

10th September 2009

PRESS RELEASE – A Step Forward For The Peace Park

Bali Peace Park Association Board members will travel to Bali in the coming weeks to meet with Putu Oka Semadi on behalf of Kadek Wiranatha, who reportedly has plans for a 'new fun-night scene' to be developed on the former Sari Club site in Jalan Legian, Kuta.

The Association received a letter from Putu Semadi on 1st September 2009 requesting a meeting to discuss the future of the property, facilitated by local government authorities.

Association spokesman Phil Britten says: 'The Bali Peace Park Association welcomes Putu Oka Semadi's agreement to a meeting as a positive step forward in working with the community of Bali'.

The Association is continuing its efforts to fund for the Balinese community an internationally recognised 'Peace Park' where the values of tolerance, acceptance and understanding of cultural differences will be promoted. The Peace Park concept was initiated after the 2002 terrorist attacks that decimated the site but is to be a place of peace, remembrance and contemplation for those affected by any acts of terror committed world-wide.

'This recent development will hopefully further open the door allowing us the opportunity to help develop the Peace Park. I can't wait for the day when we can be ready to open the Bali Peace Park up to the public and give something back to the community as well as the families who lost their loved ones' says Britten.

Updated concept designs which incorporate the Balinese Government's proposed interactive museum are underway and support from the locals in Kuta has been widespread.

The Association is still awaiting the Australian Government's approval of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, allowing tax-deductible donations to the charity. A response is expected any day.

With this in place, the Bali Peace Park Association will be intent on finalising fundraising and is confident that the Australian community will get behind the project efforts.

The Association will be seeking corporate sponsorships as well as private community donations to make the Park a reality.

'Every single person who gets behind this project will have played an active role in how the attacks of 2002 are remembered in history...' says Britten. 'Hopefully not just as another tragic act of terrorism but rather something that united communities together to make a difference in the world'.

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