

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED YOUTH
MAKE A BOLD STATEMENT
AT AIRBORNE 7 METERS ABOVE GROUND**

Payangan, Ubud Bali, 8 November 2007 – Twelve physically challenged youth faced vigorous yet inspiring physical and mental undertaking in a 2-day Outward Bound “Leadership and Motivation” program on November 7 – 8, 2007 at Outward Bound Indonesia’s Center in Payangan, Ubud Bali. The deserving men and women were given this opportunity by **Rotary Club** and **Outward Bound Indonesia (OBI)** because of their achievements, leadership credentials and service in community. The objective of this Outward Bound program is to promote a can-do attitude, self-confidence, self-worth, service to community, leadership and motivation. The scholarship recipients were exposed to physical and mental challenges they never encountered before. The activities’ level of difficulty was not by any means lowered, in fact the participants jumped aboard on all physically-packed activities typically offered to physically able people. Some of the activities were Abseiling where they repelled down a 20-meter-high rock with a rope, Confident Jump “Pamper Pole” where they climbed up a 7-meter-high pole and jumped off it as one tries to hit a hanging ball in front of him/her while sounding his/her commitment aloud.



Tete, whose full name is V.R Maria De Sousa Mariano is one of the male participants. He was born on April 18, 1983, with no right arm and a short left arm with three imperfect fingers. Despite his modest posture of barely 140 cm tall, right off the bat you will sense his oozing confidence, high-spirit, big heart and great compassion and inspiration for others. “People don’t see pass my disability. It’s unfortunate that people pass the chance to get to know me to see that I’m a good person just because I don’t have an arm. I hoped through this experience I was able to prove myself and others that I’m so much more than meets the eye,” said Tete who currently lives in Jogja and works in multi-level marketing. After completing the Confident Jump activity, this poet who aspires to be a politician said, “I felt a little scared at first. But when I reached the top, moments before I jumped, I told myself that I could do it. And I did.” He added, “My fear as I was climbing the pole is analogous to my fear of meeting people and being judged or ridiculed. But this experience has proven that I can do the things that normal people are able to do. This experience has changed my life because it has empowered me to realize my potentials, strengths and what I’m capable of and put my purpose in life in perspective.” Despite his disability, Tete’s agility and enthusiasm was evident. At airborne Tete made a commitment of service and being an inspiration for others who are physically challenged after the program.

Eleven other scholarship recipients come from different backgrounds. I Ketut Gede Nesa Jatiana, 23, comes from Bali and had his left knee amputated due to mistreatment from a traffic accident. A few others suffered from polio at a very young age and endured dysfunctional legs. Some others have to wear prosthetic legs. One other, Asroel is a painter, a young man born in 1979 without a left leg nor arm, however has a right arm but without a hand. He remarkably does everything with his right leg, walk, eat, paint, write, etc.

Djoko Kusumowidagdo, Founder and CEO of Outward Bound Indonesia said, "We primarily wanted to work on the participants' self-esteem because it is the most critical problem physically challenged people deal with. When you have a good self-perception, you will be happy with yourself and everything else will fall into place."



Outward Bound Indonesia was founded in 1990 and since then has been passionate and proactive in its humanitarian role in society by giving scholarships to hundreds of underprivileged people, such as the blind, the physically challenged, teachers and youth at risk. Earlier this year Outward Bound Indonesia has finally formed an official collaborative humanitarian movement called OBI Care (read: OB I Care) that fuses together different corporations to help sponsor those less fortunate to go on a Leadership and Empowerment Program. Djoko also added, "The goal of these humanitarian projects is to give those who are less fortunate the opportunity to discover and develop themselves so they can help better themselves, others and the community around them. It's also a chance for them to realize that they are valuable contributions to society as others, that they have the same or more strengths and potentials as others." Next year in 2008, OBI Care plans to give a Leadership and Empowerment scholarship to the deaf and the blind.

BACKGROUND OF OUTWARD BOUND INDONESIA

Outward Bound® Indonesia (OBI) is the pioneer of Outdoor Training and Experiential Learning in Indonesia. OBI is a member of Outward Bound International whose schools have reached 35 countries across the globe. OBI's mission is to help people discover and develop their potential so they can help themselves, others and the world around them. OBI was founded in 1990 and has 2 Center locations in Jatiluhur, Jawa Barat and Payangan, Ubud Bali.

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