

## Universal Children Day in Tulungagung: Children were experiencing their Rights to Play and Rights to Participate

Universal Children Day is seldom celebrated. We talk about the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) most of the time, however we forget that CRC was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Fortunately, this year, UNICEF in cooperation with East Java province, and Tulungagung district, and Child Protection Body (LPA) Tulungagung celebrated Universal Children Day under the theme: "Playing for Better Future" (Bermain untuk Masa Depan yang lebih baik). There were 4 events conducted on 20-21 November 2007 in Tulungagung:



(1) child participation on promotion of Avian Influenza prevention in SDN-2 Beji and SDN-3 Beji; (2) peer education on reproductive health, nutrition and narcotics prevention in SMK-2; (3) peer education on HIV&AIDS prevention and drama on the preparedness to handle negative impacts of development to young people in MTsN Bandung; and (4) East Java Children Convention that was conducted in Swaloh Hotel.

This edition, VoC is reporting the Convention. This 2-day event was participated by 164 children from 34 out of 38 districts/cities in East Java, 20 additional participants from Tulungagung and 8 children who received Indonesian Future Leaders Award.



The activities were arranged in fun and joyful manners. Several activities that conducted in this Convention were: (1) Planting trees in the surrounding Wonorejo dam that is located near by the hotel; (2) Conducting out-bound activities to introduce each other and to learn the importance of team work; (3) Conducting peer-to-peer discussions on several issues such as organizing children forum, natural disaster preparedness, preventing HIV&AIDS transmission, etc. The discussions were facilitated by members of Tulungagung Children Board and Indonesian Future Leaders; (4) Performing traditional games in the social evening event; and (5) Developing recommendations that came out using pictures, songs and poetries.

Besides those activities, a delegation of children had working lunch with members of District Legislative Council (DPRD) of Tulungagung. They discussed the progress in implementing the Children Forum's recommendations which had been presented to Government of Tulungagung last year.

Bupati of Tulungagung, Ir. Heru Tjahjono, in his opening remarks said that Government of Tulungagung listened seriously to the voices of children. Efforts have been taken to fulfill child rights.

The following is what are the children responses to the Convention. Kadek Doi Rahayu, who came from

Bali and one of Indonesian Future Leaders said that she enjoyed participating in this Convention, especially when she learned traditional games. She would like to share those games with children in Bali. Kadek was also impressed with the Government of Tulungagung who paid a lot of attentions to the children and hopes other district and provincial governments will do the same.

Lusi Diah Ayu, a second grader of Senior High School who came from Kediri District drew her "dream school". She commented to her drawing: "I want a school that equipped us with facilities to support learning process. The size of classrooms in my school are not the same. Some are large but others are too small. This condition makes students feel uncomfortable. We have good teachers, but they bring us too many tasks. I want to have teachers who can interact with students and not bring too many tasks. It is expressed in my drawing".

While Martina and Lely, both of them are second grader of Senior High School in Nganjuk drew a picture under a title "child friendly environment". They said: "We want to raise an issue on child friendly environment. The surrounding of our houses should have children play ground. We want a clean environment, therefore we drew trash-hole in the corner of back yard. We want also children to feel safe when they play". There are a lot of

comments related with the Convention gathered by VoC reporter. Children had requested to have this Convention organized next year.

The last session of the Convention was a group of children developed recommendations. Three topics covered in the recommendations were: (a) child friendly city; (b) child friendly school, and (c) child friendly home and environment. All participants agreed to bring these recommendations to their respective government. However, they asked Bupati of Tulungagung to help them by disseminating the recommendations to other Bupatis and Mayors formally and raising it informally when he meet with other Bupatis and Mayors.

Do we have enough time to listen to our children voices? Do we already provide time and forum for children to raise their hopes? These are the learning of adult from this Convention.\*\*\*



Bupati, Ms. Kirsty McIvor and choir's members

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.