

## ECOVILLAGE CHARACTER OF LOCAL WISDOM IN CIMAUNG VILLAGE

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### Abstract

The village is a core in supporting the nation's unity and society's welfare. To achieve it needs to be considered the village potentials. The construction of Cimaung village began with potential villages' data collection that has wealth in agriculture and plantation, through the guidance of village-based ecovillage character, Cimaung could be an independent village and cultured environment with all its potential. An achievement based on ecovillage character, certainly, supported with community cooperation in order to optimize the village potential, the interaction between natural and social environment as the main capital in fostering ecovillage character. The method used a qualitative method through an activity approach towards a community which divided into several stages: the preparation, the implementation and the monitoring, the evaluation and the follow-up phase. The results obtained are the awareness formation of Cimaung villagers to clean environmental's culture and the people can utilize the agricultural and plantation waste processed into something useful and has economic value.

**Keywords:** Cimaung society, Ecovillage character, Local wisdom

### INTRODUCTION

Villages is the spearhead of national development. This is mean that the development distribution in the village can be well achieved, based on their different urban areas' potentials. Meanwhile, from the point of national development, the village is a dwelling place for much of the Indonesian population. A total of 57.6% of Indonesia's population live in rural areas, thus establishing the same village by building a nation (Kardiman, et al: 2015). The village is central in sustaining the unity and progress of society.

The village has two potentials, first, the physical potential of the village provides a good wealth of diverse natural resources of flora and fauna, soil, water, climate and weather. The second, non-physical potential include rural communities, village's social institutions, and village officials. If both this potential utilized properly, then the village will develop and villages will have a function, for other regions as well as for the city. One to support and raise the potential of the village is to introduce the concept of ecovillage as a model that aims to change the mindset of rural communities in changing attitudes as well as more concerned about the environment. The impact of the values of environmental ecovillage can be realized in a rural or urban.

The values ecovillage achieve independence regarding the sustainability of rural communities the availability of resources in the village which is the main objective of developing ecovillage. Therefore, the ecovillage development must be supported by all members of the village community. Thus, the development of ecovillage would be very good if initiated by NGOs. Ecovillage community members united by a common ecological, economic, social and cultural. A village or town which are categorized ecovillage have people who care about environmental sustainability by seeking to optimize the interaction of natural and social environments.

Cimaung in Bandung-Indonesia is one of the locations that participate in rural development activities in creating a self-sufficient villages and cultured environment or ecovillage. Cimaung is one area that has the potential in the development of agricultural productivity are characterized by having a superior form of sweet potato commodity. But commodities are not yet optimized featured well by the surrounding community. In addition, also Cimaung economic development have a craft center processed waste into economic value and centers souvenirs of Sundanese food is cassava chips are still constrained by raw material. Social and cultural Cimaung still tightly holding the Sundanese culture. Social life is still defined, one of which is a matter of life and work together on the social environment, as evidenced by the existence of community togetherness in building a house is done simultaneously and without pay.

Cimaung administratively has 10 villages namely *Campakmulya, Cikalong, Cimaung, Cipinang, Constable, Malasari, Pasir Huni, Sukamaju* and *Mekarsari*. In the ecovillage model of character

development to be fostered is through community service. It is based on that Cimaung region has potential in agriculture and plantations more productive. Morphologically are in the Citarum river basin that has an important role in agricultural irrigation and plantation. Potential from agriculture and plantation commodities in Cimaung is sweet potato (sweet potato *Arnet* and *rancang*). Besides that, Cimaung is one of the pilot villages were selected to participate in the development of rural ecovillage by local governments of Bandung regency. Based on this, community empowerment at Cimaung done through ecovillage character development is expected to instill the values ecovillage (village self-sufficiency and cultural environment) contained in rural communities, especially people who are in Cimaung and outside of the region Cimaung.

