

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## 2017



**Suku Mentawai**  
Education Foundation



# ACTIVITIES OF SUKU MENTAWAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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The Suku Mentawai Education Foundation was established and is based in Muntei Village, South Siberut District, with the direction of activities focused on teaching important aspects of Mentawai's environment and Indigenous culture. The Suku Mentawai Education Program and activities are conducted and socialized through cooperation with cultural studios and the Branch Offices of Education Departments linked to Mentawai schools and students. At present, those who place the most value on our traditional culture from year to year are from foreign areas or countries (overseas).

The target is to commence the Suku Mentawai Education Program and Activities in August 2017 and we are currently implementing the development strategy to achieve this. Thus far we have been accepted and supported by the local mentawai community, including the Government and Education department which is in need of collaborative support to preserve our Indigenous Mentawai culture and prevent its loss. With the existence and work of our Foundation, we can encourage and motivate all elements of society, custom institutions, government, and schools throughout Mentawai to achieve this goal.



# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

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## 1. STUDIO (Cultural house)

Mentawa Cultural Studio is a traditional house built a group of people supported by stewardship and has its own local rituals and beliefs. For the direction of our Indigenous education program, it is very appropriate for our Foundation to be cooperation with the local Studios as the cultural learning center, teaching cultural education for all the community – particularly Mentawai students. Mentawa Cultural Studio (sanggar) is built to also display all of Mentawai's traditional tools and cultural art, which makes it easier for the community, students and others to obtain a complete knowledge about Mentawai tradition and culture.

Our Foundation helps facilitate and support the process of Mentawai Studio's activities, so that they continue to exist and maintain the spirit to preserve and strengthen our culture. Our Foundation assists and facilitates the Studios by performing cadre, coaching, mentoring and equipping teachers with skills, knowledge and materials to help the community learn.



## II. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

To help achieve the goals and objectives and the mission of our Foundation with the aim of environmental conservation and cultural preservation, we are working together with the Mentawai Education Office and schools. Whilst the schools have educators and who teach the students a formal education (umum), it does not have a fixed curriculum focused on educating about Mentawai's local traditions and culture.

Suku Mentawai Education Foundation supports by working together to socialize Mentawai culture and our program amongst students to encourage all students in every school to take the opportunity to learn about our culture in the Cultural Studio (sanggar). Through our existing Studios and community groups we facilitate various elements of society and students to increase knowledge about Mentawai culture and environment.



### III. GOVERNMENT

The Suku Mentawai Education Foundation works with the local Government to support and enable all elements of the community and youth to preserve the Mentawai environment and traditional activities and knowledge of our culture. We enable the Government to see the development of cultural education in the midst of society and students who are increasingly interested and eager to learn. The Foundation's programs and activities seek also seek to highlight the importance of cultural education and urge the Government to recognise our work as being very useful for Mentawai society.



#### IV. COMMUNITY

Our cultural education programs and activities are socialized throughout the community, as this is very important for the community. Whilst they are busy with daily activities, the community still practice certain elements of cultural tradition and belief. The role of our community in preserving the environment and our culture is critical. It can not be ignored. Without the support of our community, the current systems protecting the culture of Mentawai are not strong enough to succeed. We are developing a sustainable cultural education program in the hope that Mentawai Culture will continue to develop amongst our people and be known throughout the world, given access to our Cultural Education curriculum booklet.



#### IV. SUKU MENTAWAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT AND TEAM

The Foundation's committee and staff continue to implement the program activities throughout the community, studios, schools and the government departments. Despite our circumstance of limited knowledge and inadequate facilities, the spirit of our team remains as we work to socialize the importance of preserving Mentawai's forest environment and Indigenous culture. Our aim over the coming year is to develop and implement a Mentawai cultural education curriculum, Mentawai-Indonesia language dictionary, and a Mentawai-English dictionary. We hope that our community and others will continue to support the work of our Suku Mentawai well into the future.

##### **Marvin Satoko, S.Th**

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Suku Mentawai Education Foundation





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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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