

## **Introduction – a social project for Indonesia**

### **School development in Kalimantan, Borneo**

I am Cindy Guchi. I am originally from Jakarta, Indonesia and have been living in Germany for over 10 years. I came to Germany to study architecture and now I work as an architect in a German company. My dream has always been to be able to give back to Indonesia. My plan to go back however won't be a permanent one, and I don't plan to work for my own gain either. Rather than that, I want to explore other areas of my interests and do social projects there. A good impactful social service for the people of Indonesia, in particular in remote areas of the country that need it. It wouldn't be easy, because if I decided to take this challenge, I would have to leave my life and job in Germany behind. But now finally the courage built up, I had to go for my dream. After much consideration and research, I will return to Indonesia in the early months of 2023 and start this social project, in the field of education. My contribution in this field would be to help schools in isolated and underprivileged areas.

I believe, education is the key for a nation and individuals to achieve a better future. Through the Sang Timur foundation in Jakarta, which I have a good relationship with, I was introduced to the St. Mikael Junior High School in West Kalimantan, Borneo. The school is located in a village next to jungles and far from infrastructure facilities. I have already been talking to the principal and the head of the school's foundation about my plan, and they really welcome about it.

My goal is basically twofold. First, I want to help the children's development through my stories and experiences, to teach in the area of personal growth and soft skills. For example: By giving the children a broader perspective, that as young people, we have the right to dream high. To pursue high goals, no matter whether we are poor or rich, or where we come from. By giving them understanding, that education with a fighting spirit are so important, so that we can have a better life in the future. To introduce the idea that the world is vast and humans are diverse, so we must tolerate and respect each other. To teach communication skills and self-development, and many others. I believe, that these are essential lessons in addition to the regular school subjects. The principal and foundation have been very supportive of this idea. Especially considering that the new capital city of Indonesia will be relocated on Kalimantan, where many newcomers will move in and there will be more competition in such a pluralistic society.

My second goal is, as an architect, I would love to do some social projects within my expertise. St. Mikael's school building is in terrible condition, with many parts of the building needing urgent maintenance. For example: leaking ceiling of the classrooms, flooring with many holes, out of order restrooms, broken desks, moldy roof, no space for break or lunch time, flooded school grounds, and so forth. I wondered how the children could learn well at school, if the school building was not fit for use. Unfortunately they are unable financially to repair the school. For this reason, I planned to take part in the renovation of the school building. However, I don't have enough funds to accomplish this mission myself. I simply can offer my time and energy throughout my time there, where I will directly work on the realization of this project. Therefore, I would appreciate your generous donations for this school renovation project. Whatever it is, it will mean a lot! No matter how many donations are collected, I will bring the fund there and do the most I can for this project. And of course, while I'm there, I'll happy to update you directly with the progress of the project!

**Key facts:**

School: SMP St. Mikael Usaba 5 Simpang Dua

Adress: Jl. Pateh Burang, Kabupaten Ketapang, Kalimantan Barat

Total students: 167

Total classrooms: 9

Fundraising goal in Germany: 3.000 Euro