said Jordan Lerum a volunteer from Santa Barbara who is working with her husband to make a documentary about bamboo. “It really is a community effort. It really does take a whole village.”

They will plant two varieties of bamboo in the first phase of planting: bamboo tutul (*Bambusa maculata*) and bamboo duri (*Bambusa blumeana*), which, according to Rabik, are among the strongest and most drought tolerant bamboo varieties. Rabik said that shelter belts should be planted in phases, the first containing the strongest varieties, which act as “pioneers”.

Once more favorable growing conditions are created (i.e. more shade), other tree varieties are planted, like leguminous trees that provide nitrogen.

Once the young bamboo trees are planted, they will need three years of maintenance as they grow to maturity. The Desa Ban community, who own the land, will manage maintenance of the juvenile bamboo trees, with assistance from EBPP and EBF, who have established the Sekolah Lapangan Bamboo (Bamboo Field School) to educate the community how to plant, manage and harvest the new forest.

They hope that with training from the school, the community will use this new bamboo forest for cash crops to help reinvigorate the Desa Ban economy as well as cultivate medicinal plants and vegetables that can grow under the protection of bamboo trees.

Volunteer Hamish Daud Wyllie, said his industry, furniture design, was particularly interested in bamboo as a sustainable, environmentally friendly material.

“We’re trying to set the trend in the furniture industry away from classic hardwoods and involve bamboo in design. Especially now with the science and application towards bamboo, it’s allowing designers to push the boundaries a bit more,” he said.

According to Rabik, it costs Rp 50,000 (US\$5.80) for each bamboo tree they plant. To help raise the money needed, EBF and EBPP have partnered with the Bali Spirit Festival, which has committed to planting one tree for every VIP or Full Festival Pass purchased during the 2012 festival (held in March).

In the meantime, they plan to lead regular volunteer expeditions to plant more bamboo seedlings in the Desa Ban area, asking each participant to make an individual Rp 50,000 donation to plant a bamboo tree.

“Many people talk about things but most are too busy and not really doing anything,” said participant Charlie Kushner, an expat from Hawaii who works with NGOs rebuilding infrastructure after tsunamis and earthquakes.

“This is a tangible way to carry out a community-based intervention to do some good, positive action.”

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TACKLING DEADLY TUBERCULOSIS THROUGH AWARENESS VIDEO & BROCHURES TO THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN

By Aris Harianto, EBPP Marketing and PR



Scene in the “doctor’s surgery”, Pengalusan & Cegi ‘stars’

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the most serious diseases in Indonesia and the problem is that communities, such as those in mountainous East Bali, have little chance of getting it identified or treated due to their remoteness from government health centres and trained medical teams. Indonesia ranks third on the list of 22 high-burden TB countries in the world (USAID: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/id/tuberculosis/countries/asia/indonesia_profile.html). Until now, there are no true statistics

on the number of TB sufferers in Indonesia due to the lack of access and knowledge about TB itself, especially in the remote and isolated area.

EBPP started to open a health access to the isolated community of Desa Ban, Karangasem, Bali, in 2003-4 by establishing 27 Posyandu (community integrated health post), with a one year programme sponsored by UNICEF. By working closely with the local Government Community Health Center (Puskesmas), EBPP started planning a community-based TB awareness programme in 2006 to eliminate active TB for the more than 11,000 families in the Kubu sub-district, comprising Desa Ban and three other large villages in remote East Bali. In January 2011, our detailed TB awareness and elimination proposal was approved and funded 50% by Anton Jurgens Fonds from Holland and the balance by two UK donors: Geoff & Ellen Foster Taylor and Nick Boydell. We have now completed design for our TB awareness programme impact with a 3-fold brochure and a 23 minute video drama, starring our EBPP Cegi and Pengalusan high school students, as the awareness tools.

Making a video awareness drama with students who never saw drama or a television show could be a difficult thing to do for most people. However, it could be a different story if you do that with The East Bali Poverty Project (EBPP) students. Spending eight days total for shooting, the students from EBPP Cegi and Pengalusan schools, which have been sponsored by Bali Dynasty Resort since year 2000, has shown their amazing acting talent in our latest awareness video production; EBPP’s Tuberculosis (TB) awareness video drama.

Advised by local and international health experts the EBPP TB awareness video projected to be the most effective TB awareness tool for community which is mostly illiterate and also informative for educated people. Dr. Indraguna Pinatih, (EBPP senior health advisor & foundation Secretary), dr. Toni Parwati from Puskesmas Kubu II, Karangasem, Bali, and Dr Denise Abe (EBPP volunteer expert health advisor since 1998) have contributed to put all of basic and important information about TB in the video. Assisted by the editing team of Alam TV Bali the video have a final professional touch.

On June 30, 2011 we were doing re-take shooting at the “sputum sample taking” scene. Tejo, a student from EBPP Pengalusan School, acting as the TB patient, has played his role with extraordinary skill – somehow creating a very scary cough and transforming to a sick middle-aged man for his role! In the re-take shooting he shows how to take sputum sample correctly by showing what is needed by doctors to be tested in the laboratory to verify that the sputum is positively contaminated by

mycobacterium tuberculosis. He and the other students from EBPP Cegi and Pengalusan schools have done great work.

Through this TB awareness video they have taken an important part in one of EBPP programme to address the TB problem for more than 11,000 families in Desa Ban. The community will be impressed on what their children have been done and more aware on TB problem. Hopefully, this video will also become the standard of TB awareness video for remote and illiteracy communities throughout Indonesia.

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www.eastbalipovertyproject.org

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