

Toraja Rural Development Charitable Trust – now known as

Toraja.co.nz

...outputs

...outcomes

...sustainable change

Registered Charity No. CC26900

Newsletter – September 2009

We are writing to inform you of the sad death of Daniel Salubongga, who was the director of Jalesa, our partner organisation in Toraja. Daniel was a fine leader of Jalesa and was greatly respected by the village farmers and the wider community in Toraja. Although we were aware that Daniel was off work due to illness we were unaware of the extent of his illness and the news of his death has come as a great shock to us.

It is fundamental to the good management of a project of this nature that we make sure that our financial support is being used as agreed. When we first heard of Daniel's poor health we were concerned about how that might affect a small organisation like Jalesa. This is especially important as the initial two year project has recently been completed and we were developing a new project to follow this. We are anxious not to demoralise Jalesa by withdrawing our support but further funding must be contingent upon Jalesa demonstrating an ability to function effectively under new management.

To this end we have engaged an Indonesia based consultant to act on our behalf in monitoring and assisting with the appointment of a new director. Pak Suarja was previously Indonesia manager for another of Jalesa's funders, a European NGO called Veco. In that capacity he has had a long association with Jalesa and is an experienced development professional.

Pak Suarja visited Jalesa on our behalf with three objectives in mind.

- 1 to reflect on the progress of our project
- 2 to check on the financial report for the period January – June 2009
- 3 to develop a new proposal for the next stage of the project

He confirms our belief that the Jalesa staff have a strong commitment to continuing to implement the project in the field but that it is vital that the Jalesa board move swiftly to appoint someone to replace Daniel. This person must have the ability to manage the programme and lead the team of field officers who work with the farmers.

Our honorary accountant George Brown comments "We have been providing funds to Indonesia through JALESA and as part of that we insisted we receive a copy of their financial accounts. We have received their audited accounts for the past two years. The interesting things from these accounts were:

- JALESA receives its income from two major sources – Veco and ourselves
- Veco money is spent on sustainable agriculture programmes
- In respect of spending, less than 5% is spent on administration

All in all the Board feel that the project support that JALESA provides is targeted in the right direction."

We are in regular communication with Veco, who, as the other major funder of Jalesa are also interested in ensuring that Jalesa can recover from the loss of Daniel and restore their former capability. We will remain in close contact with all our associates in Indonesia as we find a way forward. Further funding will be made once we are assured that Jalesa have regained their effectiveness under new leadership.

Clare Freeth

Administrator

Tel: 03 3025656

Email: clarefreeth@xtra.co.nz

Address: 17 Fechnes Road, RD 1, Ashburton

On behalf of the Board of Toraja.co.nz