

ACR *Connections*

For ACR Internal Circulation Only

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10 YEARS SERVING ASIA



Client Cocktail
in Macau



Beer and Mooncakes?
Bring 'em on!



Staff Dinner & Dance



Up Close With:
Guess Who?



ACR at the EAIC



Greater China Market
Reception



Where is Rambutso?
ACR Staff Gives Back

AND MORE...



ACR Staff Making A Difference:

On Poo and Loo in Remote Rambuto

Last year, as many of us spent the summer (or winter, for the southern hemisphere) break on a lovely, perhaps even exotic, vacation, our colleague, Ruud Deutenberg from IT was in Rambuto, Papua New Guinea

He was granted two days of ACR's Volunteer Leave*, which he utilised to visit the small town from 16-23 August in his capacity as co-founder of Friends of Rambuto ("FOR"), an Australian not-for-profit organisation that operates at a grassroots level to help the people of Rambuto achieve self-sufficiency and a sustainable future.

And help was something the locals in the town, mostly subsistence fishermen, needed badly. By virtue of its location, Rambuto is remote and cut-off from most parts of the world, and there is no electricity grid, running water, shops, aircon, roads, TV, Wi-Fi. Access to mobile reception is also highly limited.

In terms of toilet practices, the villages in town have a few shared ones that are either on land (pit toilets or among the bushes) or simply over the sea. Without

proper toilets designed to adequately contain or treat the waste, the people of Rambuto are at risk of a host of health issues due to contamination of water, soil and food.

"The flies frequenting the bush can easily end up on the villagers' dinner plate," Ruud explained, highlighting the adverse conditions and risk of diseases that the people of Rambuto face.

FOR was founded after Ruud's first trip to Rambuto in 2006, through which he hopes to help the people of Rambuto. On what keeps him involved in his work and cause at FOR, he mused, "One aspect of the local culture I always admire when I visit Rambuto is the positive outlook on life. Compared with those who are not happy with what they do not have, the locals are happy with what they have and are keen to learn about new things."

*To find out your eligibility for the ACR Volunteer Leave, refer to the Employee Handbook, approach Human Resources or contact CSR Committee Chair Melissa Hyak.

As part of FOR's Sanitation Programme, Ruud's focus on this trip was to conduct a number of awareness sessions with the local communities to highlight the importance of enhancing sanitation practices and raise public health levels in Rambuto. He shared details of his trip:

"During the awareness sessions in August, my partner and I discussed the topic of sanitation in general as well as the importance of toilets and basic hygiene practices to health. We also conducted a survey on current sanitation habits of the people in town and showed them a video of a community in a similar situation who have taken actions.

The workshops were well attended and the local people had lots of ideas and suggestions, such as protecting existing water sources, moving pig cages out of the villages, disposing of rubbish properly, and keeping the villages clean. Some of these ideas and suggestions are actually already implemented by the locals.

The output of the sessions is currently being used to prepare for the next phase of the project, i.e. installation of compost toilets, which will take place in January 2017."



For more information on FOR or to find out how you can help support the people of Rambuto, visit <http://friendsoframbutso.org>, follow the updates on <https://www.facebook.com/friendsoframbutso>, or ask Ruud out for a cup of coffee – he promises to oblige.