

Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM) Progress Activities 2019



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai





After establishing our Cultural Education Foundation, we met with various local government officials to present our program and mission. Response from these officials, including the head of Southern Siberut district, Hijon, S.Pd., was extremely positive.



After receiving support from the local government officials, the YPBM team began conducting presentations at the various primary and secondary schools throughout the southern Siberut district. Our goal was to talk about Cultural and Environmental Education Program (CEEP) and encourage the students to participate.



In 2017, we officially inaugurated our Foundation and office space in the village of Muntei. This included Mentawai ceremonial dance and ritual to ensure a safe and successful journey. This event was also celebrated by signing a new MOU agreement with the Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF).



As part of our program implementation, YPBM encourage and empower Mentawai community groups to establish their own cultural learning studios (sanggars) - like in Saibi Samukop, central Siberut district.



We also collaborate our program with existing cultural studios (sanggars), such as the Uma Jaraik Sikerei in Muntei, Southern Siberut district.



Our CEEP activities include learning about our ceremonial dances, weaving and handicrafts, important resources such as medicines, foods and building materials - both theory and practical.



Our students also learn about our Mentawai oral literature including folklore, mythology and song.





We also developed a short 4 minute and 1 minute video talking about our CEEP program and the positive impacts and challenges we face. Click on the above video frame to watch.



In 2018, YPBM initiated a cultural festival in collaboration with the Republic of Indonesian celebration of Independence. This included cultural parade, dance and bow and arrow competition and involved many of our program students.



YPBM also received opportunities to represent our culture at Indigenous film festivals and Indigenous Celebrations in Bali and at the Green School. This included hosting workshops and our students performing ceremonial dance. We have prepared a highlights video from one of these festivals. Click above to watch.





YPBM facilitated opportunity for groups of our program students to attend the annual Mentawai cultural festival. They won in 2 or the 3 categories.



Our YPBM program also provides opportunities for our students to perform when government officials and other important guests arrive to the villages. This brings great pride to the students and community.



To further our objectives, YPBM have been meeting with head government officials in Mentawai and on mainland Padang. All parties are extremely supportive, providing us a wonderful opportunity to guide the government's cultural programs in the direction aligned with the wants and needs of our community.



YPBM have also recently partnered with the Australian Government volunteer program. In January, 2019, the head representative from the Jakarta office travelled to Mentawai to conduct a final review on our Foundation's compliance, health and safety procedures and available infrastructure. It is expected that we shall receive our first Australian volunteer mid 2019.



YPBM have also developed a new model of Mentawai Ecotourism to help protect our culture and forest environment by improving the impact of tourists and sharing benefit across all parties involved and the broader community. 10% from each tour goes towards our Foundation and cultural education program. See www.mentawaiecotourism.com for further detail.



In 2019, YPBM are conducting important research projects to develop a Mentawai dictionary; oral literature books, videos and documentation; and also ethnobotanical research to develop a guidebook teaching about Mentawai's most important natural resources.



Above is a short video with the Founder of YPBM introducing the Mentawai dictionary project and why it is important for our future.



MASURAK BAGATTA, Thank you