



### TRI MUMPUNI (PUNI) ISKANDAR, INDONESIA 2009

Executive Director, IBEKA (People Centered Business and Economic Institute)

Tri Mumpuni Iskandar is Executive Director of the non-governmental organization she founded, IBEKA. In this role, she empowers poor and rural communities by providing them with electricity and energy from renewable resources. IBEKA develops mini-hydropower plants in villages, and the proceeds are invested back into the village. On her fellowship in 2009, Puni visited rural community and infrastructure development projects that foster self-sufficiency.

Since 2009, Puni has been implementing new projects in the communities that IBEKA serves based on her experiences during her fellowship. While in the U.S., she visited Stanford University's program "Entrepreneurial Design for Extreme Affordability", which brings together students and faculty from engineering and business programs to find solutions to lower technology costs that could benefit rural communities. After witnessing the traddle pump that was designed through this program – a pump that gave farmers access to water and only cost 20 US dollars – she invited the Stanford Design group to Indonesia.



Students and faculty from the Stanford Design group have visited IBEKA each year since Puni's fellowship. In 2010 they visited Aceh in the northern part of the Sumatra Island. In this region candle nut farming is a major industry, and the group worked in partnership with IBEKA to create an affordable, reliable nutcracker to help maximize production capacity for the farmers. The group developed the iNut, which uses a foot-powered slingshot to break the nuts. It is produced locally for less than 25 US dollars, and it has increased the economic potential of the farmers.

On their visit in 2011, the group worked again with IBEKA to address the challenges of water access faced by residents of Nusa Penida, where the source of water is 150 meters downhill. The energy needed to pump the water posed significant challenges. The group developed FlexiTangki, an all-in-one rainwater catchment and storage device that provides 2,500 liters of reliable, quick-filling rainwater storage. The storage is enough to sustain two people's cooking, drinking, and bathing needs for the three month dry season in Nusa Penida.

The group from Stanford partnered with IBEKA to find collaborative opportunities in renewable energy as well. Together they created mini hydroelectric projects. The electricity produced by these projects is sold to PLN, the government owned supplier of electricity. The unique aspect of this endeavor is the cost sharing model, in which PLN shares the profits with the local communities whose resources are used to produce the electricity. IBEKA has built 82 community-run hydropower plants that provide electricity to 500,000 in rural Indonesia. It was this initiative that was specifically cited when Puni was awarded with the prestigious Magsaysay Award in 2011.

This is only a sampling of Puni's impact in Indonesia and the results of relationships established while she was on her Eisenhower Fellowship. Puni says "there are many more experiences I have gained because of my Eisenhower Fellowship, not only internationally, but in Indonesia as well. We are currently planning to bring together the talents and resources of all Indonesian Fellows to collectively initiate a project that will serve the underprivileged of Indonesia."

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