

STORIES FROM THE GROUND



► Junior high school students on Bangka Island, North Sulawesi learned the importance of looking after oceans as part of innovative education program of the No Trash Triangle Initiative. Photo by No Trash Triangle Initiative.

Innovative education program to help protect the seas surrounding Indonesia's small islands launched

Manado, July 2019 – No-Trash Triangle Initiative, in partnership with Sea Soldier, launched last July an innovative education program that will teach junior high school students on Bangka Island, North Sulawesi about the environment surrounding them and the importance of looking after our oceans. The program will cover topics such as the coral reef, mangroves and sea grass beds, and will take students out of the classroom to experience these ecosystems.

The program was designed together with the local community to ensure that it is relevant and interesting for the students. Also, these lessons will be delivered by local representatives from Sea Soldier. At the end of the program, participants will receive a certificate to support their applications for further training after school. They (the participants) are hoping to become ambassadors of the ocean and the next generation of marine biologists.

“This program is very important in helping our students to realise how lucky they are to live in such a beautiful place and that they must help look after it so that it survives into the future,” said Mr. Jodi Umbohm, Principal of the local junior high school.

Bangka Island is located in the heart of the Coral Triangle. It is surrounded by beautiful reefs and a wide range of marine life. However, as in most cases

of many small Indonesian islands, this exquisite environment is under threat due to marine plastic debris and polluted water. The No-Trash Triangle Initiative has been working in North Sulawesi since 2017 to create a waste management and community engagement program that can be replicated on other islands.

“Creative education is a key component of the sustainable and replicable model we are developing together,” according to the No-Trash Triangle Initiative.

Besides education, the No-Trash Triangle Initiative also supports scientific research and innovation, leads a waste collection program that has up to today, sent over 500 bags of plastic found in the ocean to be recycled and encourages corporate responsibility in Europe and Indonesia. Once the new educational program has been completed in December 2019, the Initiative will work with Seasoldier to make sure that it can be replicated on other small islands around the Coral Triangle, adapting it according to local needs.

For more information, please contact Anna Clerici at info@no-trashtriangle.org, or visit the No Trash Triangle Initiative website, www.no-trashtriangle.org.

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