

## Kiau Nuluh Women become Beacon of Hope

Mt. Kinabalu foothills

Malaysia

Good Shepherd Services' social economic project at the village of Kiau Nuluh in the state of Sabah has become a beacon of hope for those who work on empowering indigenous communities in Malaysia.

Koonduan Kiau Nuluh Enterprise (KKNE), conceived as a social and economic response to the devastating 2015 earthquake, was one of success stories highlighted at the National Economic Empowerment Conference (NEEC) held recently in the state capital of Kota Kinabalu. (Koonduan means women in Dusun language).



Some members of Koonduan Kiau Nulu Enterprise

The project, which began its pilot phase in August 2015 with 11 women from the village, saw the production and marketing of chutney and jam made from pineapple harvested from their farms at the foothills of Mount Kinabalu. The Good Shepherd Services' initiative was aimed at encouraging the community to work and heal together, while rebuilding their livelihood.



**Pineapple Chutney (above)**

**Pineapple Jam (right)**



Lucy Suin, a KKNE member, spoke at the conference about the learning process of not just managing an enterprise from an economic viewpoint but also from working with her fellow villagers.



‘This project has made me realise the importance of working together as a community,’ said Suin, who cited the support of Good Shepherd Services as instrumental in the success of the project. ‘It is my hope that this project will continue to strengthen our bond.’



### Brisk sales during the Conference

The NEEC was a platform for practitioners, educationists and industry leaders to strategise and formulate a sustainable and coherent plan so as to empower indigenous Christian communities of Malaysia.

Because of its success, the pilot project was expanded to the Community Phase in January, where a total of 49 women work hand-in-hand to produce the popular all-natural and preservative-free pineapple chutney and jam.

For more on the pineapple chutney and jam story, please click:

<http://www.newsabahtimes.com.my/nstweb/fullstory/6949>