

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2008

**COOPERATION
OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY**

**WITH
YAYASAN GAIA-OASIS
(The Gaia-Oasis Foundation)**



Dinas Kesejahteraan Sosial



Yayasan Gaia-Oasis

TEJAKULA, FEBRUARY 2009

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

Om Swastyastu. In line with the progress and development in the region of Bali in general and in Buleleng Regency in particular, there are still several challenges in managing Tejakula village and the boundary zones between Tejakula, Bondalan and Madenan Villages.

Various problems existing in the area are complex so that to assist in the settlement of these problems, a cooperation with several multi stakeholders is required.

With the existence of a partnership between the Social Welfare Agency and the Gaia-Oasis Foundation on community development and environmental conservation, it is anticipated that the existing problems can gradually be resolved or eliminated. The problems that are still faced in the development of said areas are among others as follows:

1. The economic condition that is still low
2. The number of drop-out children particularly of the boundary zones
3. Nutrition and health issues
4. Environmental cleanliness that has not been maintained and the alarming damage to sea and land habitats

B. PURPOSE AND OBJECT

This 2008 Annual Report Activities is aimed to give a picture of the activities conducted by the Gaia-Oais Foundation within a period of one (1) year in 2008. While its object is to give feedback of the activities results in light to assist the community development so that its future planning and implementation may be directed, harmonious and appropriate.

II. 2008 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

A. Management of Meditation, Spiritual Tourism Activities and Spiritual Exercises

1. Management of Gaia-Oasis Retreat with the aim to provide facilities to international guests desirous to follow spiritual courses and enjoy the natural powers in Bali.

In 2008, the Gaia-Oasis retreat at Abasan was visited by 186 international guests. This is a rapid development that is something to be very proud of. Groups visiting Abasan included yoga groups, groups studying in depth the holy book and culture, Vipassana meditation group, and other spiritual groups. Our Foundation dealt with the *metirta yatra* activities for international guests, and cooperated with another group to introduce foreign guests to the *pesantian* hymns, preparation of *banten/metanding* offerings, listening to the *dharma wacana* (religious words) as well as to conduct several Balinese ceremonies including *melukat* (cleaning of unholy spirit), *ngayut* and visiting the *jero balian* (shaman) and the *pemangku* (holy man guarding *Kayangan*) in Bali.

Since these activities were still new, our Foundation invested a considerable amount to give guidance to the local staff and to construct infrastructure so that we posted a loss of around Rp 200 million this year. However, we envisage that these activities will earn a profit in the times to come that can form a funding resource for the Foundation's programmes, apart from supporting the spiritual development of those who are seeking the way to God.

To safeguard that our activities remain transparent and to comply with the tax obligations, the Foundation has its own Tax Identification Number (NPWP) 01.828.926.-902.000) and accounting for the spiritual tourism activities is separated from the other social programmes. In 2008 our Foundation paid PB1 tax of 47.683.235 derived from the accommodation and restaurant services to the guests visiting our Foundation.

2. Increasing some small seclusion places on Abasan property for meditation and seclusion purposes. These seclusion places may be used by locals as well as foreign communities free of charge.

In 2008, we got a promise for funding from three parties to establish these meditation seclusion places. However, these funds have not been disbursed yet so that the construction of these seclusion places are postponed until 2009.

3. Identifying and documenting several trekking trails within Tejakula area as a spiritual tourism destination (*tirta yatra*).

Our Foundation had been searching for and documented trekking trails within Tejakula area that are still unknown to the public, including the trekking trail at Tejakula Village (trekking from the Ratu Gede Sambangan Temple upwards to the Ratu Ayu Manik Mas Meketel Temple), Pacung village (trekking from Ponjok Batu Temple upwards to Bukit Sinunggal Temple at Tajun), Kubutambahan village (around Penegil Dharma Temple and Kerta Gare Temple) and other villages. Our guests also visited other spiritual tourist objects that are more well-known, such as Meduwe Karang Temple at Kubutambahan, Sekar Tejakula Temple, Beji Sangsit Temple, Ponjok Batu Temple, and other places around Tejakula district. We also brought visitors to visit other sacred temples and places outside Tejakula district, e.g. trekking to Lempuyang Luhur Temple, *melukat* at Pura Tirta Empul, following the journey of Dhang Hyang Nirartha, as well as visits to Dang Kahyangan and Sad Kahyangan temples in Bali.

4. Cooperating with PHDI or other competent agencies to introduce *yoga asana* exercises to school children.

Our yoga teacher had an opportunity to give asana yoga exercises to school children of the Selombo Elementary School (SD No. 9 Bondalem), and our Foundation also had funded *Pesraman Kilat* activities for school children, in cooperation with our *Gugus* Chief. It is our hope that these activities may be expanded to all Elementary Schools at Tejakula village several times annually.

5. Establishing network with *jero tapakan, balian and pemangku of Bali*, in efforts to introduce Balinese traditional healing system to foreign guests and reversely so that a sense of respecting one another may be created.

