



NTA
East Indonesia Aid

Note: Of the following items, the reports from the Jakarta Post have been edited. By contrast items from Pos Kupang are synopses translated by the editor (Denis Fisher). Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are welcome and should be sent to the editor at d-dfisher@homemail.com.au.

1. Threat of Maize Crop Failure in Belu
2. 1 500 Household Classified as Poor in Atambua
3. Indonesia and Australia Agree on Joint Sea Patrols
4. Citizens of Kuanheum Village Harvest *Jagung Lamuru*
5. NTT's Tax Receipts Target for 2009
6. WFP launches Carbon-Free Program With Planting of Cashew Nuts
7. Cattle Numbers in East Flores Increase
8. Health Service and WFP Address Malnutrition
9. Make Cottage Industries an Economic Icon of Kupang
10. TP-PKK Reflective of Female Empowerment
11. Yaws Threatens People in South Belu
12. Villagers of Tukuneno Without Fresh Water
13. Investors should Address Social Issues: *Bupati* of TTU
14. FAO Assists Indonesia and East Timor to Fight Locust Attack
15. Biscuit Boxes Contain Sharp Objects
16. Dry season to start early, with 'no extremes'

1 Threat of Maize Crop Failure in Belu

Kupang Post 20/3/09

Atambua: According to the secretary of the Plantations and Farming Service of the *Kabupaten* of Belu, Niko Umbu, thousands of hectares across Belu's 24 *kecamatan* planted with maize around December have produced a disappointing harvest because of excessive rain (the heavy rain has, however, benefitted rice and nut growers). 75 tonnes of maize were now being readied for distribution to farmers, principally in South Belu, for use in this year's second and third plantings. Hopefully that action would prevent any food shortages resulting from the crop failures now being experienced,...(*more*)...

2 1 500 Household Classified as Poor in Atambua

Kupang Post 20/3/09

Atambua: In an unannounced inspection visit (*sidak*) to West Atambua *Kecamatan*, the *Bupati* of Belu (Joachim Lopez) was informed by the *camat*, Matilde Seran, that as many as 1 500 of the 4 085 heads of household in his area were classified as poor. The two officials discussed government programs already in place to empower the people and enhance their welfare, e.g. the National People Empowerment Program (PNPM), Development Programs for Backward and Special Areas (P2DTK) and the Joint Action Group (KUBE) scheme. In respect of programs aimed at empowering the people, Lopez

told Seran that it was very important that officials, while managing program funding in accord with technical and operational guidelines, should act as facilitators only and not intervene. The people themselves should take the running on the implementation of the projects....(*more*)..

3 Indonesia and Australia Agree on Joint Sea Patrols

The Jakarta Post, 22/3/09

Indonesia and Australia have agreed on campaigning against poaching and on joint sea patrols around their maritime territorial boundaries in eastern part of Indonesian waters. During the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Marine and Fisheries (WGMAF) Indonesia-Australia in Nusa Dua, Bali last week, the two countries, which had met several times to discuss poaching issues, finally reached agreement to jointly combat the illegal acts.

“In tackling with poaching, both countries have agreed on developing campaigns against poaching in eastern Indonesia . We’ve also agreed on conducting joint patrols at maritime boundaries between the two countries,” head of Indonesia ’s delegation to the meeting, Suseno Sukoyono from Indonesia ’s Maritime and Fisheries Affairs Ministry, was quoted as saying by *Antara*.

The two countries, however, have yet to reach agreement on the definition of traditional fishing. While Indonesia dubs many of its fishermen as traditional ones, Australia does not recognize the term, according to Suseno. He cited as example old fishermen from Rote Island in East Nusa Tenggara, who dubbed Pasir Island or Ashmore Island , located in the South of the province’s Ndana Island , as their inherited fishing areas. Pasir Island is rich in sea cucumbers and shrimps.

