

General information

In this first newsletter of 2018, we tell you about the visits by Janny and Willemien to the projects on Java and Bali. During the '**Indonesische dag**' (Indonesia Day) on **Saturday June 2, 2018** we will show you many pictures and a slideshow of these visits and the many people they have met. We kindly invite you to attend this day! *(please refer to the last page of this newsletter for details)*

In our next newsletter we will inform you about a new project in Jakarta, for which Roanne van Voorst acts as our contact.

The Gunung Agung, the volcano on Bali, has returned to a more or less peaceful state. However, the threat is not over yet; the volcano has not gone back to 'sleep' yet.

Visits on Java

In Solo on Java, our 2 board members started their series of visits at the Women's cooperation Lidia. They attended their annual meeting during which an elaborate report was made regarding last year's activities emphasizing the organized training sessions. SRI has paid for these training sessions. The plans for the upcoming year were also presented and discussed. Next to the meeting room, a small bazaar was set up to present products made by the women, such as makeup bags, jewelry, clothes, ginger powder, dried mushrooms and many food items. Of course, Janny and Willemien took this opportunity to purchase many things to showcase and sell during the Indonesische Dag. Too bad the food items could not be brought back, especially when they look so beautiful. Janny and Willemien were presented with a 'batik' cake - a batik pattern was backed into the cake. Actually, it was too pretty to eat. At the bazaar, each table with products was marked with the name of the small business, the name of the owner and her Lidia membership number.

Last year's training sessions were particularly aimed at teaching skills, packaging and marketing. We would like to specifically mention the extensive seminar themed 'wise online' about the possibilities and dangers of and on the internet. Many women and their family members attended this seminar. A large meeting was also set up to discuss the many dangers of drug abuse. Some of the topics for this coming year, will be the presidential elections, human rights and networking. These kinds of meetings create a large turnout. This year, these seminars were open to the public for the first time, which proved to be attractive as some women who attended these seminars applied for Lidia membership afterwards. Membership of Lidia is increasing; 164 women are now member of Lidia.

The microloan applications are doing well. A microloan is a small loan with monthly payment and a low interest of 1% to allow women to start their own business. The microloans are being paid back as agreed upon and there is follow up and additional care for women who have trouble paying the monthly payments. In the past few years only one defaulter was reported and this woman turned out to have made more debts at other places.

After the lunch Willemien and Janny together with Lidia board members visited some small businesses. It is very interesting to see these women being creative

www.sri-indonesie.nl
info@sri-indonesie.nl

IBAN NL76 TRIO 0212 3125 61
KVK 53227883
ANBI-verklaring



Bazaar Women's cooperation Lidia

for their business usually in their own little homes. Toko Klontong owned by that day's chairwoman was visited. At a took Klontong people can buy all things that they would need for their daily lives. From medicines to food items, detergent, glue etc. She also produces healthy juices like carrot juice and rice snacks in very small containers to be brought to work or school. Janny and Willemien also visited a woman who really does any kind of work offered to her; she owns a salon for makeup and hair dressing, makes jewelry and bags, provides entertainment (e.g. music and dance) en sells secondhand furniture.

Janny and Willemien also met the children who are supported by SRI in Solo. They met at the home of the SRI contact, many of the children came along with their parent and/ or guardian. The children's age varies between 5 and 17 years old. It was a lively meeting in which we made time to talk with each of these children. We said goodbye to some of these children; they will graduate this year and will start their professional career. In their place another child will be able to receive SRI support.

They also visited a high school which received support to help purchase books, notebooks, pens etc for pupils who cannot afford to buy these themselves. Some of the topics which were discussed were the house visits made by the teachers to promote good contact between the school and the home environment of the pupils to create insight into the pupil's background. Willemien and Janny also went to Klaten, about an hour's drive to the West of Solo to meet children who receive support from SRI there. This was also a lively and informative meeting with lots of laughter!

Together with our contact Janny and Willemien visited the widow who suddenly lost her husband 1.5 years ago and thus lost her income. She now wants to continue the small food stall she ran with her husband. Her oldest son now works in Jakarta and her two other children have been sent to live with other relatives. SRI would like to continue supporting her, so she can take care of herself and her two children.

At another location we had a nice meeting with the woman we supported so she could purchase small gas containers (*refer to newsletter 13*). Her shop flourishes and she can support her family.

