

**A BRIEF REPORT ON THE INDONESIAN ACTIVITIES  
ON PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Presented by Arianto Iskandar  
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**A. The Status and Issues of Public Information Activities**

**1. The Status**

During this year, Indonesia is still confronted with many problems, including political, economical, labor, violences in certain areas, strikes and demonstrations, making it more difficult for the Government in its efforts to recover from the national economic crisis which began in 1997. However, slowly, but surely, there are good signs of progress and development to improve the situation as can be seen from various construction projects which have come to a halt since the beginning of the crisis, but now are resuming its activities to complete the projects.

In our institution, BATAN, we have had to keep a low profile on nuclear energy with the belief that with the economic crisis going on, it would be of no success if we pushed the Government to build nuclear plants when the Government itself had no funds to spare, and where the parliament members who should also give approval, their attention were on many other problems elsewhere.

However, the low profile maintained on nuclear energy did not mean for other fields of research, and aggressive dissemination of information of these other fields of nuclear research like in agriculture, health & medicine, nuclear in industry, irradiation and use of isotopes, etc., have gained a more friendly atmosphere towards nuclear as a whole. This is reflected by responses from the public which are more directed to not just one field, as was the case before the economic crisis, to NPP, but to a whole array of fields of nuclear research results that may be beneficial and useful to the public. This also has resulted in a possibility to acquire more funding for PI activities in the next fiscal budget of 2003.

From around the middle of this year, there have been growing concerns on the importance of availability of energy, especially electrical energy, because the society now for some time have been trying to identify the best means of economic recovery, and electrical energy is one of them that they realize would be an answer. Foreign investors to a large extent will invest in many projects if they are sure that they would be able to procure energy that they need, for factories and plants, in transportation sectors including electric trains and vehicles, hotels and high rise buildings, etc.. The capacity of the Electric companies providing electricity is far from adequate and black-outs are an ever occurring event, in fact a black-out recently occurred in the whole West Java area, indicating a question of reliability. Therefore it is imminent that the Government resume its former plans as before the economic crisis, to fulfill the electrical energy needs of the country and accept environmental friendly competitive energy sources and technology available.

BATAN has been adapting to the developing situation and is giving its best efforts to convince in the use of nuclear energy and to sharpen its human resources to prepare for electrical generation by nuclear energy, which now a number of people are having the opinion that it should have started "yesterday".

The Public Information activities are thus being gradually adapted to the changing policy, and priorities shall be developed accordingly.

## **2. Public Information Activities Conducted During the Year**

Following are some activities that have been conducted during the year.

### **a. Seminars**

A number of seminars have been held this year as follows :

- 1) A seminar and brief displays of results of research regarding fishery, its preservation by irradiation, has been held in the University of Brawijaya, Malang East Java on 17 September 2002.
- 2) A seminar on nuclear science and technology was held at the Surabaya Institute of Technology, on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2002.
- 3) A seminar on Nuclear Science and Technology was held at the Islamic School Husnul Khotimah, at Kuningan, West Java, on 23 May 2002.
- 4) A seminar on Nuclear Science and Technology was held at the Islamic School, Darussalaam, Gontor, East Java, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

### **b. Exhibition**

- 1) Travelling Exhibition
  - a) In cooperation with the Ministry for Research and Technology, BATAN has participated in the Marine Exhibition in Surabaya, held on 11-14 April 2002, exhibiting activities and research relevant to marine products and services.
  - b) In cooperation with the Regional Government of Yogyakarta, BATAN participated in a Development Exhibition, where the results of research and development activities are displayed and exhibited in this prestigious event. This event was held on 15-20 August 2002.
  - c) In cooperation with the University of Brawijaya, Malang, East Java, BATAN has participated in an exhibition held on 17 September 2002, exhibiting results of research, products and services.
  - d) In cooperation with the Ministry for Research and Technology, Batan participated in "The Right Technology" Exhibition held annually in the city of Medan, North Sumatera, exhibiting the results of research, products and services. This exhibition was held on 22-26 September 2002 and opened by the Indonesian President.
- 2) Permanent Exhibition

Up to date, we have noted about 1,664 people, of which most of them are highschool students who have started learning physics, visiting our permanent exhibition in Jakarta. This figure is about one half of the number for the previous year. About the same total number of people have also visited the nuclear reactors and nuclear facilities in Jakarta, Bandung and Yogyakarta.

### **c. Interactive-live Radio Broadcast**

A schedule of four 60-minute Interactive-live Radio Broadcast through a very popular radio station in the Jakarta Metropolitan, has been conducted as follows :

1. "Socialization and Promotion of the results of nuclear research" , presented by Mr. Simon Manurung, MSc. On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002
2. "Security of Nuclear Materials and Installation", presented by Mr. Indro Yuwono, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2002
3. "Radiopharmacy and Nuclear Medicine", presented by Dr. Suwasono Raharjo Tamat, MSc. AND Dr. Kunto Wiharto NMS, held on August 2002
4. "An Introduction to Advanced Reactor Technology as an Alternative Energy Source", presented by Dr. As Natio Lasman, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2002.