The two countries, however, have had a maritime boundary agreement which includes the island in Australia ’s territorial sea. Suseno said such thing produced unfavorable situation to Indonesia , many of whose traditional fishermen had been caught by Australia ’s sea patrol. “We see here conflicting interests between traditional fishermen who only want to find some money to eat and a sovereignty and law enforcement of a country.” Suseno said the two countries would specifically discuss the issue in another meeting in Surabaya in May.

4 Citizens of Kuanheum Village Harvest *Jagung Lamuru*

Kupang Post, 23/3/09

Kupang: With the assistance of the Kupang-based Lembaga Bina Abdi Sejahtera (LBAS) (formed in November 2008), working in association with the Beyond-School Education (PLS) Section of NTT’s Education, Youth and Sports Service (PPO), a group of specially guided farmers in Kuanheum Village (Kupang *Kabupaten*) are about to achieve high yields from 40 ha of land planted with the *jagung lamuru* variety of maize. The farmers concerned took part in a PLS course conducted by LBAS in Oesao in November which was attended by 128 local people. On the basis of their appreciation of that course, the Kuanheum farmers were encouraged to unite in planting 40 ha. of *jagung lamuru* and 20 ha. of the *gora (gogo ranca)* variety of rice. In large part due to

the skill of the farmers involved, the 40 ha. of maize are expected to yield 200 tonnes of maize in the current harvest. The head of the PLS section of NTT's PPO Service (Marthen Dira Tome) said efforts were being made to sell the maize so that it would be a new source of income for the farmers. It was expected that the farmers' success this harvest would stimulate them to repeat the effort in the future. The farmers were also motivated by the PLS course to improve their skills in other areas (they could now read, write and count)... (more)...

5 NTT's Tax Receipts Target for 2009

Kupang Post, 23/3/09

Kupang: The head of NTT's tax office said at an event marking "tax guidance" week that the target for tax receipts in NTT for 2009, set by Jakarta, was Rp1 trillion (\pm A\$129.12m). Thousands of new tax (file) numbers (NPWP) had recently been created by the NTT government to facilitate the payment of tax by those required to do so. As tax receipts were an important underpinning of the development process, a call was made for taxes to be paid by all those required to do so. NTT Governor Lebu Raya, at the same event, urged that tax officials be completely honest in their duties and avoid lowering the tax burden for friends etc..*(more)*...

6 WFP launches Carbon-Free Program With Planting of Cashew Nuts

Kupang Post, 23/3/09

Kefamenanu: In cooperation with Yayasan Bina Swadaya (YBS), several other NGOs and the Carbon Free Consultation Corporation, the World Food Program (WFP) launched a 28-year carbon-free program by putting in place arrangements for the planting of 120 000 cashew and physic nut (*jatropha curcas*) plants in hundreds of hectares of degraded land around Oenbit village (Insana *Kecamatan*, North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten*) on 19/3/09. The launch was marked by the symbolic planting of a plant and the signature of an MOU by the parties concerned.

The Bupati of TTU (Gabriel Manek) thanked the WFP and the Carbon Free Consulting Corporation, noting that, although the *Kabupaten* paid close attention to improving the environment, its efforts were not fully effective because of lack of human and financial resources. Their efforts and those of the NGOs involved in this planting program would therefore lighten the government's load. He urged the people to play their part in the program and in preventing global warming by planting the seedlings and nurturing them carefully in the years to come. A representative of the Carbon Free Consultation Corporation, Nakanishi Takhesi, told *KP* that this was the first year that his corporation had become a donor in this area, working with the WFP to put an effective carbon-free program in place. He hoped the local government and people would take care of the plants for the life of the program. During that time, his corporation would stand ready to help with funds and consultancy services provided by reliable staff. Takhesi said that this planting was only the beginning of a 28 year program. Hopefully it would not fall apart in the first year, as the plan was to provide similar assistance in many other places. YBS Director (Jack Bere Laka) told *KP* that the role of the NGOs involved would be to act as catalysts in getting the people involved in the planting program and to help ensure the future health of the plants. The NGOs had the technical staff, supported by WFP, to guide the people in making the carbon-free program a success....*(more)*...

