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3. Membina sikap kasih sayang;
4. Membina sikap beriman agama.



Don't Waste It

The kingdom of Durai is under siege by a silent but dangerous enemy called waste. Residents fight back to claim her former pristine glory.

By Carol Milner

In 2011, *Mir* and her crew visited the Anambas Islands and enjoyed all its beauty and hospitality. However, the volume of waste washing up on the beaches of the remote island Durai, as well as floating in the harbour and around the villages, was concerning.

Waste management is an increasingly important issue across a planet that is faced with rising populations and a disposable consumerism society. Landfills are becoming full and are expensive to build properly. Many less developed areas struggle to collect and process waste. It can be especially difficult for small communities to recycle as there needs to be a market for the resources and enough material to make the transportation economically viable.

Terempa is the capital of the Anambas Islands, and one of the few places with a waste management scheme. The waste is taken from the town up into the hills to a small site where it is sorted for useful and saleable scrap such as metal, cardboard, cans, and plastic bottles. At present the price for plastic bottles is so low that it is not worth the transportation. Instead they are being kept in the hopes that prices will rise. All other waste is burnt.

To help raise awareness about plastic pollution and waste recycling, Biosphere Association teamed up with Nina Marliana and Adrien Dyamantha, to collaborate with Pak Abu Hanifah of Matak, and Ibu Isye of Rintis. The project was to give presentations in schools and run a workshop on how to reuse plastic waste.

In the three schools in Matak, the students learned that it takes many years for plastic to degrade, with some only breaking down into smaller and smaller bits. They realised – after seeing pictures of birds and fish dead due to their stomachs being full of plastic bottle tops, lighters, cigarette butts, and other bits of waste – that what they throw away ends up in the ocean and potentially comes back to them in the fish they eat.

The elementary school made their own posters about pollution and the high school pledged to have a weekly clean-up day. The workshop was hosted by Ibu Isye, who also founded an organisation *Yayasan Panti Suhana Al'Muhajirin*, which now trains women with skills such as sewing.

Pak Suparno (our partner at the *Friends of Menjangan Project in Bali*) and Ibu Yuliatin joined us from NW Bali to train seven women on how to reuse sachets and plastic packets from fruit drinks, coffee, washing liquid, and other plastic wrappers to make new, useful and beautiful bags that can be sold. They have proven to be popular with tourists from around the world as well as locals.

Many of the sachets had to be gathered from the trip because this was a new idea for people to save and wash their rubbish instead of just throwing it away. All in all, a good quantity was collected and washed, with the men promising to sort out anymore that came in. When the local people saw what could be made, they too started separating some of their waste and brought it to us. Some sachets were folded and sewn together in strips to be woven, and the stronger material was used to make sturdy shopping bags. Sachets and wrappers that were ripped or too small were shredded to make multi-coloured handbags.

During the workshop, the ladies learnt six designs and completed eight bags and one waste bin. Already plans are underway for new concepts and ideas for the future. Meanwhile, another village is waiting for a workshop. We will return for further awareness programmes and support the efforts now being made to keep a clean environment for the future.

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