

# **REPORT ON OUR VISIT TO KALIMANTAN – February 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

## **Osanna Vaughn and Frederic Richard (WSA chairlady and deputy chairman)**

### **Introduction**

In the middle of 2006, Osanna opened up a dialogue with the pioneering members in Kalimantan, as well as others around the world interested in the subject. Frederic, former director of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation), has worked in Indonesia on several occasions over the last twenty years with a focus on industrial and regional development and was interested to better understand how Subud was contributing to the development of Kalimantan

We traveled to Kalimantan at the beginning of February, 2007, immediately following the 60 year celebration and congress of Subud Indonesia in Surabaya. Without a planned intention, we were delighted to find fellow world council members Andrew Holloway (IH Area 2) and Lateef Dada-Bashua (Zone 5&6 Rep) with us, as well as Andrew's wife Mary. Pak Kuswanda, Subud Indonesia's committee councillor and member from Jakarta, also flew over to join us, while local residents Mustafa Syafrudin and Muhammad-Bachrun Bustillo were our constant support and guides 'en place'. Our home-away-from-home whilst we were there, was the Kalimantan Meeting Centre in Rungan Sari, a delightful oasis of comfort currently run by Isti da Silva and her team.

We came with no formal agenda, except the desire to meet and get to know the Subud community living and working in Kalimantan and to get a sense of the challenges they have faced and still face, the processes they have been going through, and their accomplishments. We also wanted to find out how the WSA might support them.

This report of our visit will start with our understanding of Bapak's vision for Kalimantan followed by an overview of the region and its development during the last 25 years; we will then present a short history of the development of Rungan Sari and each of the main on-going Subud enterprises and social projects; the last and longer part of this report will cover the mining project. In conclusion, we will point out a few of our ideas on how the WSA should support and contribute to the great work and activities of our Subud community in Kalimantan. Our intention in publishing this report is to inform and to share with you our findings and impressions in order to raise awareness and interest on the presence of Subud in Kalimantan.

### **Bapak's Vision**

Our understanding is that Bapak's vision for Kalimantan was very broad and could equally be applied to other areas in the world. Our feeling when reading the many quotes from his talks, is that he spoke of identifying needs, resources and solutions that would be useful for humankind; that the wealth of Kalimantan could be used, in first instance, to improve the place itself, to make it a good place. He identified many of the local resources (both visible or not!) that could be mobilized in a tone that seems to imply flexibility rather than rigidity. Bapak's ideas and insight into potential and development were often ahead of his time.

With this in mind, it is well worth revisiting what he said about Kalimantan; on the other hand, Subud and the latihan represent a process whereby the individual experience of receiving guidance and understanding is at the forefront. Considering also the fact that the world is constantly changing, the reality that has developed on the ground in Kalimantan has its own unique dynamic, like threads of individual experience, woven together into a colourful tapestry. There is, however, one quote regarding harmony, which we consider the fundamental starting point:

“...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... “[82 CDK 3]

## **Overview of Kalimantan**

The largest portion of the island of Borneo constitutes the region of Indonesia known as Kalimantan (540.000km<sup>2</sup> approximately). The rest of the island includes Brunei and a part of Malaysia. The region is divided into four autonomous provinces, of which Central Kalimantan – where Rungan Sari and most of the various Subud concessions are located – is the second largest, with 150.000km<sup>2</sup>. The provincial capital, with 160.000 inhabitants in the year 2000 (60.000 when Bapak first visited in 1980), is Palankaraya.

To give an idea of scale, Kalimantan represents 30% of the Indonesian landmass, but, with a population of 11 million, only 5.5% of the population. Java, by comparison, makes up 6.75% of the landmass and includes 60% of the population. While Indonesia's average population density is 111 people per square kilometre, Kalimantan's is 20 people per km<sup>2</sup>, and Central Kalimantan's is only around 10. By contrast, Java's has 1000 people per km<sup>2</sup>! At the last census in 2000, The population in Central Kalimantan was 1.8 million inhabitants and its growth is currently around 3.5% per year.

