



United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains
Jl. T.M.Pahlawan No.3A, Banda Aceh, NAD,
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Nias Housing Completion Ceremony

Press Release - Monday , 25 June 2006

Hilimbosi, Nias – On Wednesday, 21st June 2006, representatives from the Japanese people and North Sumatera Province joined the Hilimbosi community to commemorate the completion of 30 houses which have been sponsored by the people of Fukuoka in Japan. Hilimbosi village is situated 20 kilometers north of Gunung Sitoli, one of the areas affected by the earthquakes in December 2004 and March 2005.

On the occasion, Mr. Ian Hamilton, UN-Habitat Program Manager conveyed gratitude to the Fukuoka people and Government of Japan for their contribution and also all parties who are involved in housing construction in Nias. “This is also a good opportunity for UN-Habitat and other organizations working in the area to build together infrastructure, facilities and to improve the income generation potential of the local community” said Hamilton.

UN-Habitat’s Aceh-Nias Settlements Support Program (ANSSP) is providing support for the construction of 173 shelter units in two villages in Nias of which 143 units are being funded through support from the Government of Japan. The total amount involved is more than \$780,000 of which \$524,000 has already been disbursed to the communities. The generous contribution of US\$171,000 from the people of Fukuoka is being utilised to construct the 30 houses in Hilimbosi which have just been completed. UN-HABITAT received contributions and donations raised under the aegis of Fukuoka Prefecture Government, Fukuoka City, and civil society organizations.

In her speech delivered in Bahasa Indonesia, Ms. Keiko Sakoda, representative of Japanese community, conveyed her appreciation and gratitude for work of UN-Habitat and Hilimbosi community to complete the housing construction. “I can witness the completed houses in Hilimbosi and I will share this wonderful experience with people in Fukuoka”

Official figures show that 313 houses were destroyed in the villages of Hilimbosi and Teluk Dalam (Nias Selatan). UN-HABITAT is able to provide support for the reconstruction of 173 of these units with currently available funding. The actual construction of houses started in January 2006 in Hilimbosi and in March 2006 in Teluk Dalam.



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Deputy of Head of Nias District, Mr. Temazaro Harefa, in his speech stated that the government is aware of difficulties faced in reconstruction process. Harefa said that the local government is ready to support the reconstruction process in Nias.

The project provides support to the communities' own efforts through a process of rebuilding through a needs-driven, participatory approach to reconstruct houses destroyed/damaged by the tsunami and earthquake. On this joyous ceremony, the people of Hilimbosi also share their experiences in participating in the community driven house construction process. "We are very happy that we don't have to live in the tents anymore and we know that we are ready for a better future" said Faigizi Sokai Zeba, representative of Hilimbosi community at the end of his speech.

The Hilimbosi people wore Nias traditional vest and performed procession to welcome the guests before entering the location of ceremony. And together with the guests, the community perform "Maena", a traditional community dance of Nias.

Among the dignitaries at ceremony were Professor Syamsul Arifin, Head of Environmental Impact Management Agency, Nurlisa Ginting MSc, Deputy of North Sumatera Investment and Promotion Board, M Ingati Nazara Amd, Head of Nias Regional House of Representative, participants from other United Nations agencies and NGOs working in Nias.

Further contact :

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Photo :

Top – Left to right

Hilimbosi community welcoming guests

Deputy of Head of Nias District, Mr. Temazaro Harefa and Head of Environmental Impact Management Agency, Profesor Syamsul Arifin arrive in location

UN-Habitat Program Manager, Mr. Ian Hamilton, Deputy of North Sumatera Investment and Promotion Board, Ms. Nurlisa Ginting MSc, representative of Japanese community, Ms.Keiko Sakoda and UNDP representative, Fakri Karim arrive in location

Below – Left to right

UN-Habitat Program Manager, Mr. Ian Hamilton signed the paper, with Deputy of Head of Nias District, Mr. Temazaro Harefa

Group photo with representatives of Hilimbosi who received handover keys

Maena Dancing - Hilimbosi community asked guests to dance Maena, traditional dance from Nias