### Ecovillage Value

Humans are the perpetrators and environmental management system that has a value in interacting with its environment. Environmental degradation, among others because there is a value system that puts humanbeings are not part of nature. In this case the man acting as conqueror, regulators, and superior. The emergence of environmental problems is the implication of the gap between the spiritual side in this mentality with the physical construction itself.

Ecovillage is a spatial concept and region residents pay attention to quality and ecological quality holistically because it involves all the dimensions of our life. Ecovillage is the development of rural areas who consider quality achievements of individuals, families, communities and the quality of sustainable natural environment. It is expected to increase the welfare of rural communities without damaging the environment. Furthermore, is also expected to happen backflow from the city to the village that can reduce the problems of population, urbanization, energy issues, as well as urban social problems are increasingly complex.

Realizing the independence of the village community with attention to the sustainability of resource availability in the village is the main objective of the development of the ecovillage. Therefore, the development of the eco village must be supported by all members of the village community. Thus, the development of an ecovillage will be very good if an initiated by NGOs of the village. Ecovillage community

members United by a commonality of ecologically, socio-economic, and cultural and spiritual values. An ecovillage is usually categorized village populated by people who care about environmental sustainability by working to optimize transactions are material and energy with their surroundings. Nevertheless, the Government still has the responsibility and the most important role for the development of an ecovillage. Build awareness with the extension, providing adequate means for the development of an ecovillage and real support in the form of mentoring in realizing the ecovillage is indispensable. Good cooperation between the community, Government, private sector and research institutions (colleges) to ecovillage development keys to success.

According Sunarti (2012, p. 5) ecovillage development is considered important because it has a variety of purposes and benefits. First, as a way out of inequality and imbalance of urban-rural development of the region by restoring rural life comfortable and provide opportunities and business opportunities for the fulfillment of basic needs and the evolving needs of its population. Second, to reduce urban density, lower urbanization and its consequences through equitable development and improving the quality of life in rural areas. Third, to optimize resources and efficiency of fuel use, thereby encouraging energy independence of rural communities. Thus, it is expected to be an effort to improve the quality of life of individuals, families, and communities especially those living in rural areas. The scope of the ecovillage according to Sunarti:

1. Develop a model of spatial and landscaping of rural areas in the provision of space to support the fulfillment of the principal inhabitants
2. Develop an optimization model transformation and transactional materials and energy in fulfilling the basic needs of individuals, families, and society;
3. Formulating the right strategy and effective in solving the problem of poverty in rural areas by: (1) developing regional economic models that support employment and business opportunities (especially for poor families) either through increased productivity and potential exploration of local natural resources, as well as through an increase in value-added economic activities; (2) the application of appropriate technology to increase the added value of primary products and

derivatives; (3) developing the institutional system, facilities and infrastructure, as well as rural infrastructure and agricultural support sustainable development; (4) develop a model of increased resilience and family empowerment and community empowerment, among others through coaching and mentoring system development of rural areas independent of economic, technological, social and cultural, as well as covering the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and industry.

4. Designing materials design and eco-house thermal system that meets the requirements that promote comfort (temperature-resistant, water-resistant, soundproof, and ergonomic aspects) of life of individuals and families, as well as energy saving household.
5. Design optimization of natural resources for the provision of rural carrying capacity of matter and energy to the community through technology, infrastructure, as well as adequate infrastructure.

### **Challenges and Criteria in Applying Ecovillage**

According to Gilman (1991) ecovillage unit is a scale where each individual can identify and recognize the community, and the extent to which each individual can have an affect other opportunities. Ecovillage community members united by a common ecological, social, economic, and spiritual and cultural values. A village categorized ecovillage, usually filled by people who care about the environment, seeking to optimize transactions matter and energy with the environment. Kampong that categorized ecovillage filled by people who are trying hard to save energy, such as by selecting alternative system of waste management, water, and electricity independently. Conversely, a consumptive lifestyle community, doing things that affect the destruction of natural habitats, and rely too much on fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal).

