Kickstarting Bridge for All: Integrating Bridge in Education

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Indonesian Contract Bridge Association (GABSI)
Indonesia

Population: 280 million, Bridge player: <5000
>17,000 island, 38 provinces

Rich cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity

Jakarta is the national capital.
Manado is the Bridge capital
The Challenges

Funding and Participation

• Commercial challenges
• Teacher Availability
• Sport Funding

Cultural Perception: The Deck of Cards
Number 1 Asset:

**the “Bridge Tragics”**

- Are deeply passionate about Bridge
- Contribute significant time, money and other resources to Bridge causes
- Enjoy the game of Bridge tremendously
- Are willing to do above and beyond for Bridge

- lobbying schools.
- sponsor tournaments.
- providing resources.
- become Bridge teachers
- volunteering time for Bridge
- contribute funding
- etc.
Resources Preparation

One local area at a time

- Teacher Availability
- How the teachers are compensated
- The number of schools that can be supported
- Basic Bridge paraphernalia: boards, bidding sheets/bidding boxes
Approaching the School

- State school vs Private/independent school
- Existing relationship with the principal or the school boards
- Bridge as extra curricular activity
- Support on equipment, teacher/coach, sometime funding
The Marketing: Encourage Student To Try Bridge

Target 2 key audiences:

- The Students: Making Bridge Cool and Rewarding
  - Highlight the intellectual and strategic aspect
  - Foster camaraderie among players
  - Excitement and Anticipation with tournaments
- The Parents
IQ Testing and Pairing
Those with similar IQ ranges are partnered together, allowing them to learn and grow faster.

Partial Scholarships
Parents are informed that students who excel in Bridge may receive partial scholarships, such as discounted school fees.

Pathway to Higher Education
Bridge can be a pathway to higher education. From primary school to high school to university, students with achievements in Bridge may receive special consideration during admissions. Major universities often have Bridge activity units that bring in trophies in the name of the institution.
Let the student play

• One or two times a week
• Mini-Bridge for primary school
• Full game of Bridge for high school, after introduction via mini-Bridge
• Tests as “academic assessment”: bidding test, opening lead test, partnership test, etc
And they win!

- Local, regional, state, or national competitions
- Important Prize
  - Certificate of Achievement
  - Trophies
- Funding to Go to Tournament
  - entrance fee, accommodation, transportation, meal
- Where to get the funding
  - Bridge Tragics
  - Local Bridge Association or Club
  - Parent Contribution
  - Student fund raising
2020's National Bridge Champion Under 12 (online).
2021 Regional Championship Under 16 Winners
Bridge Post School

- 30-40% who learn Bridge during school years continue to play Bridge as adult
- Bridge Tragics hire Bridge players to their organization
  - To play Bridge
  - For their intelligence and grit
  - Team Name and Sponsorship
Conclusion

• Bridge Tragics valuable contribution

• Start with local school, one at a time

• Awe students and their parents with Bridge and its perk

• Bridge tournaments: local regional, national even international will close the loop
Thank You

We thank everyone for spending your valuable time with us today.

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