These activities went on satisfactorily. One challenge is the need for accurate and sensitive interpretations, considering that conversations of a *balian or mangku* quite often is difficult to be instantly understood, and should be disseminated without deviating from its original meaning.

6. Expanding Gaia-Oasis network in order to embrace spiritual trainers from some other traditions, e.g. Qi Gong and Ayurveda.

Gaia-Oasis has invited several Qi Gong spiritual trainers to introduce this system to our guests, which received a warm welcome. We wish to give a brief introduction on the Ayurveda system, and to invite an acupuncturist to give free treatment to our guests in 2009. In 2008, we continuously gave opportunities to guests to follow the yoga asana exercises and meditation exercises free of charge, plus other exercises such as breathing management accompanied by music ("Satori Breathing"), spiritual counselling by a potential cleric, "Avatar" exercises (mastering the mind) and "Radical Forgiveness" exercises.

Although we did not charge the participants, nevertheless guests partaking in these activities quite often gave donations for other social programmes of the Foundation.

B. Supporting for educational, health and cultural programmes

1. Supporting educational programmes particularly at SD Selombo by providing nutrient food for school children, to provide additional honorarium to auxiliary teachers, and to purchase facilities and infrastructure (stationary, exercise books, first aid kits, sports equipment etc).

In 2008, our Foundation disbursed Rp 73,099,350.- to elementary schools at Tejukula village and the Elementary School SD Selombo at Bondalem. These funds were spent for 21 fellowships for the less fortunate, outstanding pupils, providing 48 times nutrient food for school children, providing additional honorarium to three auxiliary teachers and a janitor, and purchased facilities and infrastructure (stationary, exercise books, first aid kits, sports equipment, raincoats etc.) for 160 pupils from three schools. We disbursed funds for activities of the State Kindergarten of Tejakula Village. Administration costs from all these disbursed funds were not deducted, since we currently are still engaging volunteers, and all administration work are assisted by PT Gaia-Oais staff, a Foreign Investment limited liability company (PT) associated with the Founder and Supervisor of our Foundation.

2. Preparing opportunities for cultural skills exercises and assistance in marketing finished handicraft.

Our Foundation funded dance studio activities for 53 school children (boys and girls), that went on smoothly for one year. Farmers' children that were previously deemed to be incapable to dance studied eight types of dances including the *Rejang Dewa*, *Puspawresti* and *Cendrawasih* and had a chance to perform at the village temple at our retreat, at a hotel at Tejakula, even had a chance to perform in the subdistrict. These activities created an "esprit de corps", group spirit so that the children were self-confident and enthusiastic to participate in school activities. Our Foundation also funded musical instruments, such as the *gamelan*, and the cost for trainers to play it to be shared by the Foundation and the school next year, in order that the children will have an opportunity to continuously acquire better knowledge and study art.

Our Foundation has approved a "young entrepreneurs" programme in 2009 and the establishment of a cooperative, where the children of SD Selombo will learn to make *banten*, and market these to the *pemangku* in the vicinity. The beginning capital of these activities is a roll-over one, and the yield will be returned to the school cooperative, where its profit will be benefitted for school programmes.

3. Supporting *pesantian* and *sekaa gong* programmes at Tejakula village.

Our Foundation disbursed funds to the "Satya Budhi" *pesantian* group of Tejakula village so that the group members could follow broadcasting and recording activities

at the Bali TV and participated in broadcasting activities at the RRI of Singaraja seven times for six months in 2008.

4. Supporting health guidance activities and medical visits to villages that have no permanent PUSKESMAS (Community Health Centres) attendants as well as assist in medical activities at Desa Tejakula, if possible.

These activities are postponed due to lack of capable workers.

C. Development of Organic Plants & Agro-Forestry

1. To develop organic plants around Gaia-Oasis Abasan area by planning and technical preparations as well as to make a demplot with necessary facilities and infrastructure, such as soil media preparation plots, nursing area, water system, etc.
2. To proceed with experimental, training and evaluation methods to improve soil condition as well as to guide Human Resources among staff and villagers.

Our Foundation is located on a 4-hectare plot of land tilled by six *penyakap* (*tenant farmers*). In the beginning of 2008, our Foundation agreed with the tenant farmers to change the organic system that no longer uses pesticides and chemical fertilizers, but will use a natural planting system. Since planting on our land has been using the chemical system, we predict that the soil needs time at least three years for soil reconditioning. Mango trees that used to produce several tonnes each harvest, in 2008 only produced two quintals (400 kg) because it was not remedied with chemicals. However, there are good signs from the leaves and branches that the trees start reversing into the natural cycle and development.

As a substitute for the monocultural mango trees, our Foundation has tried to introduce several types of fruit trees and other commercial trees, including supreme durian, mangosteen, sawo and cloves, in cooperation with the tillers. We also have started greening activities with local trees, such as *dapdap*, *lantoro* and *kaliandra*. In addition, we have started to produce vegetables and nonstaple food crops at a moderate level. All these activities were carried out without using chemicals and loss of local wisdom for organic agriculture, however, we have tried various ways to handle it naturally by using ash, salt, coconut oil, leave extracts towards a fruitful result.