Ecovillage is not easy to achieve, because the diverse challenges that accompany it. For some people, ecovillage realize such a dream. Therefore, according to Gilman, R. (1991) there are challenges for citizens who want to realize the ecovillage namely:

- a. residents together to build the realization of a dream ecovillage,

- b. ecovillage vision to develop and maintain it,
- c. build relationships and bonds between citizens,
- d. seeks outside assistance for independent,
- e. maintains balance and sustainability, and
- f. character building society open and honest.

Ecovillage demands skills to live together in one place. An ecovillage is a settlement that is a full-featured a mostly normal life function, inadequate food supply, the industry, the function of recreation and social life, and the commercial aspects provided proportionally. This does not mean that the ecovillage to be self-sufficient in meeting all the needs of its inhabitants. Ecovillage demanding provision of jobs to offset the working-age population, and the availability of specialization of work-life balance as well as human beings with other living creatures. Feature or another important principle in the ecovillage is the cycle of resource use material that led to the use of renewable energy resources (sunlight, wind, water) than fossil sourced fuel use; enactment of garbage composting organic, and sustainable community systems (Sunarti, 2012).

According to Fickeisen, D.H (1991) there is a life skill that demands the ecovillage's resident respect for difference and diversity, the heroism value, understand the various personality and learning styles of individuals, generation and maintenance of motivation, understanding and skills related to the process of group formation, related to the participation and influence in a group, recognition of and adherence to the task. Likewise, with other basic life skills such as decision making, communication skills, conflict resolution, leadership and management. These life skills are integrated in the life of an ecological village.

Challenges in the development of other ecovillage are the integration of all components and dimensions of life as well as its association with the assuredness of a sustainable environment in regular development planning and implementation. It takes coordination, consolidating the synergy and harmony between all components of the construction company. The criteria ecovillage is the reference of the *Citarum* are:

1. Changing the mindset and behaviour towards the environment (saving water, saving energy, and others),
2. Management of waste through the 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle),



3. Management of solid and liquid wastes, waste management household (sanitary),
4. Management of agricultural activities that pay attention to environmentally friendly conservation through tree planting, protection of water resources,
5. The technology of water and soil conservation (*biopori*, infiltration wells, swales, etc.).

## METHOD

The method is performed in community service activities are in the form of rural development activities independently and cultured environment or ecovillage, for villagers Cimaung with phases of activities and methods of the activities carried out as follows:

### 1. Preparation Phase

- a. Collecting data and an early review of the data available to determine the potential of objects that can be developed.
- b. Licensing letter to the relevant agencies.
- c. Conducting field surveys to collect data that will be used as ingredients in mapping the potential and problems and facilitations that will be implemented in the development of ecovillage character.
- d. Conducting assessments through tabulation and analysis of data collected using the method of analysis that has been set.
- e. Preparing materials ecovillage activities to be carried out.
- f. Determining priorities ecovillage form of identification of potential ecological, economic, social and culture will be developed based on the needs, costs and benefits from the development.
- g. Formulating a strategic plan that is oriented to empowering people to "Developing character ecovillage as an independent village and cultured environment" based on the real conditions in the field.
- h. Implementing a strategic plan that has been generated.

### 2. Implementing and Monitoring Phase

In conducting the development potential of the village needs to involve public participation proportionally. This is necessary for

any development program received the fully support of community, ranging from data collection, assessment, community service processing, utilization and the formation of character ecovillage. By developing community participation, the development of character ecovillage would be more effective and efficient because people will be more accountable to the sustainability of independent village and cultured environment or ecovillage. Implementation of the participatory character development ecovillage can be reached by steps as follows:

