

**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 in Indonesia

1. The Status

As we all know, the economic crisis has hit the Asian area very hard, and it has taken much efforts by all the countries in the region to survive from this turmoil.

From the many attempts made by the Government to stabilize the economy and political atmosphere, the year 2003 has shown much progress in stabilizing the exchange rate of the currency, reviving physical development of the country, and investments are slowly coming back. To the surprise of the people, some of the industry, even automobile sales have increased substantially during the year. Indonesia is realizing and fulfilling its commitment in paying its huge foreign debts, and giving tremendous efforts in this regard.

Before the year 2003, we have had to keep in disseminating information on nuclear energy as well as to fields other than nuclear energy, like activities related to agriculture, animal husbandry, health and Medicine, and fields of immediate interest to the people which are more related to their well-being or welfare and their immediate needs.

During this year, our state electricity company have had much difficulty in providing electricity to the public, where the demand is still very great, and the jacking up of the prices have been confronted by the public. Black-outs of electricity has become much serious, especially with the long dry season which closed some hydro generators of electricity due to lack of water.

Our institution has given its the main efforts to come up with very comprehensive reports and integrated dissemination plans of activities and set the goals within a reasonable time frame that could be accepted by the people. This year, goals and efforts have been set and conducted to include nuclear energy in the National Energy Policy beginning in the year 2004. This will open the doors much wider to nuclear energy.

In order to maintain the momentum, our top management have given relentless efforts in the policy level to convince prominent leaders in the government as well as to the society of the importance of nuclear energy and the benefits as well as the consequences involved. We hope to have nuclear electric power on line beginning around the year 2016.

2. Public Information Activities since the PI Project Leaders Meeting in the month of October, 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Activities during the year 2003).

Our direction for public information activities became more evident with the new visions and missions of our institution to promote nuclear energy. And as

the top management were struggling on the policy level, the public information unit, with the cooperation of all other units of our institution have been preparing new tools and instruments for dissemination of information that could be used in seminars and exhibitions in support of the new visions and missions mentioned. Following are activities that have been conducted :

a. Seminars

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

- 1) One day seminar in Serang, West Java, presented to the local government regarding the profile of BATAN (our agency) and results of research which may be implemented in the area. This seminar was conducted in April 23rd 2003.
- 2) One day seminar in Jepara, Central Java, presented to the local government, NGOs, and prominent people in the area, on nuclear energy. This was conducted on June 26, 2003.
- 3) A two day seminar in Sumenep, East Madura Island, at the local University of Wiraraja, on 30 September 2003 and 01 October 2003, including presentations of the profile of BATAN and its research activities, and a signing ceremony (MOU) for further cooperation in the future.

b. Exhibitions

1) Travelling Exhibition

- a) A one day seminar held in Serang, West Java on April 23rd, 2003 was supplemented by an exhibition or display of the results of research of BATAN.
- b) An exhibition called "The Indonesian Products Exhibition" in Jakarta was held on 20-29th May 2003. BATAN displayed products achieved from results of research.
- c) A "2003 Indonesian Sustainable Development Exhibition" during the "Indonesian Environment Week" was held in Jakarta on 19-22 June 2003, where BATAN participated, and displayed all aspects involving the environment, like the management and handling of city wastes, the processing of discarded crab and shrimp shells into chitine and with radiation into oligo chitosan, tracing sedimentation causing shallowing of sea harbor and ports, etc.
- d) A one day seminar in Jepara, Central Java on June 26, 2003 was also supplemented by a display/exhibition.
- e) An "Agricultural and Farming exhibition" at the Department of Agriculture in Jakarta on 17-18th July 2003, where BATAN displayed the various crop varieties including rice, mung beans, soy beans, wheat, peanuts, etc.
- f) A "First Harvest Ceremony" in the region of Blitar, East Java on 14th August 2003 of several of the latest rice varieties achieved by BATAN, where one of the rice varieties was given the name by the President, after her granddaughter, the Diah Suci variety.
- g) An exhibition, "The Yogyakarta Development Exhibition" was held in Yogyakarta, Central Java, on 14-19th August 2003, where BATAN

displayed its achievement in agriculture, health, innovation of nuclear instruments and equipment, etc.

- h) An exhibition/display to supplement the seminar in the University of Wiraraja, in the city of Sumenep, East Madura Island, on 30 September-01 October 2003.
- i) A National Exhibition, "The Right Useful Technology" held on 6-11 October 2003, in the city of Sidoarjo, East Java, opened officially by the President of Indonesia.
- j) An exhibition "National Science and Technology Forum" held at the University of Indonesia on 13-19 October 2003 and an Open Debate within the seminar-exhibition area involving the Chairman of BATAN, with the title "Nuclear, a Disaster or a Blessing" on 17 October 2003.

2) **Permanent Exhibition**

Our permanent exhibition is largely visited by highschool students, and a steady number of students have been visiting us each year. This is due to the high school program in the various schools which have made such visits to be conducted annually. The previous year we have noted about 1,664 and for this year it is slightly the same.

c. Cooperation Agreements signed in the year 2003.

