

'Children's Permaculture' Project in Seunuddon Aceh

A project developed by IDEP's GreenHands Aceh Recovery Program

Supported by the Berridale Public School / Permafund / Permaculture International Ltd

On May 24th 2007, Yayasan IDEP received a donation of \$3,000 AUD (IDR 21,471,000) from the Berridale Public School / Permafund / Permaculture International Ltd. This generous donation was earmarked for the establishment of a project that would assist Tsunami affected children of Aceh with access to clean, accessible water. IDEP has consulted with community members in one of the hardest hit areas of Aceh about priority needs for children, and the following proposal has been recommended.

Project Background

Seunuddon is located in the Aceh Utara district. This area was severely hit by the tsunami in December 2005. The fishermen and their families of these coastal communities were particularly exposed and many perished. In addition to the loss of family members and homes, surviving fishermen lost a large proportion of their productive assets (boats and gear), with 40% of the local fleet of about 1,800 fishing boats lost. Much of the community infrastructure: landing centers, ice plant, markets, processing sheds etc. was also swept away. Today the people of Seunuddon are facing many challenges. There is a dire need for sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation strategies in the area so that people's lives can start to get back to some semblance of normality.

Even before the Asian Tsunami tragedy, the area of Seunuddon was already considered an extremely poor area. The separatist conflict in Aceh had a very strong impact in Seunuddon; with almost everyone in this area having lost at least one family member to the conflict. Due to the high level of conflict activity, the area has been very isolated and there has been minimal development of local infrastructure, including educational facilities, teachers and other professional human resources there.

The two major disaster occurrences (the conflict and the Tsunami) left many members of the communities of Seunuddon highly traumatized. This is especially true for the children in one of the target groups for this proposed activity, the children of 'Yayasan Panti Asuhan Aneuk Nanggroe' (A non-profit Orphanage for Children of Aceh). The children who live at this orphanage are primarily victims of the conflict in the area. Other key participants for the program include students from the local primary and kindergarten schools and their families.



Children from 'Yayasan Panti Asuhan Aneuk Nanggroe' Orphanage with The GreenHand Team in Seunuddon

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When the Tsunami struck Seunuddon it caused not only massive infrastructural damage but also salinization of soil and major contamination of the local water supplies. The local Government and International NGOs working in the area have been helping to supply subsistence levels of water, and electricity and other basic living needs, but what has been delivered is still far from what is needed and with common earthquakes and other natural disasters occurring in the area, it is constantly in need of repair.

Since January 2007, through its GreenHand Field School project, Yayasan IDEP has been providing training and support to several communities in Seunuddon, Kabupaten Aceh Utara. These programs are introducing and supporting the development of sustainable recovery and rehabilitation for communities in the area through various Permaculture practices.

Working with five communities over the past six months, many people have received training and capacity building in sustainable recover and two integrated Permaculture demonstration sites have been developed in conjunction with local community participants, which include:

- Nurseries for organic vegetables and trees
- Home gardening models
- Waste water treatments (grey water systems and Wastewater Gardens)
- Solid and liquid compost making
- Waste separation and recycling
- Use of Integrated Pest Management techniques



Community members from Seunuddon participate in activities at the local Permaculture Demonstration Sites

As a direct result of the establishment of these demonstration sites / resource areas, local community members are now applying these sustainable recovery practices in their own home plots and fields, and switching from chemical-based monoculture farming to more sustainable organic practices.

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Women of Seunuddon tend gardens an nurseries established and harvest the results of their work

The Acehese GreenHand Trainers including that have been living on site with the communities of Seunuddon since the project started, have established a strong trust-based working relationship with the people of these local communities. Even before the wonderful news of the *Berridale Public School / Permafund / Permaculture International Ltd* pledge of support came through, the team had been receiving many requests from the local community to extend the scope of the GreenHands Permaculture program in the area to include more activities especially for local children. To date the GreenHands team has been organizing some basic Permaculture activities for the children of the area. Twice a month, 15 children between 2 and 14 years of age, have been meeting with the GFS team to learn and practice simple activities related to Permaculture.