Transmigration has long been on the policy agenda of governments in Indonesia. It started with the Dutch government and peaked between 1980 and 1984 during President Suharto's time, when 2.5 million immigrants were brought over, primarily from Java, but also from Bali and Madura. It was not, however, considered a success. Among other things, it gave rise to cultural conflicts, in particular between the indigenous Dayaks and the Madurese, culminating in the outbreaks of violence at the end of the nineties, where hundreds of Madurese were killed and the rest had to flee. The transmigration policy continues today but on a very low scale.

At the same time, the natural resources began to be exploited by national but mostly foreign companies. Logging for timber, and slash and burn techniques to clear land for palm oil and other plantations, has caused wide-spread deforestation; one consequence of this is the regular outbreaks of fires that caused such intense smoke for weeks on end, that the airports are closed, traffic grinds to a halt, and, if at all possible, people stay indoors. All in all, the exploitation of local resources of Kalimantan does not seem to have yet been of much benefit to the local population.

The provinces of Kalimantan became autonomous in 2001. This decentralisation process has transferred authority to regional and local governments, which are now responsible for infrastructure, industry and trade, investment, environment, land matters, cooperatives and man power. There are certain indications that this can bring improvement to the general social and economic development of the local population. Land concessions are not handed out as easily, or are not renewed when they expire; environmental pressures are gradually being taken more into consideration.

In conclusion, the development of Kalimantan began some decades ago, but has not always followed the most beneficial path for the well-being of the local population and the environment. It seems that Bapak was hoping that we might be instrumental in bringing a different type of approach and content to this development but, for a variety of reasons, our impact was not significant until recently. While Mansur Geiger had spent decades involved in mineral exploration and building up a solid and mutually beneficial cooperation with the local Dayaks, it was not till the turn of the millennium that a significant number of other projects were developed.

## **A short history of Rungan Sari development**

In 1983, Y.M. Bapak established **PT. Pancaran Cahaya Bahagia (PT PCB)**, an Indonesian company of limited liability, as the legal instrument for all ventures to come to Kalimantan. One of its main tasks was to hold the lands allocated to Bapak for various types of development. At that time, the land located in Tangkiling was chosen for subdivision and a housing development. This resulted in 410 lots of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> each being sold to Subud members around the world. PT PCB is today controlled by the **Yayasan Muhammad Subuh (YMS)**, the Indonesian branch of the **Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF)**.

For the past 20 years, PT PCB has taken care of all land issues, property management and yearly taxes, on behalf of the Subud members owning plots in what is known today as **Rungan Sari**. In the centre of this compound is the Latihan Hall, which is owned by Subud Indonesia.

PT PCB/YMS is also currently responsible for the management of the **Muhammad Subuh Center** (a large Pendopo with adjacent buildings), the eco-village and the original guest house, all located on the periphery of the housing area that has been developed so far.

In 1998, **PT. Rungan Sari Permai (RSP)** was established as a property developer. It was responsible for putting in place the infrastructure for Rungan Sari's Phase 1. For some years RSP also acted as a contractor and was responsible for the construction of various houses. When one sees Rungan Sari today, it is difficult to comprehend the scope of this pioneer undertaking – taking a largely barren area and turning it into a delightful self-sufficient complex, with pleasant landscaping and attractive homes, not forgetting the Kalimantan Meeting Centre, with its guest rooms, restaurant and other facilities. The initial shareholders of RSP were PT PCB and a few very committed Subud members.

In the year 2000, RSP began the construction of the **Kalimantan Meeting Centre (KMC)**, a complex with 24 hotel rooms, restaurant, meeting rooms, swimming pool, and so on. The company owns the project.

In 2003, Phase 1 of the development of Rungan Sari was completed in terms of land sub-division, certification and planning. It includes 49 housing lots, 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of common areas, and forest preservation areas.

At that point, the **Rungan Sari Residents Association** took over the management of the housing area. House owners and residents make up its members. Its main responsibilities are the maintenance of the compound, and dealing with the various community issues. It is run by a committee of 5 members who are appointed every 2 years. The 30 permanent residents include adults and children from Australia, USA, Canada, Colombia, England, France, Holland, Portugal and Indonesia. There are around 20 semi-residents who come at least once a year and stay for at least two weeks.

