

Constructing a new Learning Centre for the bajau laut children (A seafaring boat people living between Mindanao, Sabah and Sulawesi)

November 2008 we started building a Learning Centre on Bumbum Island off Semporna. The centre will be completed by medio March 2009 and scheduled to start operation April 1. 2009.

The target population is the Bajau Laut people. An indigenous people, which for centuries have lived a nomadic life on their boats in the sea between Mindanao, Sabah and Sulawesi.

They have tended to settle in houses on the water during the past decades and their children severely lack access to education.

Many end up as beggars in town in lack of better prospects.

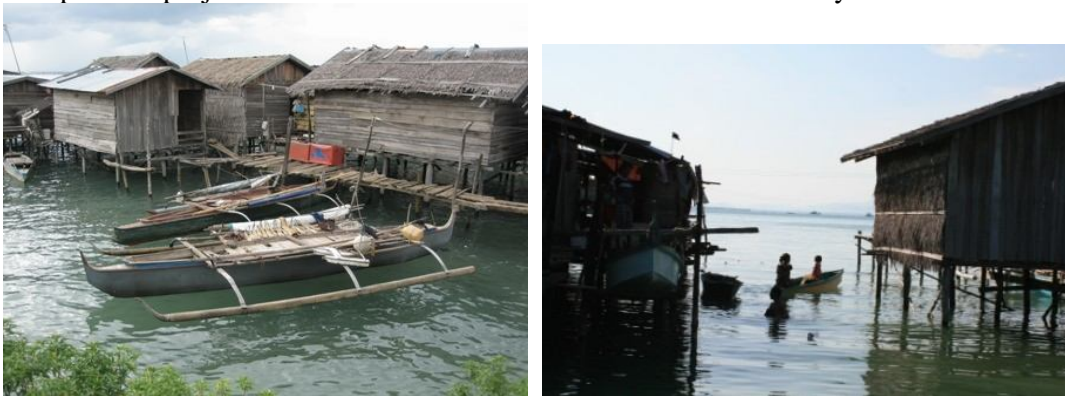
This project is the first education project undertaken focusing on this group.

This was being started on an initiative by Swedish sports personality Sven Tumba and done with participation and technical expertise from Swedish Ankerstiftelsen and funding for construction costs from performance of Swedish singer Lill-Babs.

Therefore we name the *EAC Foundation Learning Centre on Bumbum Island*:

The Lill-Babs School.

The Centre will provide a minimum of 200 children with daily education, and is the first of several planned projects in the area. More than 200 children have already been enrolled.



Traditional Houses on the water and the boats of the bajau laut people.



This settlement is located only 200 meters from the Learning Centre. These are the homes of the children.



Most of the children are growing up in these houses or in periods on small family boats in the open sea. Most have no chance of education during their entire childhood.



Without access to school many live a miserable life on the streets begging and often victims of abuse.



Children eagerly awaiting the schools completion on Bumbum Island.



Day of enrollment for more than 200 children.



Coming pupils for the EAC Learning Centre on Bumbum Island, Semporna. They face a much better future thanks to the help from Lill-Babs and Ankerstiftelsen and the sponsorship from the EAC Foundation



. Start of construction in November 2008



A seahorse as symbol Fitting for the centre.
Painted by our Swedish Friends



Seen from a distance.March 2009 – Centre is practically completed.



Toilet building is using the same concept and colours of course traditional Swedish red and white, which is being painted right now.



Construction of tables and benches