Children learning Permaculture: the use of mulch, transplanting seedlings and making a 3-D map of a house plot

The Seunuddon Children's Permaculture' Project's Proposed Activities

This ***'Children's Permaculture' Program*** will support environmental education and practical Permaculture based solutions for at least 100 children of the Seunuddon community. These local children have shown a high level of enthusiasm in the basic Permaculture techniques that they have been learning through the GreenHands activities in the area. Thanks to this project these young Tsunami and conflict survivors will be able to be involved in a range of dynamic educational and empowering environmental stewardship activities, which will also support trauma relief in the area, including:

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Activity No 1. **Local Kindergarten students will participate in a ‘My Environment’ coloring contest** – which will help evaluate local children’s level of understanding about the environment, while encouraging creative expression, sharing of knowledge and increasing local children’s motivation and self-confidence to act more sustainably vis a vis their environment.

Activity No 2. **Local Primary School students will participate in a ‘Water and the Environment’ story writing contest** – which will help to increase their understanding about the interconnected cycle of sustainable water reserves and local forests, encourage personal creative expression and increase self-confidence and stewardship for local water sources.

These creative activities will facilitate the development pride and environmental stewardship for local children, their families and the community at large, which will in turn support the development of a community that cares for the local environment and has a better chance of disaster mitigation and survival.

The judges for the contests will be key community representatives who have been directly involved in the IDEP / GFS Permaculture outreach program that is underway in the area at this time. After the competitions, the winning submissions will be used by IDEP as the baseline for developing a simple and culturally appropriate public awareness campaign (large posters), which will be produced for wider dissemination to local communities of the main messages that evolve from the project’s activities.

Other related project activities that are planned for special ‘Earth Day’ activities include:

Activity No 3. Recycled Paper Making activities – this will help local children gain a better understanding about the importance of waste separation and creative and fun ways to re-cycle waste using simple appropriate technologies that can be sustained in the local community

Activity No 4. ‘Children as Environmental Stewards and Teachers’ for Compost Making - children who have been involved in the IDEP / GFS Permaculture outreach program that is underway in the area will be supported to increase their pride and ownership of effective environmental solutions by teaching other children in their community about simple and effective techniques for making compost.

Finally, this project will support the establishment of clean water for orphans in Aceh:

Activity No 5. IDEP / GFS has been asked to assist with the distribution of several ‘AQUA FILTER 500 No.55’ water filters that were donated by the Rotary Club of UK. One of these excellent filters has been earmarked for delivery to Yayasan Panti Asuhan Aneuk Nanggroe (The Orphanage for Children of Aceh), which will participate in this projects various activities.

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Project Budget

The Berridale Public School / Permafund / Permaculture International Ltd. contribution of \$3,000 AUD (IDR 21,471,000) will be used to cover the costs of the implementation of the above activities as follows:

No	Item	Value
1	Stationary and art supplies	2,000,000
2	Consumption for 100 participants	3,000,000
3	Other tools for the activities	1,000,000
4	Transportation	2,800,000
5	Prizes for winning contestants	3,500,000
6	Perdiems for jury / organizers	800,000
7	Develop & produce billboards	4,000,000
8	Distribute billboards to community	2,000,000
	Sub Total	19,100,000
	IDEP Management Fee	2,292,000
	Grand Total Project Value	21,392,000

Project Reporting and donor recognition

Once the project is completed, a final project report will be prepared and sent through Morag Gamble. Recognition of support for the *Berridale Public School / Permafund / Permaculture International Lt* contribution will also be given through IDEP’s website.



IDEP and the GreenHand Program in Aceh would like to express its sincere gratitude to by the Berridale Public School / Permafund / Permaculture International Ltd for making this wonderful project possible.