Rungan Sari employs around 120 people, of which a number are Subud members.

Rungan Sari has a Subud group. There are three latihan a week (two in the hall in the centre of the housing area, and one on Sundays at the Muhammad Subuh Centre), and it has a committee and helpers dewan like any other group. In addition to the permanent residents living in the compound, there are around 55 local members. Some of them work in Rungan Sari but, on the whole, they are not very regular in coming to latihan, for a variety of reasons.

## **Overview of the main on-going Subud enterprises and social projects**

- **The Kalimantan Meeting Centre** <http://www.kmc-rs.com/>

Upon reaching Rungan Sari and entering the compound, one first encounters the graceful entrance to the KMC. The project consists of six attractive blocks of four double bedrooms with bathroom,

surrounding a large open area on three sides. The fourth, front side includes various offices and smaller meeting rooms, the reception area and some larger meeting spaces. Immediately adjacent is the restaurant with indoor and outdoor eating areas, the swimming pool area with a small performance stage at one end, and a spa room for massages.

The enterprise is owned by Rungan Sari Permai (RSP) and is run by Isti da Silva. The business is gradually developing to accommodate visitors to Rungan Sari, as well as people coming to the area for a variety of undertakings. Film and TV crews documenting the nearby orang-utan and gibbon reserves are among the most frequent guests. At the week-end the restaurant and swimming pool are also a popular destination for visitors from Palangkaraya.

- **The School Bina Citi Utama** [www.bcu-school.org](http://www.bcu-school.org)

The BCU school project was initiated some years ago to meet the educational needs of children living at Rungan Sari. Utami Geiger was and is very much at the fore-front of this endeavour, though she is broadly supported by a board, as well as teaching staff and administrators, currently totalling 13 people. The school has now grown to 33 students (planning for 50 at the beginning of the next school year in July), including many from Indonesian families living in Palangkaraya and one girl from the local village of Tengkilang who is attending on a scholarship.

The normal level of education in Kalimantan is very poor. Schools only have a few hours a day and teachers often do not turn up because they can earn more money elsewhere. The children from the poorer communities have to live with this, while those from more well to do families in the capital are often sent to Jakarta to study.

BCU has taken on the National Plus system initiated originally in Jakarta – among others at the Cita Buana school set up in Bapak's house at Wisma Subud – as an alternative between the poor quality national curriculum and the expensive international schools limited to the very wealthy. This National Plus system is based on teaching in English. At BCU they work with an Australian curriculum, and incorporate aspects of human interaction and cooperation as part of their philosophy. While it is not a social project in the sense of offering schooling to the very poor (though they hope to further broaden the scholarship programme), the potential positive social impact is part of the aims of the school. The board and teachers trust that by offering a better, human-oriented education to those who may be moving into government and other leading positions, the broader community as a whole will benefit and living conditions may improve for all.

The school is currently located in the rooms surrounding the Rungan Sari latihan hall, and Pak Siregar's house close by. With the current space available, they can grow to 60 students. To break even with costs, they need 80 students.

- **The Muhammad Subuh Centre, the Eco-Village and the Guest House**  
<http://rungsari.com>

PT. Pancaran Cahaya Bahagia (PT PCB) and the Yayasan Muhammad Subuh (YMS) are responsible for running these projects. The MSC consists of a large, Javanese-style pendopo – glassed in on all four sides, with decorative features carved in wood and painted in traditional colours – as well as a series of small meeting rooms, offices and snack bar. The pendopo is used for latihan on Sunday morning, as well as sporadic events (such as the World Subud Council meeting in 2004).

Usage of the centre, unfortunately, is extremely undeveloped, as is the use of the close-by eco-village (a small group of environmentally-friendly buildings with simple accommodation and facilities) and the guest house (also simple, but fairly comfortable accommodation) down by the river, at one end of the village of Sei Gohong.

All three of these projects are currently on the periphery of the Rungan Sari community. As Phase 2 is developed, however, their location will be more central and prominent. Finding ways to give them real life is the challenge currently facing PT PCB and YMS.