The last topic is planned to be held in the month of November 2002 with the topic "Socialization of results of nuclear research and development" , and shall be presented by the Deputy Chairman of BATAN.

#### **d. Cooperation Agreements**

A number of seven Cooperation agreements have been signed this year by BATAN which are as follows :

- 1) Cooperation with the Regional Government of Garut, West Java for "The Benefit of Nuclear Science and Technology in Supporting the Program for Increasing the Welfare of the People in the Regency of Garur, West Java" signed on 11 January 2002.
- 2) Cooperation with the Institute of Technology-Sepuluh Nopember, Surabaya, East Java, on "Education and the Beneficial Use of Nuclear Science and Technology" signed on 10 April 2002.
- 3) Cooperation with the University of Udayana, Bali, on "Education, Research and Development of Nuclear Science and Technology" signed on 22 May 2002.
- 4) Cooperation with the Regional Drinking Water Company- Tirta Kerta Raharja, Tangerang Regency, West Java on "The Benefit of Nuclear Science and Technology to increase the Management and Service of Clean Water" signed on 17 June 2002.
- 5) Cooperation with the Company –PT. Koja Terramarin on "Industry Development", signed on 17 May 2002.
- 6) Cooperation together with the Regional Government of South Kalimantan and the University of Lambung Mangkurat on "The Benefit of Nuclear Science and Technology in Supporting the Program for Increasing the Welfare of the People" signed on 3 July 2002.
- 7) Cooperation with The Institute of Science and Technology, AKPRIND on "The Improvement of the Education and the Joint Implementation Program" signed on 11 September 2002.

### **3. The Joint Survey of High School Students on Radiation**

The Joint Survey was held on 17-20 September 2002 to a number of 1,115 highschool students learning at 15 highschools in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area. Two task groups were formed and organized to conduct the survey to two schools each, everyday during the period. The list of schools, addresses, and names of teachers as well as the filled in computerized answer sheets were then sent back to FNCA-JAIF on 26 September 2002.

However we have been fortunate that this survey had been conducted on schedule even though we also had many technical and budget problems, thanks to our contingency planning.

One of the problems that we faced was the time schedule of the shipment of the computerized answer sheets, which came to our hands on the afternoon of September 17<sup>th</sup> 2002, while the task groups had already left early in the morning to the highschools. We anticipated this problem by making our own answer sheets, and if we are to use them, we would later transfer the data and information to the answer sheets sent from Japan.

It occurred to us then that it would be best to use our own answer sheets completely, so we will have a record for evaluation, and transfer all the data and information to the FNCA answer sheets to be sent to Japan.

The Principals and teachers have shown much enthusiasm when they learned that their schools were selected for this survey, and their cooperation was very much appreciated. They were very anxious and hoped that there would be some kind of followup after this survey, at least regarding the survey results for the whole Asia-Pacific area where this joint survey was conducted and where Indonesia is also participating.

For next year we are planning to conduct a survey in the Central Java Area where activities of NPP site and feasibility studies had been conducted in the early 1990s. The FNCA questionnaire will be the international basis whereas the national questionnaire will be developed according to the conditions and situation of the area of survey.

#### **4. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- a) We have found that the “Interactive-live radio Broadcasting” method which we tried this year could be considered a success, as shown by the responses of the telephone calls from the public queing for their opportunity as well as requests to conduct it more often by the public and the enthusiasm of the expert speakers who are presenting the topics of discussion due to the public responses. During the previous years, topics of nuclear technology was just being broadcasted through the radio without any feedback. Through this Interactive way, where the public may contact and speak to the speaker, and the discussions being broadcasted has proven to be useful in evaluating how much concerned the public are regarding nuclear science and technology.
- b) Our institution is giving more concern in supporting nuclear energy for research, industry, and for the generation of electricity. For this endeavour, we believe that increasing support also from FNCA is very necessary, especially in the fields relevant to the generation of electricity as well as the Public Information Activities.

#### **B. Evaluation of FNCA PI Activities**

- a. AsiaNNet Publications of “Atoms in Japan” as well as nuclear news and reports.  
The distribution to our country has proven to be of increasing interest and more people are inquiring on how to obtain it.
- b. Country Activities are FNCA Activities  
As Indonesia is a member of FNCA, and involved in many activities of this forum, which are very much supported also by the countries in this region in a very

transparent nature and with the same aims and objectives in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, I personally believe that "Our activities are FNCA Activities".

- c. Activities such as the Joint Survey of Highschool Students on Radiation may indicate similarities in perception of nuclear energy, and could also indicate successes in Public Information which may well be repeated to other countries.