In the year 2003, BATAN has signed 6 cooperation agreements with institutions, including universities and district governments. They are as follows :

- 1) A Cooperation Charter with the University of Lampung, South Sumatera on 17 December, 2002 (Effective for 2003) for activities in education, research and development.
- 2) An MOU for Cooperation with the District Government of South East Sulawesi and the local University of Haluoleo, on 27 March, 2003, for the use of nuclear science and technology in support of the welfare of the people.
- 3) A Cooperation Agreement with the District Government of Blitar, East Java, on 28 May 2003, for the use of nuclear science and technology in support of the welfare of the people.
- 4) A Cooperation Charter with the Indonesian State Attorney Office, in regard to the Civil Law/Code and State Administration, on 16 June 2003.
- 5) A Cooperation Charter with the University of Wiraraja, Sumenep City, Madura Island, on 30 September 2003, for activities in education, research and development of nuclear science and technology.
- 6) A Memorandum of Understanding with the District Government of Tangerang, West Java, on 06 October 2003, for the use and development of nuclear research results.

d. Communication with the Mass Media : Interactive-live Television and Radio Broadcast

For the year 2003 we have scheduled two (2) Interactive-live Television broadcasts and six (6) Interactive-live Radio Broadcasts.

For the Interactive-live Television Broadcast, we have chosen the national television broadcasting company (Television of the Republic of Indonesia) which relays its transmission to all parts of Indonesia. These are shows that could be interrupted by phone calls from the public seeking answers to related issues being transmitted. One has already been conducted with the topic on Food and Agriculture, with the presentation by the Head of our institution, and the next one is scheduled to be held in November 2003.

For the Interactive-live Radio Broadcast, we have chosen the local, most popular radio stations in the region, and general topics as well as special topics regarding nuclear research are given. Due to the responses in the previous year, more time and more regular broadcasts have been allocated in 2003. Some of the topics for 2003 are as follows :

- a) General profile of our institution
- b) Food and Agriculture
- c) Health and Nuclear Medicine
- d) Nuclear Energy

The Interactive-live broadcasts through the radio as well as television have proven to be an effective tool for public information and this will be a regular program each year.

3. Results of PI Activities after PI-PLM in 2002.

Through the many events that have taken place during 2003, many people met during the seminars and exhibitions conducted during the year are beginning to feel the need of nuclear energy in their everyday lives, especially with the electrical black-outs due to questionable performance of the State Electricity Company. This situation and other factors as well, readily supports our public information dissemination program, and it has become easier in convincing as well as informing the public regarding nuclear. We do not lessen the normal dissemination activities in the fields of agriculture, health and so on, as it has proven to diminish gradually the bad image nuclear has been given by the Nuclear Weapons, the Chernobyl and the Three Mile Island Incident. We have involved our Research Minister in IAEA Assemblies and Events, who is also convinced that nuclear is promising. One of our former Presidents, a prominent and well respected Moslem Leader, who has opposed nuclear from the very beginning, now has a different idea about nuclear after a sound explanation and clarification that has been given to him from our institution. These are some of the reasons for us to be optimistic in saying that nuclear energy shall be introduced on line around 2016. We have given efforts to cooperate with our many provinces and to try to understand their needs which may be assisted with the use of nuclear techniques and the results of nuclear research activities by involving the local universities and Regional Governments. This is important with the Decentralization Policy now present in Indonesia. Many provinces hearing of this endeavour, shows that

they too do not want to be left behind, and contacting other provinces by our institution have also been made easier.

4. Special PI events for the Younger Generation

For the Younger Generation, we do not have any very special events, however in public information activities we consider that the younger generation includes students from Junior High Schools, Senior Highschool students until and including students of academies, colleges and universities. For Highschool and below, public information activities are being given through our permanent and travelling exhibitions. For them we have a special dissemination package including presentations, watching films, a tour at the permanent exhibition and discussions, while for schools of higher learning like the universities, they may visit our nuclear research facilities.

A number of universities in Indonesia conduct regular seminars and exhibitions where our institution also are invited to participate. These are very good opportunities to conduct our dissemination programs.

5. The 2002 joint Survey in Indonesia

The latest data requested regarding the presence or not of question surveys in the highschool textbooks have just been compiled and sent to the FNCA team headed by Mr. T Ejiri. Since the survey, and the results presented during the previous project leaders meeting, we have been thinking of ways and procedures in order to enhance the knowledge of highschool students in the field of nuclear. We have found that it would be an enormous task if we had to revise and enhance their textbooks. This would have to be under a special interdepartmental cooperation and should be prepared far in advance, therefore this cannot be done within a very short time.

We have made use of the interests of schools that visit our facilities, by giving these schools a set of hand books, brochures, leaflets and material for their library that would be able to supplement their knowledge of radiation and nuclear. Meanwhile, as far as we can do and within our capacity, the last data sent regarding the highschool textbooks will be a reference to enhance and improve the handbooks, brochures, leaflets and materials when we start again the reprinting and publishing. Each year we have a special budget allocation for this purpose.