- **Yayasan Usaha Mulia** [www.yum-irdn.org](http://www.yum-irdn.org)

YUM is part of Susila Dharma Indonesia's network of development projects. Over the years they have initiated various efforts within the poor communities (namely Tangkiling, Sei Gohong, Marang, Banturung, Tumbang Tahai and Habaring Hurung) close to Rungan Sari. Currently active are the micro-credit project (giving small loans to fisher women and others), and the 'Clean Water' project, where water towers are currently benefiting 60 families (towers have been built in Tangkiling and along the so-called Transmigrasi road); follow-up education in maintenance and the basic running of the projects are also part of YUM's activities; and there is a small library and activity centre for children located at YUM's offices in Tengkilung. YUM is also involved in malaria prevention and control, and is currently preparing a scholarship programme for young children and teenagers to be able to attend primary school, vocational training and even university.

- **The Rungan Sari Design enterprise**

This enterprise which is a branch of YUM aims to design, produce and sell various craft products, such as hand bags, textiles and wall hangings.

The intention is to train Dayak ladies to become experts in sewing, embroidery and the use of sequins and small beads, to produce and sell high-quality textile crafts based on designs by Rashid Carré, inspired by or based on traditional Dayak motifs. The approach has met the enthusiastic approval of several Dayak connoisseurs. Isti Jenkins, an expert craftswoman living in Wllumbin, New South Wales, will apply the designs to canvas bags, for which she believes there is a good market in Australia. Other items, such as wall hangings, will be produced in Kalimantan and directed to Australian, and possibly UK, markets. The Indonesian market is also targeted.

The approach is two-fold: to help the Dayak ladies develop a 'cottage industry' and derive an income from it, and to offer a commercial craft product inspired by Dayak designs and meeting the international standards of markets. Profits from the sales will go to developing the project further, as well as funding some YUM-related activities.

- **The PT Kalimantan Usaha Bahagia enterprise**

This enterprise run by Muhammad Bachrun and Daniella Bustillo, has participated in the development of Rungan Sari since 2002. Its work involves design and administration of certain of the houses and gardens. It also has its own housing development projects (town-houses and wooden cottages) within Rungan Sari. More recently, the company has begun working in the direction of exporting pre-fabricated houses.

To develop their activities, PT KUB established an agreement with PT RSP to lease a 2000m<sup>2</sup> plot. At this time, 300m<sup>2</sup> are taken up with a workshop, office and wood drying shed. These facilities are used to produce building components such as doors, frames, windows and floor planks, as well as garden furniture. With the aim of maximising wood use, left-over pieces are used in the design and production of handicrafts.

- **The Kalimantan Tourism Development enterprise - Eco-tourism**  
[www.wowborneo.com](http://www.wowborneo.com)

Gaye Thavisin and Lorna Collins have developed an eco-tourism enterprise based on boat travel along the Katingan river in central Kalimantan. Using the hull of a traditional river freighter, the enterprise is building a comfortably-equipped boat to carry tourists down the river, where they will be able to experience the traditional life of the communities along the way, as well as travel into nature reserves to capture glimpses of orang-utan and other wild-life.

They hope to launch the boat on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Central Kalimantan, and to begin operations quite shortly afterwards. The plan is to organise complete tours that will end at the Kalimantan Meeting Centre in Rungan Sari. Residents of Java are considered to be a realistic target group for these kinds of tours.

There are, undoubtedly, other burgeoning projects in Central Kalimantan that we may not have heard about or were unable to visit. Two that have been running for quite some time now are Victor Böhm's remote sensing project (see: [www.rhc.at/kalteng/](http://www.rhc.at/kalteng/)) and the other, [www.borneo-international.com](http://www.borneo-international.com) spear-headed by Freeman Wyllie and Mursalin New, is looking to develop a palm oil plantation.

### **The mining enterprise**

This enterprise plays an important and special role in the activities of Subud in Kalimantan. A special role because it is the last large enterprise initiated by Bapak; and important because, if successful, it is expected to have a strong impact on the development of Kalimantan and of Subud. During our visit, we wanted to better understand the present situation of the project and to find out what WSA could do to support it. More specifically we wanted to address the following questions:

- What are the activities of the project at the moment?
- Will the Joint Venture with Oxiana compromise us achieving our objectives?
- What is the appropriate relationship between WSA and the mining project?
- What could be done to enhance and strengthen the contribution of the mining project to the development of Kalimantan?

