

Before the end of this year, we would like to inform you about all that has happened both in The Netherlands as well as in Indonesia during these last few months.

Unfortunately, this newsletter also starts with sad news: In August one of our cherished Indonesian sympathizers has passed away in Jakarta. Our tailor Yoyon in Suwung, Bali, has also passed away in November. In the Spring, he was already gravely ill when Janny and Willemien met him, but it seemed that he was healing. The sudden news of his passing has hit us hard. Many of will know of him and even own some of his creations. He created many bags and aprons together with his wife. We will keep in contact with his wife and sons.

Java

The first semester of the children's school year has now almost ended. We are glad that SRI is able to support the education of a number of children, to improve their chances in society in Solo and Klaten.

The women's cooperation Lidia has organized a few training sessions in Solo. One of these sessions concerned the possibilities of online marketing, to allow the women to sell their products online as well. Lidia also organized a seminar themed Inspirative Women of Change. This seminar made women realize that they have the power to inspire others and thus change their environment and society. Other trainings sessions focused on the development of certain skills such as accountancy, cooking and flower arranging.

The women of Kembang Wangi cooperation located on the hills of the Merapi volcano, Central Java, also organized several activities. Currently, 20 villages (desa) in Musuk and Tamansari district are involved with this women network. An exhibition was organized to display home made products and was attended by a record number of 150 women! This year there were no weekend sessions because a 2-day absence of these women causes tension in their families. Two separate activities were set up to prevent this. One activity to promote team spirit, took place in and around a swimming pool and was attended by 40 women. The other meeting was themed Against women violence. Unfortunately, violence against women occurs not just on the island of Java, but is a worldwide issue. Therefore, it is good to enable women to defend themselves and raise awareness for this issue. The United Nations has started a worldwide campaign 'Stop violence against women' to raise international awareness between Nov 25 and Dec 10. Many public buildings in different countries and cities will be highlighted in orange corresponding to this year's theme 'Orange the world'.

Our contact for Kembang Wangi has visited The Netherlands for a conference at the beginning of November. Ofcourse we have talked to her extensively; she brought an evaluation report concerning the first training session and several home made products produced by the Kembang Wangi members (*refer to the pictures*).

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SRI news

The news letters are also published on our website. We also include an Dutch and Indonesian translation of the news letter, after one of our volunteers has finished the translation:

sri-indonesie.nl/nieuws.html
sri-indonesie.nl/indonesian.html



Kembang Wangi: herbal products and the training in/ around the swimming pool.

Bali

On Bali, a number of children have started the new school year thanks to the support they received from SRI in August. We received a big, fat envelope containing last year's school reports from one of our contacts (*refer to the picture*). The drawing program Rare Kemoning (central Bali) has been operating with help of the local community and thus could do without any financial support from SRI for the past few years now. We have remained involved with this project and keep visiting them every year during our annual visit per request of the project leaders. Now that the children attending this program have grown, the focus has also shifted from drawing to how to treat nature and their environment. The project now also includes their cultural heritage and background by educating the children about traditions and how to keep these alive.

Sjaki-Tari-Us, the day care facility for mentally challenged children and teenagers in Loduntuh (near Ubud), has continued to thrive. More and more children are attending this facility, which is remarkable, because this means that these children will get a chance to develop themselves to their own abilities and not be kept at home. The teenagers are educated and trained to contribute to society albeit under supervision.

The Netherlands

We have been invited by the Soroptimist International, club Scheveningen, to attend a concert of which all proceeds would be for the Free a Girl foundation by School of Justice. This foundation is an international campaign to allow girls freed from (forced) prostitution to receive education. We were glad with this opportunity for SRI to show and tell about our work. Girls are provided with a school education and women with training sessions to allow them to become less vulnerable and enable them to provide for themselves.

We have received special donations: from a 25-year wedding anniversary, from a 70-year old birthday party and from a legacy.

We would like to inform you about the possibility of enjoying a stay at a bed-and-breakfast managed by one of our Dutch/ Indonesian sympathizers. Just outside the city of Yogyakarta he has built several small lodgings between the rice paddies. These can be rented and are provided with excellent service. Youngsters are trained here for a job in the hotel industry and also as guides in the near and not-so-near vicinity. Willemien and Janny have stayed there to acclimatize every year for a couple of days before they started visiting all the SRI projects. If you are interested, please contact us via e-mail (info@sri-indonesie.nl) for more information or directly approach Janny or Willemien.

All SRI activities are only possible thanks to your support. Thanks to all moral and material support of our sympathizers and volunteers the good works (started by Judith Huizinga-Eyma during the late 80s of the previous century) can be continued. Thank you very much for that: terima kasih banyak!



The envelope with school reports.

We wish you a
 good December,
 an enlightened Christmas
 and Happy New Year,
 Selamat Tahun Baru!