

Dear Supporter,

Happy New Year from the NTA! 2015 will be an exciting year for the NTA as we expand our vegetable and cocoa cultivation programs in order to further raise the incomes of local farmers and their families.

But first, we want to share the highlights of our work in late 2014, as observed during our monitoring team's recent tour of our projects in Nusa Tenggara Timur. In Flores, a day-long demonstration of cocoa planting and cultivation techniques, led by BPTP cocoa specialist Mohammad Tahir and visiting specialist from Bogor, Henkie Luntungan, attracted almost 250 local farmers seeking to refine their skills. The team observed the success of the vegetable plots established beside NTA funded water tanks, which locals use for both their household consumption and supplementing their incomes through modest local sales.



Above: Local women attend the NTA's cocoa field day to learn more about successful cocoa planting and cultivation

In West Timor, the team noted the success of the water tanks installed by NTA at Besi Pa'e, to the north of the capital city Kupang. These tanks were specially designed by NTA, with the help of a local expert, to withstand the shifting soils that make the standard design unusable. Following the construction of 32 new toilets on the isolated island of Semau over the 2013-14 period (and hundreds in the past decade), the team noted how this initiative has now been replicated by other households on the island. This is usually at their own expense and is a fantastic development for the people of Semau. It will dramatically improve their daily health and help prevent deadly conditions caused by poor sanitation.



Above: The NTA monitoring team inspects a newly installed well on Semau Island

The team attended the eighth annual Schools Music and Dancing Festival, sponsored by the NTA at Wegok Natar, Flores, where 11 enthusiastic primary schools performed in front of some 1,700 people, including many senior Indonesian government officers. This annual event has proven to be a significant stimulus to local children's attendance.



Students perform at the 8th annual NTA-sponsored schools festival

MEET THE NEW NTA BOARD

We are pleased to introduce the new NTA Board following our October 2014 AGM. Ron Thompson, businessman and a former international banker with the Commonwealth Bank, will continue as Chair; Dr Colin Barlow will continue as CEO and Operations Committee Chair; Peter Dawson will continue as Membership and Marketing Chair, and Kim Andren will continue as Secretary. We welcome two new members to Board. Dr Lesley Potter, Associate Professor and Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University's Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program, and Penny Godwin, both have assisted with the NTA's operations for several years. Dr Janet Hunt, Ulla Keech-Marx, Bill Andrews, and Ria Gondowarsito have been elected to the Board for a further year. Thank you to all who attended the AGM, and to Christina Munzer from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for her informative presentation.

INDONESIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES IN CANBERRA

The AIA Canberra is again accepting enrolments for its fun, vocational Indonesian language classes taught by native Indonesian speakers. Teachers are all experienced and classes cater for absolute beginners through to advanced students. Classes are held from 7-9pm over an eight week period, are \$130, and will commence in the second week of February. For more information, contact Phil on 0406 930 835 or via phil2dom@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED!

The Membership and Marketing Committee is seeking new members to assist with fundraising and raising the NTA's profile. If you're interested and think you have some relevant experience please get in touch via: enquiries@nta.org.au.

If you would like to make a contribution to our projects you can do so via our website: nta.org.au/donate.

If you would like more information on our efforts to reduce poverty and improve food security and livelihoods in NTT, we urge you to contact us via enquiries@nta.org.au.

Until next time,

The NTA team.