The last three are open questions, and our intention was to start a dialogue, not necessarily find absolute answers. During our visit, we began this dialogue with Mansur Geiger, Murray Clapham and Rahman Connelly, all presently involved in various capacities in **Kalimantan Gold Corporation (KGC)**, the junior mining exploration company, and Bardolf Paul, director of **Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS)**, a non profit foundation under the umbrella of KGC.

It would not be possible in our report to review in details the history and the complex corporate structure of this project. It is important, however, to remember that it all began when Bapak was invited to take up a mining concession by the governor of Central Kalimantan at the time. After Bapak placed his thumb on the map to indicate where we should start searching for gold and other minerals, Mansur led the exploration with a dedicated group of Dayaks under Bapak's on-going guidance and with the financial support of a few Subud members. Following a major reorganisation, the **Kalimantan Investment Corporation (KIC)** was established in 1991 as sole owner of the concession. Its shares are 100% in the hands of Subud. In 1997, another corporation was established, **Kalimantan Gold Corporation (KCG)**, which became the funding and operating arm of KIC. In January of this year during their annual general shareholder meeting, the KIC board opened up the idea of merging KIC and KCG into one single corporation. For more information on KGC, please visit their website: [www.kalimantan.com/s/Home.asp](http://www.kalimantan.com/s/Home.asp)

- **What are the current activities of the mining project?**

This is an important question, because many members have almost given hope on the mining project. After 25 years of exploration, no economically feasible mine has been established. Many thought that after a few years gold would be found and a mine established where Bapak had placed his thumb on map, and are disappointed to see that after 25 years we are still at the exploration phase. When mentioning this to Mansur, he explained that for remote grass roots mining projects a lengthy exploration phase is completely normal. Only one in a thousand mineral occurrences become a mine and it usually takes 25 years to put a large mine into production. This is why KGC prefers to be considered a junior mineral exploration company and not as mining company. At the moment, of the 38 prospects under the Contract of Work (COW), KCG has three mature copper/gold ones. Outside of the COW, KGC has acquired a gold prospect known as Jelai in East

Kalimantan and they intend to look into acquiring more prospects. The economic feasibility of any mine within the COW and else where in Indonesia has increased dramatically over the past two years due to the increase in mineral prices. Copper for instance has risen to almost US\$ 9000 per ton from less than US\$1000 in that period, largely due to the strong demand from China. KGC has now signed an agreement with Oxiana, a medium sized Australian-domiciled mining company, which gives Oxiana an option, exercisable in the next 18 months after a period of exploration/due diligence, to joint venture in the COW. This 18 month period will focus mainly on the copper/gold prospects mentioned earlier

For those who are not yet fully convinced of the performance and progress of the mineral exploration project, we recommend that you read the attached article published recently in The Singapore Straits Times. It is particularly interesting because it also refers to Bapak, Subud and the origins of the whole endeavour.

In addition to its exploration activities, KGC is also contributing to the social and economic development of Kalimantan, by means of its non profit foundation, **Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta** (YTS). Bardolf is the Director. At the moment, the main activity of YTS is to build the capabilities of local communities to more effectively manage their social and economic development in cooperation with the local government authorities. They are now working in 12 villages. Another very useful project of YTS, funded by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), looks to find solutions to reduce the health hazards of mercury poisoning in an area of artisanal gold mining to the west of Rungan Sari (see attached article published recently by The Singapore Straits Times). For more information on Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS), please visit: [www.kalimantan.com/s/Community.asp](http://www.kalimantan.com/s/Community.asp)

- **Does the KGC/Oxiana Joint Venture, compromise achieving our objectives in Kalimantan?**