7 Cattle Numbers in East Flores Increase

Kupang Post 23/3/09

Larantuka: According to the head of the local Livestock and Agriculture Service (Elis Halan), the number of cattle in East Flores rose from 1 891 in 2007 to 1 928 in 2008. In 2008 breeding cattle (*sapi kopel*), provided under a government credit scheme (in place since the 1990s), numbered 530 head under the control of 325 heads of family (KK). Halan said these increased numbers of cattle had helped people enhance family incomes. The *sapi kopel* credit scheme had worked well, though farmers' lack of attention to man-assisted breeding techniques often resulted in fewer pregnancies than there should be (and in those cases the farmers were the ones to lose out). He noted that East Flores was a diverse region and thus many people (without grazing areas) were not well placed to raise cattle. The people were very interested in the *sapi kopel* scheme. In each of 2007 and 2008 100 cows and 10 bulls had been provided under the scheme (10 cows and 1 bull per KK). Further distribution of *sapi kopel* would be held over until 2010.

8 Health Service and WFP Address Malnutrition

Kupang Post 27/3/09

Kupang: According to head of the Health Service of the Kupang *Kabupaten* (Wayan Ari Wijana) the *Kabupaten* is working with the World Food Program (WFP) to overcome the problem of malnutrition in young children by providing additional food in the form of biscuits, encouraging breast feeding and educating parents about healthy foods. Ari said that this approach was appropriate for non-clinical cases of malnutrition. More serious cases with clinical complications required hospitalization and medical treatment. Integrated health service posts (*posyandu*) played a key role in monitoring the nutrition of young children. In Kupang *Kabupaten* around 62% of people brought their children to a *posyandu* once a month – which left 38% who did not, and that made it difficult for the *Kabupaten* to be precise about the number of malnourished young children in its area....(*more*)

9 Make Cottage Industries an Economic Icon of Kupang

Kupang Post 27/3/09

Kupang: The head of the Promotion of Beyond-School Education (PLS) section of NTT's Education, Youth and Sport (PPO) Service, Marten Dira Tome, said on 23/3/09 that now was the time for Kupang's government to elevate cottage industries to the level of an iconic part of Kupang's economy, given the many people now drawn to taking part in such activity. Dira Tome noted the quite considerable urban drift into Kupang that was now occurring, resulting in increasing levels of unemployment. If the small scale economic activities sector was not developed in response to this situation, urban drift would become a serious threat to the city. But cottage industries had recently mushroomed and were producing products of quite good quality. This was a positive development and needed to be built upon, by finding markets for the goods produced and by ensuring that Kupang's handicrafts were good enough to compete with those from other areas. Dira Tome challenged the local authorities to respond to all this, by developing cottage industries into an iconic part of Kupang's economy....(*more*)...

10 TP-PKK Reflective of Female Empowerment

Kupang Post 27/3/09 Report by Apolonia Dhiu

Kupang: According to NTT governor Lebu Raya, the Family Welfare Empowerment Teams (TP-PKK) set up at all levels (from villages right up to the level of central government) are evidence of female empowerment and are engines for the growth of greater family welfare. The governor was speaking at a ceremony on 23/3/09 marking the installation of the TP-PKK of the regional branch of National Handicraft Council (Dekranasda) for the period 2009-2013. Lebu Raya said that the TP-PKK, if used properly, were strategic assets for every government program and thus TP-PKK leaders should work concertedly to ensure that TP-PKK make a difference in the development of women and in improving standards of family welfare. To do that, TP-PKK needed the support of all those involved with family welfare such as protectors, advisors and carers and needed to work closely with government... *(more)*....

11 Yaws Threatens People in South Belu

Kupang Post 27/3/09

Atambua: Yaws (*penyakit frambusia*) is currently threatening to infect people in 8 *kecamatan* of South Belu *Kabupaten*, where several cases of the disease have been detected since 2007. To control the disease a special team (comprising the national Health Department and the provincial and *kabupaten* health services, with help from the World Health Organization (WHO)) is surveying the situation to help those affected. According to a health spokesman, the yaws infection rate in Belu is 5.6 per 10 000 (whereas the provincial average was 3.5 per 10 000). If this outbreak of yaws was not quickly contained, the spokesman added, it could become a serious threat. It was of particular concern because young people below the age of 15 were most susceptible to the disease...*(more)*...

