PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Citibank, N.A., Indonesia
September 26, 2025

Festival Hai Mnahat: Kopernik, Supported by Citi Foundation, Celebrates Food Security and Indigenous Agriculture in East Nusa Tenggara

Indonesia, September 26, 2025 – Yayasan Kopernik, in collaboration with the Citi Foundation, proudly presents the Hai Mnahat Festival in SoE, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). With the theme "Ayo gabung dan jaga katong pung makanan" (Let's come together and protect our food), the festival celebrates Timorese local food while calling for strengthened food security through sustainable and indigenous farming practices.

Over the past two years, Kopernik's PANGAN Program, supported by the Citi Foundation's Global Innovation Challenge, has worked with more than 200 smallholder farmers and agribusinesses actors to revitalize regenerative indigenous farming practices, promote balanced nutrition based on local food, and strengthen community-based economies. The Hai Mnahat Festival serves as a celebration of this shared journey and a momentum to inspire even broader participation in the local food movement.

Held at Courtyard of the South-Central Timor Regency Office on September 20, 2025, the festival features a rich lineup of activities involving farmers, micro-agribusiness owners, local communities, and creative actors. Highlights include a local food market, the launch of a recipe book developed in collaboration with Posyandu (community health post) cadres, and live cooking demonstrations using Timorese ingredients. The festival also hosts panel discussions bringing together farmers, entrepreneurs, activists, collectives, and government representatives; creative workshops on weaving, food storytelling, photography, videography, and crafts; as well as music performances by local and national artists including Efek Rumah Kaca, Navicula, Teddy Adhitya, Ave The Artist, Toton Caribo, Alfred Gare ft. PAX GROUP, and more. The event will close with stand-up comedy performances exploring themes of food, village life, and community resilience.

Ewa Wojkowska, COO and Co-Founder of Yayasan Kopernik, shared:
"Hai Mnahat Festival is both a celebration and a moment for reflection. By celebrating local food, we are not only preserving tradition and identity but also strengthening community food security in the face of the escalating climate crisis. From farms to kitchens to the stage, the people of Timor remind us that local food is a force that unites us."

Hario Widyananto, Country Head of Public Affairs, Citi Indonesia, added:
"*Agriculture remains the backbone of Indonesia's economy, contributing nearly 14% to national GDP in second quarter of 2025—yet behind these numbers are communities whose resilience depends on sustainable solutions.* Citi Indonesia and the Citi Foundation are proud to support humanitarian organizations, like Yayasan Kopernik, in their mission to develop initiatives that answer society's most pressing challenges. The Hai Mnahat Festival exemplifies how community-driven innovation, rooted in sustainable and indigenous farming practices, can help strengthen local food systems, improve livelihoods, and build a more resilient future for Indonesia, including communities in SoE, East Nusa Tenggara.*"

Eduard Markus Lioe, Regent of South Central Timor, conveyed in his remarks:
"This festival is not just a celebration of art, music, and food. It is a movement that brings us together to strengthen local food systems, protect our environment, and uphold our cultural identity. We know

*Data source: Central Bureau of Statistics, August 2025

that South Central Timor is facing serious challenges in food security and nutrition, from high rates of stunting to the impacts of climate change on agriculture. At the same time, our ancestral food systems and traditions are slowly fading away. That is why initiatives like the PANGAN Program and the Hai Mnahat Festival matter so deeply. They remind us that local food is not only about what we eat, but also about our identity, our health, and the future of the next generations."

Grace A. Fallo, Subdistrict Head (Camat) of SoE, expressed her appreciation:
"Hai Mnahat Festival is more than just a celebration of food — it is a testament to the spirit of gotong royong (mutual cooperation) in SoE. This initiative reminds us that protecting local food means protecting the future of our next generation."

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About Citi Foundation
Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of low-income people around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze youth employment opportunities, and rethink approaches to building economically vibrant communities. Citi Foundation's "More than Philanthropy" approach leverages Citi's expertise and the passion of its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation. For more information, visit www.citifoundation.com.

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In Indonesia, Citi was established since 1968 and is one of the country's largest foreign banks. Citi Indonesia now operates with a refined focus, maintaining four branches in four major cities in Indonesia, namely Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, and Medan.

Throughout 2025, Citi in Indonesia received a number of prestigious awards, one of which was from The Asset where Citi Indonesia was named Best *Corporate and Institutional Adviser*, *Best Bond Adviser – International*, *Best Commercial Bank*, *Best Social Loan*, *Best Bank Bond*, *Best Syndicated Loan – Mining*, and *Best Syndicated Loan – Agriculture*. In addition, Citi Indonesia also won awards from the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025, namely *Indonesia's Best International Bank* and *Indonesia's Best Bank for Large Corporates*.

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About the PANGAN Program
West Timor, NTT faces significant challenges in food and nutrition access, with high stunting rates further worsened by climate change impacts such as declining agricultural productivity, extreme weather events, and the gradual loss of indigenous food practices.

Through a combination of ancestral knowledge, innovation, and community empowerment, PANGAN aims to build a food system that is self-reliant and resilient to climate crises. Its key focus areas include the revitalization

of indigenous farming practices through agroforestry, polyculture, crop rotation, seed preservation, and the use of organic fertilizers and natural pesticides; post-harvest innovations such as solar-powered dryers and Black Soldier Fly (BSF) farming to turn organic waste into animal feed and compost; and the promotion of balanced nutrition through community workshops and participatory recipe development with Posyandu cadres, resulting in the Hai Mnahat Recipe Book.
By combining local wisdom, relevant innovations, and community leadership, PANGAN supports food sovereignty and cultural preservation with a long-term vision to strengthen the resilience of West Timor communities against climate and nutrition challenges. For more information, visit @haimnahat on Instagram.

About Yayasan Kopernik
Yayasan Kopernik is a research and development organization focused on finding effective solutions to pressing social and environmental challenges. Kopernik works with partners across development, public, and private sectors to drive innovation in products, services, and approaches that support underserved communities and creative actors advocating for social and environmental issues in Indonesia. For more information, visit www.kopernik.info.

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*Data source: Central Bureau of Statistics, August 2025