

PRAYERS FOR WORLD PEACE

Bali, 15 September 2005... *"I pray for world peace,"* claims Trudi Musgrave, after attending prayers at Pura Taman, Grand Hyatt Bali, on Thursday August 15, 2005, at 11.00 local time. Wynne Prakusya, after finishing the prayers, also gave a similar comment *"I asked myself before starting this (prayers), what will the procession be like. It is different than I thought. Praying with flowers is a new experience for me. I prayed for my career, health, and for a peaceful country. I pray for a peaceful Indonesia,"* says Wynne. Today's prayers falls under *kajeng kliwon* day or a holy day (good day) according to Hindu belief. The Hindus believe that praying on this holy day will bring good to all living creatures and the universe.

That morning, Trudi and Wynne looked elegant made up in Balinese style, their light make up and simple coiled hair formed a small bun. They wore Balinese *kebaya* (traditional outfit) and a sarong woven textile. To enter the temple, one was required to cover their waist down to the ankle using a sarong (cloth), also one must wear a sash tied to their waist. Historically, the sash was a border between good and evil. Trudi, Wynne and other ladies from Grand Hyatt Bali attending the prayers walked towards Pura Taman, located amidst a beautiful garden. Decorated coconut leaves hung along the side walk towards the temple. Four men played *rindik*, a traditional gamelan music in the temple yard, accompanying as they entered the Taman temple grounds.

Before the ladies entered the temple, a *pemangku* (prayer procession leader) sprinkled some holy water (*tirta*) on each player to sanctify them. At that moment the gamelan *rindik* music ceased to play. They then entered the *bale piasan* and sat in a kneeling position. Several *prajuru* distributed a *canang sari* (flower offering) arranged on a *talung*. The *pemangku* then lead the prayers. Hand movements during the ceremony each had a different meaning. Both hands were clasped together and raised to the forehead level symbolizing mind unity concentration. Then altering red and white flowers and *kwangen* accompanied by the incense still in their hands symbolize offerings for Siwa Raditya (The God of Sun) and The Almighty God.

In the ceremony, the *pemangku* prays in Balinese, stating thanks to the Creator and beg for eternal peace in the heart and for the world. After the ceremony, the *pemangku* stood up and sprinkled water on the ladies again. The water is sprinkled three times on the head and four times on the hands, they then drank the water and sprinkled once again on the heads. Afterwards, the *pemangku* handed out flowers and a pinch of *wija* (*bija*/white rice). A flower is tucked in their ear or hair, and several *wija* seeds are pasted on the forehead. *"This is a really pleasant experience. I felt calm and peaceful,"* claims Trudi after completing the ceremony. Yes, hope for peace in their heart and peace on earth.



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Editor's Notes :

Since its debut in 1994, the Wismilak International, part of the worldwide Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, has been held in Surabaya, Kuala Lumpur, and now Bali. Initially the event was named the "Wismilak Open", before changing it's name to the "Wismilak International" in 1996 as a reflection of the organiser's corporate expansion into the international market. The Wismilak International is still the largest tournament in the WTA's calendar in South East Asia. For more information please visit www.wismilakinternational.com

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