- a. Inviting local authorities to provide an explanation ecovillage activity in the area Cimaung, namely Mr. Hidayat Ramdhan.
- b. Sharing opinions together with community leaders about the program ecovillage activities to be carried out with Mr. Eyang (as a community leader) and communication forum with Mr. Dasep.
- c. Socialization character ecovillage community empowerment by developing the potential of the area, a village meeting was attended by the village government and village institutions, the responsible courts and public figures. In this socialization needs to be submitted with the goal of developing ecovillage characters already established in the village Cimaung. The steps that need to be taken, and the tasks and roles of each.
- d. Make Responsible Fields ecovillage as a controller in the community, which consists of two members, namely the Chairman and Secretary.
- e. Data Collection village potentials and needs of the community, gathered in a meeting to be sent to the village government as a reference for developing ecovillage character. Then submitted to the person in charge of the Field.
- f. After obtaining data on potential, held meetings and discussions to develop a model ecovillage in Cimaung.
- g. Village Council to formulate potential villages that will be developed based on the needs, costs and benefits from the development of character ecovillage. In the meeting also formed teams of developers according to the needs and expertise.
- h. Each team of developers doing field survey and assessment to formulate development priorities to really be implemented effectively and efficiently.



- i. The results of the survey and assessment presented in the meetings, to be agreed as the rural development programs and included in documents Medium Term Development Plan and Annual Program.
- j. Implementation of the development potential of the village with character ecovillage concept implemented by a team formed in the meetings with community involvement.

### **3. Evaluation Phase**

After conducting activities in the implementation phase, there are things that need to be evaluated in the ecovillage model of character development activities around Cimaung, namely:

- a. In the socialization of the need for a common understanding of ecovillage activities so there is no misunderstanding in the implementation of activities.
- b. Necessary cooperation with relevant parties in the implementation of activities in the village Cimaung ecovillage.
- c. Assessment of the results of field surveys must be mutually agreed based on the findings in the field.
- d. Agreement in the timeliness of dissemination to the public Cimaung in the implementation of development activities ecovillage.

### **4. Follow-up Phase**

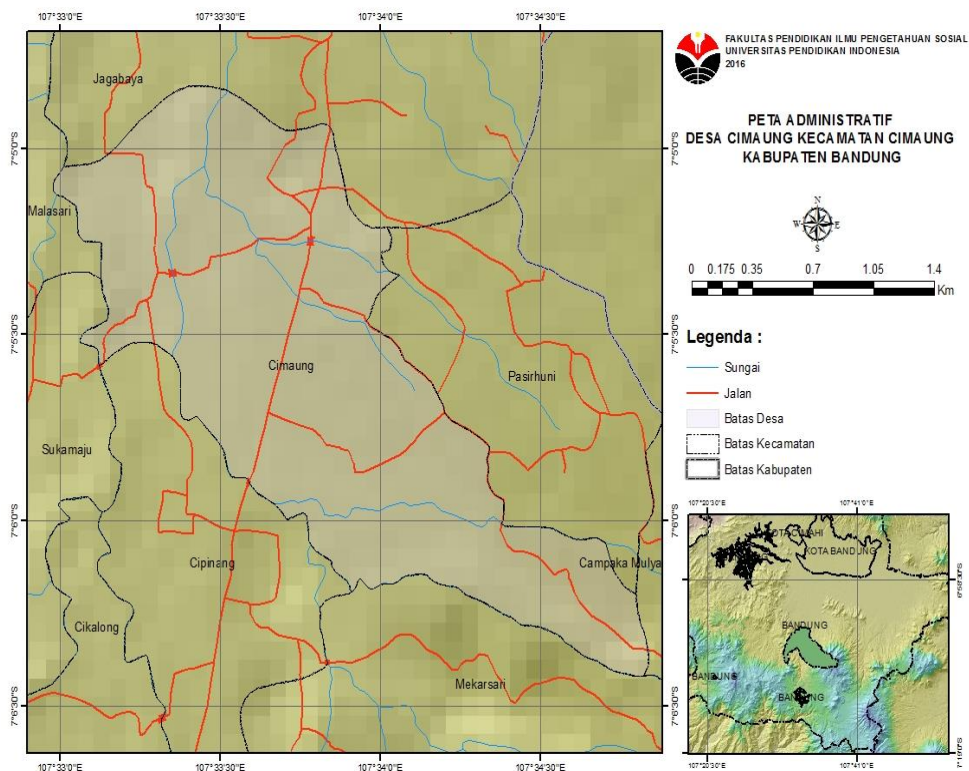
From some of the activities that have been implemented there should be a follow-up to expedite the implementation of the ecovillage in Cimaung areas, namely:

