

Building Partnerships to End Hidden Hunger in Indonesia

Mr. Venkatesh Mannar, President of the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia from July 24-26, to meet with key actors in the growing efforts to reduce hidden hunger in Indonesia. Accompanied by Mr. Luc Laviolette, Regional Director - Asia, and Dr Elvina Karyadi, National Programme Manager for MI in Indonesia, Mr. Mannar met with approximately 30 public and civic leaders, including Dr. Rachmi Untoro from the Ministry of Health, Dr. Irawati Susalit from the National Agency for Drug and Food Control, Prof. Soekirman from Coalition of Fortification Indonesia (KFI), Dr. Med. Andi Setiadi from PT. Gizindo Primanusantara, Mr. Budiarto Wijaya, M. from PT. Bogasari, Indofood, representatives from the Government (Department of Health), Universities, the National Development Planning Agency, UNICEF, International NGO's (including Mr. John Palmer from Hellen Keller International) and Indonesian industry.

During this meeting, Mr. Mannar presented an overview of MI and its work and informed the group about current developments in micronutrient programs and global food fortification programs. The presentation was followed by an interactive discussion between the various senior representatives from all sectors who attended the event. Topics included specific examples of MI's ongoing work in Asia such as an important efficacy study on rice fortification and MI's plans to continue and expand micronutrient programs in Indonesia.

A dinner for partners followed the meeting and discussions. The dinner was hosted by the Coalition of Fortification Indonesia (KFI) and PT. Gizindo Primanusantara (one of the business associates of KFI), at the Sanur Room, at the Gran Melia hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Mr. Venkatesh Mannar, President of the Micronutrient Initiative, presented an overview of MI's work and plans in Indonesia to representatives from KFI, UNICEF, partner INGOs and Government representatives at the meeting at the Gran Melia Hotel in July 2007.

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