

Australian culture and aid sectors work together to support cultural re-development in earthquake ravaged Padang.

Working alongside Brisbane Powerhouse, The Australian Embassy in Jakarta is delighted to announce Rp 200,000,000 in support by the Australian Embassy Direct Aid Program to Yayasan (Not for Profit) Nan Jombang for the construction of a rehearsal studio and cultural centre in the recently devastated city of Padang, West Sumatra.

All members of Nan Jombang Dance Company are from Padang, the city that took the full force of the devastating Sumatran earthquake in September 2009. Nan Jombang lost their rehearsal facilities in the earthquake, which were located in the Padang Taman Budaya (Padang Cultural Centre) that sustained serious damage in the earthquake. Since then, the company has been rehearsing for major international engagements in the home of the company's founder and choreographer Eri Mefry.

Yayasan Nan Jombang (the not-for-profit organisation) was created by Nan Jombang in the aftermath of the earthquake, with the aim of promoting and supporting contemporary Minangkabau culture. It is widely acknowledged that the restoration of cultural activity is crucial in the long-term reconstruction of communities after major disasters so the construction of a cultural centre by Nan Jombang in East Padang will be a major step forward for cultural re-development in the region, and will be led and managed by the dance company along with local architects and a construction team.

Brisbane Powerhouse, long-time supporters and advocates of Nan Jombang, has committed to being a supporting partner in the proposed project. Brisbane Powerhouse will assist the centre with technical support and development of the centre, with the greater aim of creating long-term links between contemporary performing artists from Australia and Indonesia, also looking to assist Yayasan Nan Jombang in the further fund-raising required.

Brisbane Powerhouse has been a leader in presenting Indonesian performing arts and developing links with Indonesian artists. In 2007, Brisbane Powerhouse staged Festival Nusantara bringing sixty artists to Brisbane including Nan Jombang Dance (performing outside Indonesia for the first time), Butet Katardjasa *Teater Payung Hitam*, the music groups *Kua Etnika* and *Project Pop* and photographers Kemal Jufri, Mohamad Iqbal and Yuyung Abdi.

In 2010, Nan Jombang will tour to Australia to present their work in the highly prestigious Brisbane Festival and OzAsia Festival (Adelaide Festival Centre) in a tour supported by the Australia Indonesia Institute 'Saraswati' Arts Funding Program, and produced by Brisbane Powerhouse.

Led by founder Eri Mefry, the company is one of Indonesia's leading contemporary dance companies, having toured to Australia, Japan and Philippines. They are strong advocates for the preservation and evolution of Minangkabau culture, and their powerful contemporary performance style has made them sought after internationally.

Minangkabau culture has an incredibly proud tradition of arts and cultural practice, with a number of contemporary artists and groups gaining international attention re- interpreting this tradition in contemporary arts practice.

The proposed centre is dedicated to the traditional Minang arts and disciplines and the development of contemporary performance derived from that traditional base. The centre will provide opportunities for young artists in the community to learn and practice these skills at an elite level, and provide a focus for the preservation of Minang culture.

The centre will be a permanent rehearsal studio for Nan Jombang, enabling them to rehearse and present performances and workshops with local and international artists. The rehearsal facility is the first stage of a facility which will eventually include a library, archive, research facility, intimate performance space and residential accommodation for visiting artists as well as presenter and festival directors who will be able to visit Padang to see the work of Nan Jombang Group and other contemporary Indonesian contemporary dance companies.

.2009 Asialink Arts Management Resident Kate Ben-Tovim also worked with Nan Jombang to develop the cultural centre plans and assisted Yayasan Nan Jombang with fundraising whilst on her Australian Indonesian Institute funded Asialink Residency during 2009. Indonesian architect and arts manager Benno Ramadian (BRD Design / Matahariemas) is also assisting with architectural plans and construction planning. Benno was an All funded Asialink Arts Management Resident at the Brisbane Powerhouse in 2004.

For further enquiries please contact

Andrew Ross

Director, Brisbane Powerhouse
T 617 3358 8666
F 617 3358 8611
E AndrewR@brisbanepowerhouse.org

Sanchi Davis

Second Secretary (Cultural), Australian Embassy, Jakarta
Tel: (021) 2550 5260
Fax: (021) 522 710
[Sanchi Davis Sanchi.Davis@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sanchi.Davis@dfat.gov.au)

For more information, images and interviews please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8649
e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org

