

Bina Cita Utama School, Kalimantan

Barclays Teacher Training Program 2009

After many months of preparation, the first session of teacher training took place at BCU School this weekend. Sixteen principals and senior teachers from local government schools along with four BCU teachers took part in the first of nine weekly workshops delivered by Muhsin Maltezos and his wife Siti. Other members of the all Subud team are Teguh Santosa, the Project Coordinator, and Pak Gunarjo, as the Trainer Counterpart. The workshops take place in the Siregar Building, on Saturdays when the school is closed. During the week Muhsin will visit the participants in their respective schools, to monitor and provide input to help the teachers implement what they learned at the previous workshop.

During the next 12 months the program will train four groups of 20 local teachers in practical, child-centered teaching methods. Each of those 80 teachers have daily contact with at least 40 students, which means there will be thousands of local students on the receiving end of some good teaching practice.

Rashidah and I were there to welcome the visitors and support the team on the first day of the project. Although it was a relatively small gathering, Rashidah and I were both touched by how significant it seemed. Perhaps the sense of significance was to do with the wider impact that the program is going to have on teachers and students in Central Kalimantan.

The teachers and principals seemed excited to be at BCU when they arrived, and were grateful to be welcomed into the relaxed school environment, with coffee, tea, snacks and food that were on offer as they registered. One of the school principals commented on how he lives locally, but this was the first time he had ever come into Rungan Sari. This program is important not only for education in Central Kalimantan, but also to show the local people that Rungan Sari/ Subud is an open and useful community.

Teacher training has been a core part of the School's mission since the start of the school, and although it had been discussed many times, the lack of money and human resources has made it difficult to implement on a larger scale. The Barclays funding resulting from collaboration with YUM has made it now possible for us to make this vision a reality.



From the inception of this program, we have worked closely with the Education department in Palangka Raya to ensure that the training program is fully supported by the government. Teachers participating in the training will receive a certificate and points towards their teacher accreditation. Working closely with the government has strengthened our links with various departments.

In 1981 Bapak gave the following guidance about working in Kalimantan:

“What we face in these projects is a very great task. Bapak tells you that the main requirement, the absolute condition we need to complete this task, is that we truly know how to work together, how to cooperate, how to trust each other, respect each other and that we really know how to give and take. Neither must we allow ourselves to be fooled by any kind of mistrust or prejudice between one group and another, or between one nationality and another. The key to achieving anything is harmony, the ability to work together and to do something as a team.”

[81 JKT 1]

Having the opportunity to work together with YUM (Foundation for Noble Work) and the local government brings Bapak's advice alive as we witness the unfolding of the school's direction with much awe and gratitude for the grace of Almighty God and all the donators and supporters of the School.