The exploration of mineral deposits is a very expensive business. Funding has to be mobilized to cover the costs of infrastructure, surveys, drilling, analysis and of bankable feasibility studies. It is impossible for Subud alone to finance the totality of these exploration costs. Since its inception, many foreign investors have participated in the project, and, indeed, there were already two foreign partners in joint ventures (prior to this deal with Oxiana), but they later withdrew due to the difficult circumstances in Indonesia and lack of success with exploration. Bringing Oxiana in at this stage was crucial because the concession was expiring. According to the arrangements with Oxiana, if, after the due diligence exploration phase, they decide to exercise the option, they are committed to spend a minimum of US\$37.5 million on exploration and feasibility, and, depending on results, assist KGC in securing the finance for the construction of the mine which could be in the billions of dollars. If all this happens KGC will not be the majority owner of the project with in the COW. Oxiana will own 66 2/3 and KGC 33 1/3, but the management hopes, and indeed expects, the project to develop in accordance with the ideals which lie at the very heart of the project. KGC will be represented on the Board and the management committees, with opportunities to influence matters in relation to the exploration, feasibility, design and construction of the project.

The KCG management team also gave us two other reasons why they believe this would be a successful joint venture: first, Oxiana has a good track record in the development of all its projects, including a copper mine in Laos, under similar conditions as the ones existing in Kalimantan; and second, Oxiana has a strong sense of corporate social responsibility and a proven commitment to the sustainable development of the local communities. For more details see: <http://www.oxiana.com.au/SustainabilityOverview.asp>

- **What is the relationship between WSA and the mining project?**

The formal link between WSA and the mining project is through MSF/YMS which, at the moment,

owns 20% of KIC on a non dilution basis and with no voting rights. This link will be redefined in the context of the proposed merger between KIC and KCG. It was important for us to understand what will be the level and status of the equity share owned by MSF/YMS in this future scenario? This affects both the influence that WSA/MSF/YMS might have on the development of the mining project, and the financial return that WSA/MSF/YMS will receive if the mining project is successful.

The KGC management team explained to us that it was not possible to maintain the original agreement of the non dilution status of the shares owned by MSF/YMS in KIC. The costs of exploration and preparation of a feasibility study are much higher for a large copper deposit than they would have been in the case of a small gold deposit, which was the expected scenario when the decision on non dilution was made. Investment required from external sources is much higher than originally envisaged and, as a result, a significant dilution of the equity share of MSF/YMS in KGC was inevitable. To deal with this in the best manner possible, KIC and KGC have agreed that the equity share of MSF/YMS that will result from the proposed merger between KIC and KGC will be determined by an external, independent and professional evaluator. It should be remembered that the dilution issue pertains only to the prospects being explored with Oxiana. MSF/YMS stand to benefit from the restructuring that would result from the proposed merger, as it will see them issued with shares in KGC, which already owns the Jelai gold prospect. MSF/YMS would also be involved with other prospects KGC may pick up.

The second issue concerns the non voting rights attached to the KIC shares owned by MSF/YMS. The KCG management team explained to us that this status was given to the MSF/YMS shares in KIC because they considered that WSA should not interfere in the management of the enterprise. On the other hand, however, they also understand that WSA represents the interests of the Subud community at large and that these interests might not necessarily be the same as those of other individual shareholders. In the case of a possible mining project, for instance, WSA would want to use whatever influence it might have to ensure that the mine contributes positively to the sustainable development of Kalimantan, as this was a key aim of Bapak when he went to Kalimantan in the first place. As WSA, through MSF/YMS, would have voting rights if the KIC/KGC merger goes ahead, it can be hoped that some influence will be retained.

- **Can WSA do anything to improve the contribution of the mining project to the development of Kalimantan?**

A copper mine in Kalimantan will have a major impact on the economic and social development of the population: on their incomes and employment, on the tax revenues of the regional and local governments, which could be allocated, for instance, to education, health and infrastructure. Properly done – as appears to be the intention of all those involved – it has the potential to do great things: opening up remote areas and developing employment opportunities, which are both vital needs for Kalimantan, and would seem to fit it with the ideas Bapak expressed for the region. The mine could, however, also have a strong negative impact on the environment. Unskilled and skilled workers who will come with their families from other parts of Indonesia and maybe from abroad will have to be accommodated and integrated into the local communities. The impact of mining on sustainable development is known to be complex and not easy to manage efficiently. At the same time, the Indonesian regulatory framework is also strongly gearing itself to protect the environment and the local population. The KGC management team is very much aware of these difficulties and challenges, and is committed, within the realm of what is possible, to the construction and management of a mine which will have strong benefits for the local population. They are also involved in promoting the importance of integrated regional planning prior to building a major mine, so the capacity and all the instruments of government management and control are well in place beforehand. Through their cooperation with Oxiana in the preparation of the feasibility study, they will ensure that the social, economic and environmental impacts of the mine are properly addressed. They are also actively participating in workshops organized by the central government