12 Villagers of Tukuneno Without Fresh Water

Kupang Post 27/09

Atambua: According to Johannes Son, the head of Tukuneno *desa* (West Tasifeto *Kecamatan*, Belu *Kabupaten*), Oxfam and the World Food Program (WFP) have agreed to help his village overcome a longstanding problem of having access to fresh drinking water. The project would see the construction, hopefully in the near future, of a reservoir to hold water which would be drawn from water sources about 2 kms away...*(more)*..

13 Investors should Address Social Issues: *Bupati* of TTU

Kupang Post 27/3/09

Soe: In a meeting with Paul Mella (the *Bupati* of South Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten*), the Director in Chief of PT Buana Ibunda Kupang, Shah Ismail, said on 23/3/09 that investors from North Africa (with experience with the dairy industry) whom he had brought to TTU had invited the local people to become involved in livestock business ventures. The region had been surveyed and places in two *kecamatan* (Kualin and South Amanuban) had been located which were suitable for dairying. It was proposed to import 1 000 dairy cows from abroad to start the ventures. The investors were also interested in developing Oetune Beach (Kualin *Kecamatan*) as a tourist attraction – a move which would profit the local people and the government. For his part

Paul Mella told his interlocutors that, in order to obtain the support of the local people, it was very important that investors resolve any social concerns (over land tenure etc.) generated by investment plans, prior to the commencement of projects. He welcomed the proposed ventures and pledged *Kabupaten* support for them provided the investors obtained the necessary approvals....*(more)*...

14 FAO Assists Indonesia and East Timor to Fight Locust Attack

The Jakarta Post, 2/4/09 (the following is an edited version of the original)

Denpasar: Indonesia and Timor Leste are getting help in harmonizing their cooperation to fight migratory locust. The assistance was offered by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) during a two-day workshop held in Sanur.

Annie Monard, locust officer of FAO, said that the workshop was part of the ongoing locust pest management policies between the two countries combined with international rules. "Our first effort was to facilitate a meeting on cross-border technical cooperation on trans-border plants and pests between Indonesia and Timor Leste which was held in Rome on Nov. 20, 2007," Monard told a press conference on Monday. She further said that FAO would also promote bio-pesticide usage rather than chemical pesticide. "Timor Leste has already started to use bio-pesticides," she said. "However, Indonesia is involved in an ongoing effort to produce its own bio-pesticide, through cooperation between FAO and the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB)." Monard added that in order to maintain a successful effort, the two countries had to maintain their commitment.

The bio-pesticide is currently on its field testing period. The Indonesia-made product, which is called *Green Guard', is expected to be released nationwide by the end of this year. According to director-general of food crops at Agriculture Ministry, Sutarto Ali Moesa, the cooperation between Indonesia and Timor Leste started after Belu and Timor Tengah Utara regencies in NTT were attacked by huge numbers of migratory locust in early 2007. Belu Regent Joachim Lopez said that after the attack, his regency had crop failures during 2007-2008 period. "The locust attacked Belu's 1,178 hectares of rice and corn fields, causing billions of rupiah in losses."

Lopez said that he expected the program with FAO to boost the regency's harvest in future years. "Therefore, we have to share all technical details realating to the problem," he said. "These include making sure that borders do not prevent effeictive effective locust spraying and sharing information about locust attacks to prevent such attacks from spreading." Lopez added that IPB was also doing research to eliminate locust during its incubation period. Meanwhile, Timor Leste's Director of Agriculture Gil Range said that locust attacks had forced his farmers to stop cultivating rice fields. "This has reduced Timor Leste's food production capacity," said Range without further elaboration.
..*(more)*..

