

NEWSLETTER

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Teacher Training Initiative

A model to align vocational teacher
competencies with industry trends

NEWS INSIDE:

- Teacher Training Initiative (TTI) program
- History of the TTI program
- TTI 2021 - SMKN 1 Kaledupa Wakatobi and Hotel Claro Makassar

The SUSTOUR project is part of the Sustainable Tourism Development Program in Indonesia (STDI), which is funded by SECO (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia. The SUSTOUR project aims to increase employment and income opportunities for local residents through the development of sustainable and inclusive tourism in the two destinations of Labuan Bajo (Flores) and Wakatobi.



NEWS INSIDE:

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- TTI 2021 - SMKN 1 Kaledupa Wakatobi and Hotel Claro Makassar



Teacher Training Initiative (TTI) program

The Teacher Training Initiative (TTI) is a program that aims to increase the competencies of tourism vocational high school (SMK) teachers in Wakatobi and Flores through teacher apprenticeships in the hospitality industry and tour operations. In addition to optimizing the roles teachers play in providing education that addresses industry needs, TTI also encourages the implementation of hospitality industry behaviors and practices that reflect the values of sustainability. Sustainability has become a tourism trend of the present moment and is projected to become a focus of global tourism in the future. Therefore, it is crucial for vocational (SMK) teachers to master related skills and knowledge in order to help shape a high quality and competitive workforce.

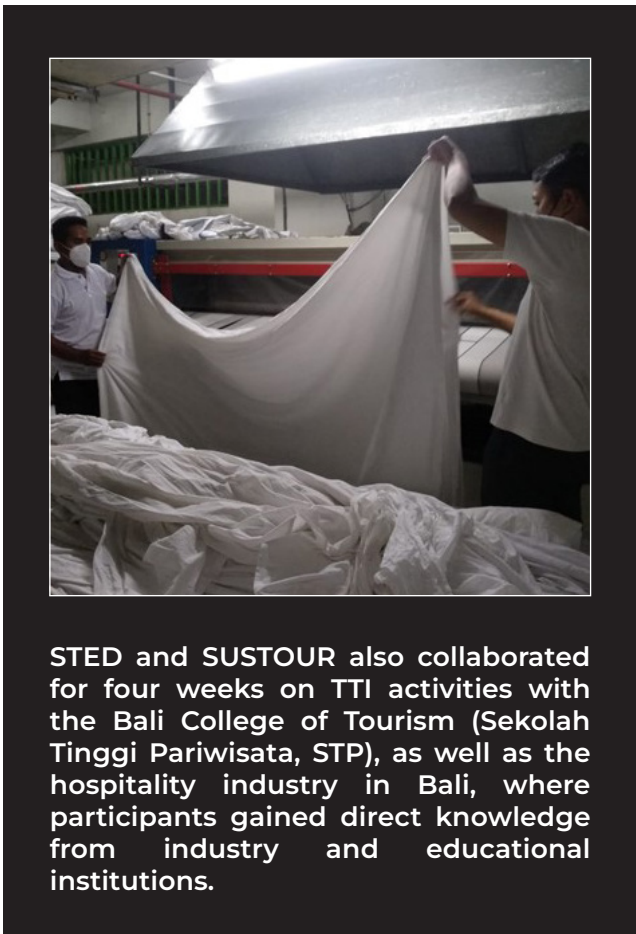


NEWS INSIDE:

- Teacher Training Initiative (TTI) program
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- TTI 2021 - SMKN 1 Kaledupa Wakatobi and Hotel Claro Makassar

History of the TTI program

This program was initiated by SUSTOUR in 2019, in collaboration with the STED (Sustainable Tourism Education Development) Project and Lombok Tourism Polytechnic (PPL). During 2019, TTI not only involved vocational teachers in SUSTOUR focus areas (Flores and Wakatobi), but also included the STED focus area of West Nusa Tenggara (NTB). Program participants included five teachers from SMKN1 Labuan Bajo and SMKS Swakarsa Ruteng in Flores and 3 teachers from SMKN1 Kaledupa in Wakatobi.



Although in 2020, the tourism industry has been greatly impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it has been difficult for hotels to accept interns or apprentice teachers, capacity-building programs for teachers certainly must not stop. The COVID-19 pandemic has also increasingly shown the importance of understanding and using sustainability as a policy reference in all sectors, including tourism. To adapt to the challenges of a global pandemic, TTI activities were conducted virtually during 2020, in collaboration with STED and Lombok Tourism Polytechnic. The program's participants included five SMKN 1 Kaledupa teachers and 25 teachers from six public and

NEWS INSIDE:

- Teacher Training Initiative (TTI) program
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In 2021, the TTI program was conducted in person together with the hospitality industry, to strengthen the relationship between vocational education and the industry. 2021 TTI participants included teachers from SMKN 1 Kaledupa (Wakatobi) and SMKN 1 Labuan Bajo (Flores). Hotel Claro Makassar was selected as partner in program implementation for SMKN 1 Kaledupa, whereas SMKN 1 Labuan Bajo collaborated with Sudamala Hotel and Resort Labuan Bajo. Both of the vocational schools (SMKN) collaborated directly with each hotel, facilitated by SUSTOUR. It was agreed that the TTI program be structured as a 1-month teacher apprenticeship, with participation by two teachers from each school. The total participants of TTI 2021 were four teachers in two hotels, consisting of 2 women and 2 men.