Nevertheless, this experience shows that our Foundation needs to do more experiments together with the farmers, to get planting methods that will reduce the risks of pests, appropriately, practical, cheap and easy to be implemented on site. We have made a demplot with a nursery and encourage farmers to delve in the experiences of their ancestors and to revive the local wisdom and to observe the signs of nature for the planting season.

Regarding infrastructure, our Foundation has cooperated with the irrigation group to repair the piping installation as well as to add a water basin, and we want to try the drip irrigation system to resolve one main obstacle, namely insufficient water during the dry monsoon.

To improve the fertility of the soil, our Foundation has made some hundreds holes for plants filled with *serasah*, EM4, sugar water and lime to enhance the soil structure, and mulch. We also have shown to the farmers how to make compost and liquid compost with material taken from the surrounding nature so that it saves money and a lot of time.

3. Involving pupils from nearby schools in order to learn permaculture system and organic plants.
4. Finding a market for plants and organic produce and monitor such activities.

The above activities have not been able to be implemented yet, because we will need at least three years before we can prove that the organic system will produce a good yield and adequate profit.

5. Starting Agro-Forestry activities with experiments to cultivate rare trees and perennial trees such mahogany, aside from supporting multi-cropping system.
6. Cooperating with relevant agencies to realize home gardening programme/TOGA so that the ability of poor villagers will be improved to meet their basic needs (three meals a day with proportional nutrition and the four conditions to stay healthy).

These activities have been postponed since appropriate workers are not available yet.

D. Rehabilitation of Beach and Hills Areas

1. Rehabilitating coral reef damage as a result of global warming and fishing with potassium, with the aim to reverse coastal area. First stage to be carried out is around Gaia-Oasis Beach Hotel, together with Baruna Bharata fishermen's group.

These activities went smoothly with the support both from the community and the Tejakula village head. Our Foundation has brought several fishermen for a comparative study to several projects in Bali applying various means to reverse the damage to the beach environment. We visited projects at Les, at Sambirenteng, and at Pamutaran to watch the coral rehabilitation method with an electric method, concrete and other. We also fostered a cooperation with NGO operating specially in conservation Reefcheck Indonesia operating specially in conservation. Reefcheck

has facilitated several meetings with the *pemangku* concerned and also conducted diving training for several fishermen appointed by the group. As a result, local fishermen were already involved in conducting initial surveys on the condition of coral reef and marine biota, and they were very enthusiastic since there is a diving tourism potential, besides these activities that may increase the number of fry and marine produce in the future.

Currently, Reefcheck together with us, the fishermen and other *pemangku* concerned are composing Village Rules, which will be familiarized to all relevant stakeholders. We are still raising funds to develop this project, but we also are proud that, only having the spirit of the community and very minimum funds (almost non existing from donators), these initial activities went on very well.

2. Planting and developing *Vetiveria zizanioides* to prevent landslides and floods at Abasan hills, together with a farmer's group.

Our Foundation has introduced vetiver plants to our property, and up until now, has shown a good result namely the plants have proven to hold the soil strongly, increasing rapidly, and no need for any maintenance. However, the vetiver plants are not acceptable to the farmers, who prefer elephant grass for feed.

3. Coordination with relevant agencies such as Marine and Fisheries Agency and Forestry Agency to get support and assistance in natural conservation programme.

These activities went smoothly, and the relevant agencies provided moral support for our activities.

4. Cooperating with community and guide awareness on meaning of importance of environment for human life.

The importance of the environment for the survival of man was proven by landslides of several hills at Tejakula on February 1, 2009. Our Foundation donated food such as 1 tonne of rice, noodles (supporting manpower etc, to be defined in the 2009 Report); however we hope that the community will be more aware that one of the impacts of collecting firewood and felling trees are damaging the environment that gradually will have a great impact on people. Although there was no environmental education activities in 2008, however these activities shall become a priority for the next year.

III. CLOSING

Developing villages and boundary zones of villages particularly remote hamlets that cannot be carried out only by the Social Welfare Agency and the local village administration, but must be conducted together with other relevant agencies and the community as well as NGO, in order to get attention and support required from all relevant *pemangku* (stakeholders).

The activities of the Gaia-Oasis Foundation in 2008 were aligned to the Medium Term Development Planning of Tejakula Village 2006 – 2010 and also adjusted to the site condition as well as funding capability. There are certainly programmes that could be carried out and those that could not be carried out in that year.

By this Annual Activities Report it is envisaged that all parties may review the activities that could be carried out so that shortcomings may be resolved and future activities may be better conducted. We hope that this Report may be beneficial in an effort to overcome part of the existing challenges in the conservation of Tejakula Village and the remote hamlets in the vicinity.

VI. ANNEX – 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Financial Report on Social Activities – DRAFT
2. Financial Report on Spiritual Tourism Activities-Still In Progress