A whole day was spent at the women's cooperation Kembang Wangi in Musuk, on the hills of Merapi. The women of the board were all present to welcome Willemien and Janny. They told them enthusiastically about the foundation weekend of this cooperation (*please refer to newsletter 17*). Some of these women had to make special arrangements to attend this weekend; it is not common practise for them to be away from home during the weekend. One woman was able to come, only if she took along her children with her. And another woman told us her husband was more than happy to take care of the children during the weekend. One woman was called during the night and told to come home, but the next morning she was present again. The women had learned alot during the weekend and have really enjoyed these days without all the responsibilities of their daily existence. *"We were happy, we sang and danced and felt young again!"* was their reaction!!! They felt stronger and had made agreements and plans concerning the care of the goats, the expansion of their communal shop and



Kembang Wangi

the set up of homestays at beautiful view points on the hills. Plans were also made to organise more education and training sessions and frequent meetings to share their experiences.

Our contact talked about how three women groups from different villages have come together and founded the cooperation Kembang Wangi. After this, a new small shop and the administration of one of these groups was visited in one village. Together they walked across a piece of land donated by the government which they will use to grow vegetables. Willemien and Janny also drove high up the mountain together with a small group of women to visit a location where they grew roses. The rose petals are dried and mixed with tea, but some petals are also used to make a kind of chips and nuts. Even higher up, there is a viewpoint and some food stalls. During the weekend many city folk come to relax there. The women sell all kinds of things, primarily food. Alas, during a heavy storm many of these food stalls were damaged and have to be repaired, but they are working on that so that they can continue to sell their items there. It was very special to be part of this community for one day.

Visits on Bali

After this interesting and busy period on Java, Willemien and Janny travelled by plane to Bali. First to Lothundu for some rest, but also to visit Sjaki-Tari-Us, the day care facility for children and teenagers with a mental disabilities. They spent one whole morning there and visited all groups. The facility is a beautiful, spacious and light building with a spectacular view and built on land belonging to a regular school. All groups now have their own classroom centered around a communal open space, with a food stall adjacent to it. Unfortunately, this new location has a decreased number of spontaneous visitors to the food stall, but they frequently receive catering orders from people/ businesses in the vicinity. It really is a great place to visit and see what can be achieved with these children and teenagers.

They also visited Yogi and Dudyk and their little son Athaya. They have talked extensively and the children of the drawing program Rare Kemong were present as well. Together with the children they went to the village to admire the Ogoh-ogoh (puppets) the children created in celebration of Hari Nyepi (the Balinese new year). This program is a good example of how a little support at the start of any program, can provide just the right incentive for the program to continue and develop into an independent program. SRI will continue to follow this program with much interest!

They continued their journey to Sanur, from where they visited other people, such as Yoyon the tailor who has created many clothes. They also visited the night market in Reno to meet Hendra together with his wife and children and who owns a busy juice stall. They also met and talked extensively with a girl who will graduate this summer and will start her tertiary education. Thanks to a special donation SRI is able to help this girl pay her tuition fee. They also met the contact person for a few children living in the Northern part of Bali and Denpasar, as well as some former pupils who do not receive any (financial) support from SRI but who have expressed to continue their annual contact with SRI. It is great to see



Kembang Wangi



Sjaki-Tari-Us

that these former pupils now are able to converse in proper English and wish to discuss a variety of topics.

Summarizing: The meetings were interesting, intense and warm and have provided a good overview what SRI's support means for all these people and how much is achieved through this support.

Indonesische dag (Indonesia day)

We have made many pictures during this trip and we would like to share these and our experiences with you during the Indonesische dag (Indonesia day).
Selamat datang (welcome!), you are kindly invited!



Note 1: Perhaps unnecessarily, we would like to point out again that all travel and boarding expenses of Janny and Willemien during their annual trip to Indonesia are completely covered by Janny and Willemien themselves. They think this normal and have always acted accordingly. Since some people asked questions about these expenses, we thought it best to repeat again that all expenses are covered by Janny and Willemien and are not paid by SRI.

Note 2: We would really like to publish pictures of all the people we meet. However, due to the simple and uncontrollable way of spreading these pictures all over the internet, we have come to the agreement that we will not publish pictures in which people can be recognized in our newsletter nor on our website. During the annual Indonesische Dag at Janny's house, a slide show is presented in which all our meetings have been captured and a poster is shown containing a collection of smaller pictures of people. This poster will not be photographed nor published.