15 Biscuit Boxes Contain Sharp Objects

The Jakarta Post 4/4/09 (following is an edited version of the original)

Thousands of boxes of biscuits distributed to help curb malnutrition problems among elementary school students in NTT are reported to contain dangerous sharp materials.

Various sharp objects such as razor blades, glass splinters, gravel and straight pins were allegedly found in the biscuits, reportedly donated by the Saudi government through the UN World Food Program (WFP) and distributed by Care International. The boxes were distributed to hundreds of schools and *posyandu* (community health centers) in 17 districts in North Central Timor regency. No fatalities have been reported so far, but many have urged the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the reported case.

"We have secured some of the evidence including the razor blades, splinters, pins and the biscuits. The investigation is still ongoing," Chief of the regency police's detective and crime unit First Insp. Eko M Probo Cahyono said on behalf of police chief Adj. Sr. Comr. Adi Wibowo. At least eight out of the hundreds of recipient schools filed reports to the local police. "We reported the case at the end of last month, after some of our students found various sharp materials in their biscuit packages," headmaster Lazarus Tefa of Kiupukan I Catholic Elementary School said. Lazarus said the sharp objects were mostly found sandwiched between the biscuits in the packages the students received. Some of the students claimed to have found the objects while eating the biscuits.

"I felt the sharp objects in the biscuits and my mouth was bleeding. I spat the biscuit out and realized there was a razor blade and a splinter," said a student, adding some others had encountered gravel and pins when eating the biscuits. According to Lazarus, almost all the recipient schools found similar objects in their donated biscuit packages. The regency administration has asked the donor institutions to withdraw the biscuits to prevent any fatalities. The recipient schools, similarly, have also asked the WFP and Care International for clarification.

Care International Kupang's Nutrition Rehabilitation program manager Willem Leong was not available for comment, after being contacted several times. ... In Jakarta, Care International Indonesia's communication officer Wiwik Widyastuti told The Jakarta Post over the phone that her office had indeed received a report about the biscuits. "We are still investigating. We do not yet know where the problem comes from. We have been in touch with the WFP and are still waiting to hear from them..." Wiwik said.

Mitra Salima Suryono, public information officer of WFP, said in a statement made available to The Post on Friday that WFP is very concerned about reports of tampering of fortified biscuits, which threaten a key nutrition program to hundreds of thousands of needy people in West Timor. Independent investigations have demonstrated that this tampering occurred after the biscuits leave the control of WFP and the cooperating partners. "As soon as WFP learned of these reports, we took a number of actions, including suspending all distribution of biscuits in affected areas, reporting the matter to the police and requesting the commencement of criminal investigations and consultations with the government to ensure that this is addressed at all levels," the statement said.

16 Dry season to start early, with 'no extremes'

The Jakarta Post 30/3/09 (the following is an edited version of the original)

Any potential drought in Indonesia this year would most likely occur due to environmental damage rather than a prolonged or extreme dry season, the Meteorology,

Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) said Sunday. “This year will not see any extremes in the dry season, apart from a rather early start,” agency head of the climatology division Soetamto told *The JP*.

According to the agency’s report, in some areas the dry season will begin as early as late March or early April. This is early when compared to the average season commencement times between 1971 and 2000. “However, the country displays a wide variety of climates, so certain areas will enter the dry season earlier than others,” Soetamto said. The areas most likely to enter the dry season early will be Java, Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara and South Sulawesi. For those five areas, Soetamto said, the dry season would most likely reach its peak in August. “Some areas will experience longer periods of dry weather than others. In East Nusa Tenggara, for example, the hot weather could extend for up to eight months, while some areas in Sumatra will likely experience less than a month of dry season,” he said.

The country had been through several severe droughts. In 1997, droughts triggered a national food crisis that forced the government to import five million tons of rice. Five years later, another drought led to the failure of more than 500,000 hectares of crops. “Environmental damage, especially deforestation, will most likely be the cause of any drought or water crisis that may occur (this year),” Soetamto said....(*more*)....