on the regulatory reform of the mining industry, and have initiated workshops at the regional level on a number of aspects such as good governance and, most recently, on the Global Mercury Project. The YTS foundation is fully dedicated to this purpose, and the local communities with whom they work will be more informed and better equipped to negotiate with the mining enterprise and the regional government to ensure strong positive returns for themselves. (For copies of their highly informative newsletter, Kabar Itah, please contact Bardolf Paul at [bardolf@pacific.net.id](mailto:bardolf@pacific.net.id))

What the future holds is still unknown, but *if* the result is a major mining operation, there may be greatly increased opportunities for Subud members with relevant expertise in a host of fields to come to Kalimantan to work with Subud and non-Subud companies. Subud entrepreneurs, may also see new opportunities, that could support the whole process.

## **Concluding remarks**

If we consider that Bapak's broad vision for Kalimantan was to contribute to the sustainable development of the province, it is clear that each of the Subud pioneers there have, in their own unique way, made that vision their own. The range of activities is impressively diverse. Apart from the development of a Subud group and community, there is mineral exploration, housing development and construction, hotel accommodation with small conference facilities and other amenities, individual artistic undertakings, architecture and landscaping, a school, social projects ranging from micro-credits, and water towers to community and regional development, original design handicrafts, eco-tourism, wood-work, and remote sensing (satellite photography), as well as others in development such as the palm-oil and cattle breeding projects.

It is clear that the mineral exploration has been at the forefront, both in the very long-term commitment of those involved, as well as the leading-edge, community development work being carried out by the project's foundation. The more than three decades that have passed since Bapak's first visit to Kalimantan have confirmed the accuracy of Bapak's receiving in regard to the mineral wealth, while Mansur and his team have given it form through their unflagging dedication and hard work. So, it can be said that this project has a real potential to fulfill Bapak's and our hopes, by becoming a source of prosperity and well-being for the local population, as well as the whole region and beyond. We feel confident that the recently established partnership with Oxiana – who share a similar vision, business culture and are strongly committed to corporate, social responsibility – can further carry this forward. In the meantime, the diverse projects – both business and social – that have developed around the Rungan Sari community since the turn of the millennium, could also well become the basis for much broader development in the region, as well as a significant support in the potential developmental impact of the mining project.

After our four day visit and following meetings and discussions with all those involved, we feel there are various areas that would benefit from attention and, broadly or specifically, the support of the WSA:

- A broader dialogue between the members of the various projects being undertaken in Kalimantan, looking to coordinate actions and initiatives where appropriate, allowing space for synergy and relationship opportunities.
- An improved flow of information from all these projects to the wider Subud community. Though it is hard to convey the impressive extent of what has been achieved by such a relatively small number of people, we can certainly make our best effort to do so. For their part, the projects need to strengthen their capacity to present their work clearly, and to answer queries with transparency and in a realistic manner.
- Visibility and presentation to the 'outside' world. The recent article in the Singapore Standard Times, which reports openly and in detail on the mineral exploration project and on Subud – even speaking about Bapak and the initial thrust that he gave the whole undertaking – clearly shows that the awareness of Subud's presence in Kalimantan is now

reaching beyond the immediate vicinity. Growing numbers of the local population (not to mention the regional government) are aware that Subud is behind many developments, yet do not really have a clear picture of what Subud actually is. How to improve this is worthy of assessment and action.

- Assess the need to be more actively involved in the overall strategy of social and economic development in Kalimantan and, in particular, central Kalimantan in support of the provincial and local government authorities.
- Organise a workshop to go deeper into all these points and others that all the participants may consider worthwhile, to create a broader platform for discussing initiatives to improve the contribution of all these projects to the sustainable development of Kalimantan, and to also enlarge further the support base within Subud.