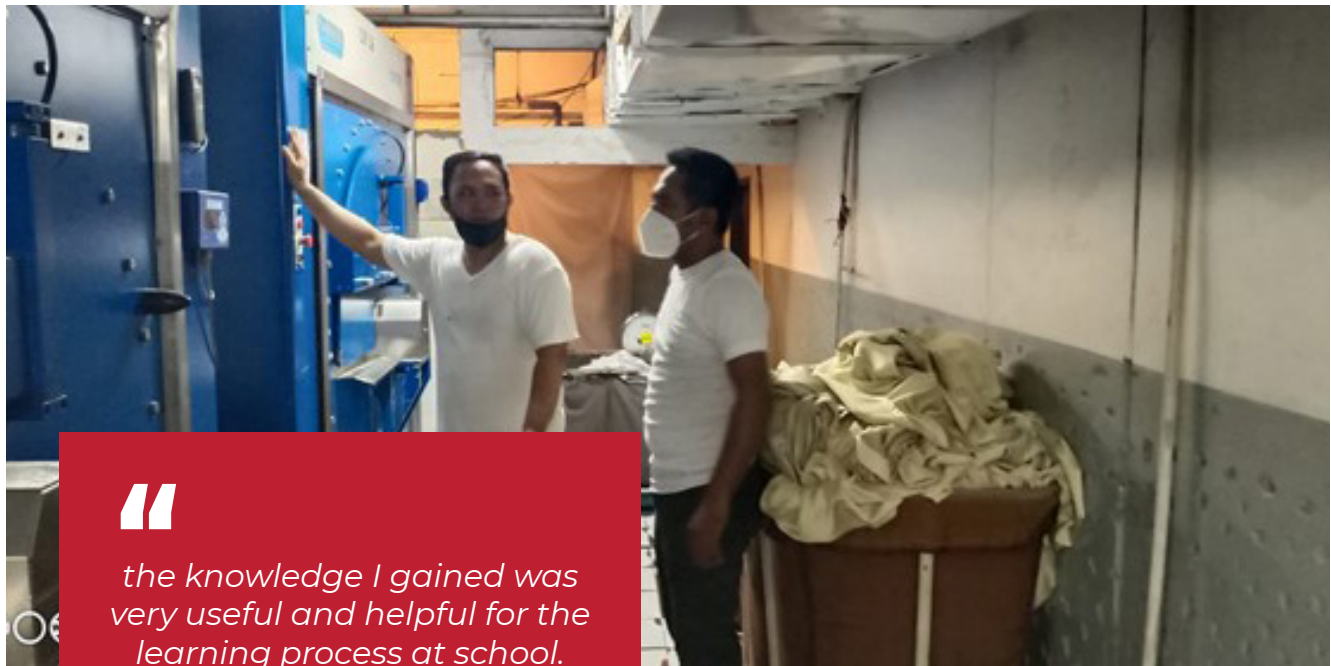
private vocational schools (SMK) from several regions in Flores. Lombok Tourism Polytechnic representatives, hospitality industry professionals, and tour operator professionals participated as program speakers. After completing the online training, teachers applied the knowledge obtained during the program within their respective schools through 'teacher portfolio' activities, where teachers delivered project-based learning activities to students for three months.



NEWS INSIDE:

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Throughout the duration of the TTI program, hotel and industry representatives offered a variety of knowledge to the teachers. In particular, this knowledge related to sustainability aspects in the context of hotel operations and the adaptation of the hotel industry to health protocols (CHSE) aiming to provide excellent service to hotel guests. After completion of the apprenticeship, the TTI participants presented internship reports to school management and industry representatives consisting of knowledge gained during the program. The apprentices subsequently designed plans to apply the new knowledge to their teaching and learning activities in their respective schools.



“
the knowledge I gained was very useful and helpful for the learning process at school. In particular, information regarding the Sewage Treatment Plant, 3R concept for waste management, as well as skills gained in housekeeping and front office divisions. The new knowledge was also very helpful in supporting the Adiwiyata School program and the future development of the school.
”

Imawati Daiki,
One of 2021 TTI participants from SMKN 1 Kaledupa



Since the launch of the TTI Program in 2021, the total number of participating teachers was 42 vocational teachers, including 32 teachers from Flores and 10 teachers from Wakatobi. This program has the potential to become a permanent program for all tourism vocational schools (SMK) to help raise the competencies of vocational tourism teachers. By continually

NEWS INSIDE:

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- TTI 2021 - SMKN 1 Kaledupa Wakatobi and Hotel Claro Makassar



improving the competencies of vocational school teachers through TTI programs, it is hoped that the curriculum and teaching - process delivered in vocational schools will be even more relevant to the changing demands and trends of the tourism industry, also related to sustainability and CHSE (health protocols). Ultimately, the Teacher Training Initiative program is expected

to become a systematic solution for aligning the skills of vocational school students and graduates with tourism industry needs, for the sake of producing future generations who act sustainably and are highly competitive in the global tourism industry.



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