



Chairperson's report to 2017 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to the 2017 Annual General Meeting of Bamboo Micro Credit (Inc).

As in previous years, 2017 has seen a continuation of the delivery of the core business of micro loans to people in poverty in Indonesia, through our partners in Bukittinggi in West Sumatra (where Bamboo started in 2007), Malang in East Java and Bandung in West Java.

Indonesia

This has been a year of consolidation, but with some important changes occurring during the year. Our partner in Bandung, PESAT, has embarked on a different direction and accordingly, they have decided not to continue their involvement with micro credit and has terminated the partnership with Bamboo.

However, Bamboo has signed an MOU with Universitas Paryangan (UNPAR) in Bandung to take over the loan portfolio, which will be managed by UNPAR students. This is a new way of working for Bamboo, but one which we feel will bring benefits to the University and to the students who will participate in the program. Bamboo Board Chair Peter Johnston met with UNPAR staff in May

2017 to begin discussions regarding the involvement of UNPAR in the program, resulting in the signature of a Memorandum of Agreement between the two organizations. Supported by Anita, from our partner in Malang and Krishnan from PESAT, Peter then ran a two day training program for students and staff in August. The students will take over the current loans from PESAT and will commence assessing and approving loans, under the supervision of staff. The support of PESAT and in particular, Helen Lok, over the 4 years they were our partner in Bandung has been greatly appreciated.

In Bukittinggi, a not for profit organization (*yayasan*) called Bambu Daya Guna has been formed, with Bamboo co-founder Fikar as Director and Board Chair. Prior to this, Fikar was solely responsible for borrower management, but now has the assistance of his fellow Directors.

Total loans to date by location are as follows:

Bamboo Micro Credit (Inc)

	DPF Malang	BDG Bukittinggi	PESAT Bandung	TOTAL
No. of loans 30 June 2014	57	49	18	124
No. of loans 30 June 2015	128	56	27	211
No. of loans 30 June 2016	151	66	33	250

No. of loans 30 June 2017	71	30	20	121
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Audits

Audits of our partners in Indonesia are carried out yearly and this year, PESAT was audited in January by Bamboo Director David Cook, while Bambu Daya Guna was audited by Peter Johnston in August. These audits not only ensure that Bamboo funds are correctly accounted for and accord with monthly reports sent from our partners, but that Bamboo policies and procedures are being followed. Due to concerns raised recently both in Indonesia and Australia regarding NGOs, Bamboo has strongly emphasized the importance of our “Child Protection” and “Funding of Terrorism Organizations” Policies to our partners.

Events

Following the very successful screening of the film “Sukarno” last year, in November 2016, a Trivia Night (*Malam trivia*) was held in conjunction with Australia Indonesia Youth Association at the Indonesian Consulate in Perth, which was enjoyed by some seventy keen supporters.

Bamboo is currently planning a celebration of 10 years since it was founded. This will take place also at the Consulate in October. The support of the Consul General and his staff is most appreciated.

Tax Deductibility of donations to Bamboo

Bamboo Micro Credit is classified by the Australian Government as an overseas aid organization and, as a consequence, our application for tax deductibility of donations has to be approved by the ATO and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We have recently provided additional information to DFAT, which was requested of us. We consider that our application, first lodged over 2 years ago, has now demonstrated that Bamboo Micro Credit’s application should be approved. If not, then we would take on board any further feedback and continue to work to fulfill the required criteria.

Peter Johnston

Chair Board of Directors

Bamboo Micro Credit (Inc)

August 2017