

# OF COAL & MEN

**Priyadi, GM Operations of PT Adaro Indonesia, sees coal mining as a soulmate of some sort.**

**E**ver since he graduated from the mine engineering faculty at Universitas Pembangunan Nasional “Veteran” in Yogyakarta in 1989, Priyadi went straight to work at coal producer PT. Tanito Harum in East Kalimantan.

Afterward, he joined Adaro in 1991 and has been working there since. He has assumed various positions, from mine engineer, production superintendent and senior planning engineering at the site in South Kalimantan, before moving to Jakarta head office as administration manager and general manager for external relations.

In 2007, he went back to the site in South Kalimantan to assume the position as general manager operations and head of mine engineering.

“I love the dynamics at the coalmining site, from the exploration activities, to infrastructure development, production and the social interaction between employees and locals,” Priyadi said in an interview via e-mail.

The employees have strong camaraderie, he said, watching each other’s back and regularly remind one another to abide by best mining practices and safety standard.

“That way, we can identify the risk and the potential dangers, and manage them to prevent accidents or

disaster,” he said.

Such strong camaraderie, as well as strong work ethics, compensates for what Priyadi has been missing: “the family”.

“My family was with me here until 1998. But when I went back to the site in 2007, they could not come along because my wife could not leave her profession as a pediatrician at an Indonesian Air force hospital,” he said.

“Thanks to the development of information technology and transportation, we can still communicate and be close to each other, although not as often as we want it to be,” he added.

Moreover, the location of the site in South Kalimantan is not exactly remote. The closest cities, Tanjung and Paringin, have undergone rapid growth in the past several years, like other cities.

The cities are less than 10 kilometers away from the site, and the roads are asphalt paved well. According to Priyadi, there are sport facilities, sufficient telecommunications network and other facilities for daily needs.

“The growth is also attributed to the fact that 16,000 Adaro employees and their families live nearby. Most of the employees are locals, and they don’t live in an exclusive town, but mingle with other residents,” he said.

Priyadi said there had been no conflict with locals, as they have been

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very supportive and protective to the site operation.

“We would like to be good neighbors and grow with locals. Our corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs cover economics, education, health, social and cultural improvement. The programs are created, implemented,

monitored and evaluated with the communities and local governments,” he said.

As the result, Adaro has been granted the PROPER environmental award for three years in a row by the State Ministry for the Environment. Its CSR programs have also won awards from the Social

Affairs Ministry and Coordinating Ministry of People’s Welfare.

Related with the social activities, like in other mining site which located in remote area, usually there is a problem with prostitution issue, given the majority of the workers are men. Priyadi did not deny the situation.

“The mining site of Adaro is not exactly remote, as it can easily be accessed through land, water and air. But we do have a program, in cooperation with the local government and police to crack down drugs problem and prostitution. We also provide regular medication information and religious sermon to avoid such problems,” he said.

However, the biggest challenges in managing a site, Priyadi said, are synergizing the entire resources available, synchronizing stakeholders’ expectations and goals, and giving the understanding to employees and stakeholders on the culture and habit of a mining operation.

“We continue to find solutions based on environmental, technical and economical considerations, so that the operation can give optimum benefits to all stakeholders,” he said.

At the moment, Adaro is the second largest coal producer with the production in 2010 is expected to reach around 42 million tons. Asked whether there is a pressure for the employees to make the company the number one, Priyadi said no.

“For me, the main goal of Adaro’s operation is making the company the most efficient mining company that abides by best mining practices, becoming good partners for surrounding communities and environment, while giving maximum benefits for all stakeholders. We don’t see it as pressure, but as a motivation,” he said. **C**