- a. Cooperation with relevant agencies regarding ecovillage activities in order to make the village as a pilot Cimaung ecovillage in West Java.
- b. The formation of character ecovillage in the area Cimaung to realize the values of self-sufficient villages and cultured environment at Cimaung community and generally people who are around the area Cimaung.
- c. Can be used as a program development community work for UPI students in the form of community service.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Implementation of community service activities in the Cimaung area held on May 4th, 2016 begins with data collection and initial assessment of the ecovillage potential data.

Figure 1. The map of *Cimaung* area.



After preparation implemented by the documents, permits and stay in touch with village officials, Mr. H. Hidayat Ramdhan to discuss community service activities. In addition to stay in touch with our local government leaders had the opportunity to stay in touch with community leaders, Mr Eyang and Dasep Rosidin as Chairman of the Forum Communication Ecovillage. The results of the implementation of the ecovillage at Cimaung as follows:

Implementation of activities started with inviting the public and community leaders of Cimaung to give socialization of ecovillage activities. In this socialization given an explanation purpose, objectives,

vision and mission of ecovillage activities. Then explained the geographic and socio-cultural potential of the area Cimaung to realize self-sufficient villages and cultured environment.

Figure 2. Implementation of ecovillage activities



Implementation of this activity for 8 months, while the community service activities held every Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3:00 pm located at Cipinang area. On the activities implementation activities and input from the public opinion form the basis for shaping the character ecovillage at Cimaung. As early socialization, we explain to the people of Cimaung (Attached).

Figure 3. The implementation of *Kerjabakti* (work together) in Citarum river



The participants in community service consist of 3 committees and 10 neighbourhoods of Cimaung. The committee from Cimaung community is Ibu Susi as a local counterpart, Mr Anwar as Cimaung Village Group's Chairman, and Mr Asep Wawan as a communication forum. Implementation of these activities started with cleaning around the environment which held at 7:00 to 10:00 am. Thus on Friday, the implemented program is *kerjabakti*, followed by cleaning gutters and rivers around Cimaung.

Additionally, initiate community service activities that planting a tree or shrub in the area along the river, as environmental protection or ecological parameters in the ecovillage activities.

Figure 4. Planting trees activities



After *kerjabakti* activities, at 10:00 am until 11:00 am followed by brainstorming with the community and sorting garbage or waste that can be utilized to be processed and used as economic potential. The results of the processed waste bins used by the public as follows:

Figure 5. Ecovillage Products





From the community service results, the expected activities, independent villages and cultured environment of Cimaung region can be an inspiration to other areas.

## CONCLUSIONS

This service can provide benefits to create a clean environment and improve the poor sanitation in the community environment. By greening the environment around the houses, although some of them do not have extensive lands for growing plants in the yard, the local community can be made by planting in a polybag. The public can make use of garbage as sewage and potentially economically valuable as a typical product of the village Cimaung. Promoting public awareness regarding the importance of environmental hygiene in a manner program activity every Friday that is kerjabakti in the surrounding environment. In addition to the kerjabakti for the people who participated in these activities, familiarity and hospitality communities increasingly closely with mutual have hygiene and beauty as a self-contained village and cultured environment. This activity should be continued and has continued pattern is done by the community Cimaung. The cooperation conducted by the UPI and Cimaung community to continue interwoven with UPI as well so that the College has full complicity to participate in a village development program.

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