



FORUM | BANGUN | ACEH

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## TREE PLANTING MOVEMENT: AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE A GREENER ACEH

Kepala Dinas Kehutanan and Perkebunan Aceh, Ir Hanifah Affan MM will officially open the FBA / Garuda Indonesia Tree Planting Ceremony on Thursday, 22 January at Kecamatan Mesjid Raya, Aceh Besar. A handover of 2,219 mango trees donated by Garuda Indonesia will be given to village representatives from Gampoeng Baro, Gampoeng Lamnga, Neuheun, Gampoeng Durung and Gampoeng Ladong.

The aim of the initiative is to promote a greener Aceh and economic development and sustainability for the community's future through providing 2,219 households with mango seedlings to harvest and sell at local markets.

Forum Bangun Aceh's (FBA), Founder and Chairperson, Azwar Hasan, said that the mango trees donated by Garuda Indonesia will provide a great environmental and financial opportunity.

"One of the simplest steps to care for the environment is to plant a tree. FBA is proud to be working with Garuda Indonesia to distribute 2,219 mango trees and provide ongoing support with the sale of the collective harvests. Planting edible plants not only helps combat climate change, but also provides food and income security for these much needed communities.

"The benefits of this program extend well beyond the 2,219 household recipients. It will reach more than 4,430 indirect beneficiaries, helping secure a greener community for future generations, offsetting carbon emissions, help tackle world food shortages, and provide income generation.

"This initiative demonstrates that it does not take a big effort to encourage local economic development, produce healthy food for our communities and promote a greener Aceh. We can all make a difference, even if it is small," Mr Hasan said.

The 2,219 households have been selected via FBA's Local Motivators (locally placed representatives) and village leaders. Mango tree recipients have to meet the program's criteria of sufficient space in their yard for the growth of the tree, preparation of a 50 x 50cm hole for the plant and a commitment to care and nurture the trees so that it will produce healthy and profitable fruit. In return, Garuda Indonesia will supply one mango tree and organic fertilizer per household for the planting process.

FBA will then monitor and evaluate the development of the trees over a two year period and encourage growth with regular competitions between villages awarding those with the healthiest and tastiest

produce. At harvest time, FBA will help the community's with advice on market access for the sale of the mango fruit from the collective of villages.

FBA and Garuda Indonesia are inviting members of the community and media to take part in the Official Ceremony. Details are:

Event: FBA and Garuda Indonesia Tree Planting Ceremony  
Date: Thursday, 22 January 2009  
Time: 9am - 11am  
Location: Kemukiman Lamnga, Kecamatan Mesjid Raya, Aceh Besar  
Contact: Raja Julisman, Ketua Panitia/Head of Committee (Hp: 0812 6935 3565)

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**Backgrounder:**

Forum Bangun Aceh (FBA) is a leading local NGO based in Banda Aceh with more than four years experience in providing educational services, microcredit and enterprise development to tsunami survivors, victims of conflict and the poor and disenfranchised.

FBA's efforts have included education initiatives to get schools rebuilt, re-equipped, and operational once more, and the Microcredit program— where small loans are extended to individuals to help them re-establish or improve their small businesses.

FBA's micro credit program does not lend small business owners money, but rather buys them the assets or materials they need, and the individual business owners repay the cost of the assets to FBA on a monthly payment plan.

FBA imparts enterprise development support for our clients, including small business training; market access advice; and monthly motivational coaching via our Local Motivators. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure the small business stays on course and does not subject itself to business risks. Additionally, FBA supports and monitors its micro businesses on a monthly basis, until the end of the agreed loan period.

Since 2005, FBA has assisted 900 small to medium businesses within the districts of Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Aceh Jaya, Pidie, Bireuen and Aceh Utara; and more than 30 percent of loans have supported women business owners.

For further information on FBA, please visit our website: [www.forumbangunaceh.org](http://www.forumbangunaceh.org)

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