

ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL

Timeline Summary from July 2017 – August 2018



Ee Chia with Rozaliah, Iskul first recruited Field Coordinator



Ee Chia and Rozaliah conducted session with Iskul students during visit in August.



Semporna District Officer, Dr Hj Chacho Bullah signed his letter of support for the construction of Pondok Iskul.

July 2017

Since the trial class in August of 2015, Iskul is now a registered society under the Registrar of Society (ROS) under the official name, Persatuan Pendidikan Bajau Laut (PPM-009-14-24072017). We will still be using Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal (in short, Iskul) in our outreach. This registration will allow us to increase our credibility and transparency especially in financial management within the society.

The search for Iskul Field Coordinator initiated since March 2017 and have few closed hiring attempts since. Iskul Field Coordinator candidates were interviewed physically, virtually and was also assigned a short writing essay to submit as a complete application. The candidates were evaluated based on their understanding of the stateless Bajau Laut community, their ideas in guiding and monitoring MAs as well as monitoring students' progress. The candidates were also tested on their suggestion to increase students' self-esteem and how they would handle students' glue-sniffing situation amongst other scenarios. Each candidates were to submit an essay to note their intention for the application and what they wished to gain from the experience. It was not until five (5) months later that Iskul finally found the 'right fit' for the position. Rozaliah (Roza) was officially recruited for her passion about the community. She is a post-graduate students with research on the Bajau Laut community in Semporna. Roza joined us in end of July.

August 2017

The management team made the second visit for the year represented by Ee Chia. The visit was in conjunction with attendance to the invitation to the UNHCR Roundtable on Bajau Laut in Sabah in Sandakan. The brief 5-day visit from 5 - 9 August was also critical to follow-up on permissions from District Officer and Ketua Kampung to build Pondok Iskul on Omadal Island. Dr Hj Chacho Bullah, Semporna District Officer has written a support letter for the construction of Pondok Iskul and recognising Iskul as a citizen initiative to provide basic education to the stateless Bajau Laut community residing at Omadal Island. The recognition provided us the confidence to continue the project and injected a boost of faith that this initiative is a welcomed one. It was an important milestone marking the 2nd anniversary of Iskul.

Besides the meeting with the District Officer, Ee Chia also took time to provide a brief induction with Iskul first Field Coordinator - Roza, observed classes and conducted meeting with Headmistress, Mastal Arikik and students to find out challenges they still faces. During this visit, it was also decided that a monthly allowance of RM 100 be provided to Headmistress, Pn Roziah for her management of Iskul operation base as well as a decision to increase the food budget from RM 1 per meal to RM 2 per meal for Iskul students.



Roundtable to Discuss Methodology of Participatory Assessments with Bajau Laut & Neighbouring Communities

On 11th August 2017, Iskul Sama Dilaut Omadal was invited by UNHCR to attend the Roundtable to Discuss Methodology of Participatory Assessments with Bajau Laut & Neighbouring Communities at Sandakan Styles Hotel. The objectives of this roundtable is to exchange information and share potential common challenges, as well as to prepare for the planned consultations and participatory assessments with Bajau Laut communities settled on land and neighbouring communities. The session intended to build the participants capacity and to develop a framework for implementation for the participatory assessments and consultations. These should be conducted with considerations of these communities' situation, the best approaches to outreach, and good practices in conducting participatory assessments and consultations.

There were 22 participants from various background such as academicians, government agencies, anthropologists, activists and few come from humanity NGOs in Malaysia. Ee Chia and Shafiyah shared about Iskul Sama Dilaut Omadal, from how we started, the challenges and problem that we are facing on the ground, and milestones Iskul has achieved over the couple years.



Ee Chia received the mock cheque of RM 50,000 fund from Mah Sing Foundation for construction of Pondok Iskul.

September 2017

It was a month of gains and losses for Iskul. Iskul's little celebrations includes, submission of application to Mah Sing Foundation stating our proposal to receive fund for the construction of Pondok Iskul, and receipt of 32 boxes (each containing 36 sachets) of Champs Vitamin C from a generous sponsor for our students. Iskul also celebrated Hari Malaysia the second time this year.

However, the same month, Iskul has downsized greatly in number of management personnel. Adzmin, our core management team member has retreat from Iskul to focus on his career, and our recently recruited Field Coordinator, Roza has resigned due to health reasons. The team was back to square one, dividing workloads and re-starting the search for Field Coordinator.

October - December 2017

Iskul received notification of approval from Mah Sing Foundation for our application for funds to construct Pondok Iskul. Mah Sing Foundation allocated RM 50,000 fund for the construction and basic furnishing of the space. Iskul jumped into work immediately and kickstarted the purchasing of raw materials and recruitment of builders. The construction and the furnishing took a total of six (6) months. Classes commenced in the Pondok once the construction was completed in February and whilst the furnishing was in progress. At the moment, Pondok Iskul is yet to receive electricity supply and the registration with the TNB is underway.



Left: Iskul received 32 boxes of Vitamin C for our students. Right: Sponsored Acer Laptop for the use of our Field Coordinator



Pondok Iskul completed construction in February.



Aida is recruited as the second Field Coordinator based on Omadal Island and commenced her duty mid-February.



Students enjoying their meals after classes in Pondok Iskul.



Iskul completed its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) with attendance from our advisors, donors, Headmistress and Field Coordinator.



Iskul presented Iskul's strategic planning meeting outputs including milestones, challenges, planned activities for the coming years 2018/2019



Iskul Team (L-R): Ee Chia, Aida, Kak Roziah and Hui Ling. Missing: Shafiyah and Mastal Arikik

January 2018

Iskul recruited second Field Coordinator, Aida. She was previously a Mastal Arikik and lives on Omadal Island, hence she has good understanding of other MAs and students. Aida showed readiness to learn and understands Iskul's gaps and challenges. The team unanimously feel potential to groom her into a young leader Iskul envisioned.

February 2018

Field Coordinator, Aida commenced her duty mid-February. She is equipped with a new Acer laptop and a second-hand smartphone, which are items generously sponsored by our kind donors. She undergone two days of online intensive induction as we prepare her for her role. In the induction, we shared Iskul's vision, mission, core values, history and highlighted Field Coordinator's responsibilities and tasks. We also advised her on our expectations in her observation report and timesheet as well as provided her virtual training on how to use Gmail and Google Documents. Aida has since conducted almost weekly video calls for her to report, discuss and brainstorm solutions to the challenges she faced while working with Iskul Team.

March 2018

After months of deliberation and hesitation, the team has finally completed invitation to a panel of selected acquaintances and friends whom we felt would make great advisors for Iskul. As Iskul grows into its third year, the management team feels the need to have a check-and-balance externally and creating a support system for Iskul as the challenges unfolds and rarely solved. The team also begins planning for Iskul 2nd Strategic Planning Meeting following our first one early 2017.

April 2018

The team begins preparation for Iskul 2nd Strategic Planning Meeting and Iskul's first Annual General Meeting (AGM). We have searched for the venue, deliberated on the dates, curated the agenda, drafted the official invitation letters for the event, and finally, purchased the flight tickets for our Headmistress and Field Coordinators. In addition to that, the team also pushed to finalised Iskul Financial Summary for the year 2017. We revived Iskul E-Newsletter and shared the brief accordingly via email.

May 2018

Following the successful Strategic Planning Meeting which was held early 2017, the management team finds it crucial to hold the second meeting to reflect on the past year and to review plans for the following year. Compared to the first meeting which was only held between three core members from the management team, this meeting included our Headmistress, Pn Roziah and Field Coordinator, Aida, from the operation team. They spent their first fasting week here in Kuala Lumpur, away from home in Omadal Island!

The meeting schedule was hectic as we attempted to discuss and resolve as many issues as we can. In conjunction with this planning meeting, Iskul also hold its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) and we were joined by our committee members, advisors and donors as we presented our vision, missions, challenges, financial summary for 2017 and plans for year 2018/2019. We received constructive and valuable feedbacks from them and we look forward to ensuring that this year, Iskul will be on track!

June 2018

Following the strategic planning meeting, our Field Coordinator (Aida) have had a meeting with our Mastal Arikik (MA) to brief and to explain to them the knowledge she obtained from Cikgu Wai Yan last week. Aida explained to MAs how to create teaching plans and also how to do weekly evaluation of our students' learning progresses. Our Headmistress (Kak Roziah) and Aida had a brief meeting with our 'Mentor Pelajar' (known as Mentor hereafter) regarding our Mentor-Mentee programme. We will have four (4) Mentors guiding Level 1 and Level 2 (Pre-School levels) students on Monday - Wednesday in Pondok Iskul for two hours daily. Each Mentor will be assigned about 3-4 students to guide. An allowance of RM35 (for 3 days per week and 3 hours daily) will be provided. These Mentors are expected to help the students to revise after the weekend classes, and an attempt to utilize Pondok Iskul beyond weekend classes only.

July 2018

MA Khairul has submitted his first proposal for a 1-Day Sukaneka activity that will be involving Iskul students, parents and Omadal residents as a conscious effort to bridge and build relationships between the stateless community and Malaysian community residing on Omadal Island. The proposal has been reviewed, re-submitted and currently pending budget review before approval is given. This is an exercise for Operation Team to understand the needs to plan for an activity, as well as to train MAs in basic proposal writing which would be an useful skill when they graduated into the working society. This month, MA Siti had decided to resigned to focus on her studies after being pressured by her family. The good news, however, one of our students from the Advanced Class would like to take up one of the Pre-School class! The management team is working with FC Aida to weigh the feasibility of this idea.

August- September 2018

Iskul is having poor attendance due to festive celebrations with one short of Mastal Arikik. FC Aida is generously taking on teaching the classes currently until we can find a keen Mastal Arikik or to find a better solution to manage the frequent turnover. Additionally, we receive news that the Pondok Iskul's base pillar is not able to support its size and weight, thus, reported to appear "shaky" during these months of heavy rain and wind. As an immediate fix, additional supporting woods are purchased and installed, and the Pondok Iskul is more stable now. Iskul also conducted an interview with a candidate we potentially want to recruit as a Field Coordinator. This recruitment intends to share the workload on the ground which is solely depending on Aida currently, and to increase resources to speed up implementation on the ground. We also realised that this new person needs to have more experience than Aida in order to fulfil the objective of the recruitment. The team is finalising the decision. We have also put on-hold the Mentor-Mentee programme due to challenges in execution.

Stay in Touch with Us!



Iskul Sama DiLaut Omadal



www.iskul.my



iskul.samadilaut.omadal@gmail.com