

Research Report

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Title of Research:

Double-layered system for community-based management of wide-scale cultural landscape conservation in Borobudur area, Indonesia

Purpose of Research:

Borobudur Temple, the world's largest Buddhist Temple built around 7th - 8th Century, was opened for public in 1983. After its inscription into the World Heritage List in 1991, the temple has become a major tourist destination in Indonesia with annual visits of 2.5 million domestic and foreign visitors.

Borobudur Temple lies in the capital of Borobudur Sub-district, surrounded by the vast and beautiful cultural landscapes of Kedu Plain. The temple and park area are managed by the government and PT.TWCBPRB, a state-owned company, but the wide surrounding landscape has not been clearly regulated and managed. The people of Borobudur live in villages with typical Indonesian local community systems. The economic crisis that hit Indonesia during 1997-2000 had caused serious impacts on the life of the villagers around the Borobudur Temple. Economic difficulty had forced these villagers to come to Borobudur Tourism Park and become vendor¹⁾. In fact, the number of these vendors was still increasing²⁾; causing difficulties to PT. TWCBPRB on managing them who became crowded and more competitive. Such situation also caused some conflicts among vendors and PT.TWCBPRB. This condition raised awareness of the local people and forced them to establish some organizations in sub-district level in attempt to solve those happening problems.

Another crucial issue is the lack of legal framework and comprehensive regulations on how to conserve and manage Borobudur's cultural landscape. Therefore, there is a need to follow up the problem by exploring the possibility of management by the communities. As the first step, it is important to know the existing community activities both in sub-district level as well as in local level (village and smaller community group). Such mapping would be useful in designing an effective conservation system of the wide-scale cultural landscape around Borobudur Temple. Secondly, managing cultural landscape in such a wide-scale area as the Borobudur Temple surrounding villages is difficult. It needs close coordination between communities and community-based organizations both in sub-district and village level. The combination of community organizations in sub-district level and village level is named as 'double-layered system'.

This research aims to explore, analyze and map the network structure of traditional community organizations in village level as well as the newly established organizations in Borobudur Sub-district area. With this information, the research thus expects to contribute to attempts of finding an effective community-based cultural landscape management in Borobudur.

Content/Methodology of Research:

Site Context

Borobudur Sub-district consists of 20 villages with total population of 54.625 residents scattered across 5455 hectare area. In 1979, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) delineated a conservation system for Borobudur Temple consisting 5 management zones. The temple itself sits at the center of the system (Zone 1), directly managed by the national government through the Department of Culture and Tourism. Zone 2 is an archaeological park (later changed into a tourism park) surrounding the temple and managed by PT TWCBPRB. Although Zone 3, 4, and 5 were classified in the system, they were not clearly regulated and managed. Zone 3 is supposed to be controlled to protect the setting of the temple. Zone 4 is

the Historical Scenery Preservation Zone which includes 13 archaeological sites. Finally, Zone 5 is the protected historical district with 21 archaeological sites. Despite the categorization, there has not been an applicable and sustainable conservation system to manage this wide-scale cultural landscape.

Research Content and Methodology

This research is conducted mainly by interviews to local people and the key persons of organizations. This is triangulated by utilizing secondary materials. The research could be divided into the following steps:

- ① Grasping the existing condition and potentials of Borobudur cultural landscape. Through interviews, important information about Borobudur cultural landscape is compiled and stored into a database.
- ② Grasping the network structure of the newly-established citizens organizations at Borobudur Sub-district level. Since the 1980's until present, there are 17 organizations include local NPOs, tourism services providers, community forums, local government related entities, etc.
- ③ Grasping the network structure and the systems of community organizations at village level.
- ④ Analyzing the connections between of organizations at sub-district and village level. The result from step and is then analyzed using the 'double-layered system' to map the network amongst the organizations. The whole social network and community system in Borobudur area will also be clarified.
- ⑤ Analyzing the concept of community-based cultural landscape management. Finally, an analysis on the possibility of a 'double-layered' management and conservation system of the wide-scale Borobudur cultural landscape is conducted based on step and .

Conclusion/Observation

The field survey reveals that there are 17 community organizations in Borobudur Sub-district. These organizations can be classified into three groups: 1) tourism services providers i.e. association of vendors, tourist guides, crafters etc. 2) academics and conservation activist / thinkers i.e. local NPO, discussion forums, etc. 3) community forums i.e. PKDKB (village chief forum), FRKPB (a forum initiated by local NPO and local government to accommodate organizations in Borobudur Sub-district), etc.

Several of these organizations have existed since the 1980's when the tourism activities started in Borobudur. Therefore the focus of their activities was more related to tourism, e.g. tourist guide and vendor associations. Conservationists and academics organizations, on the other hand, were established later, most notably during the problem of Pasar Seni Jagad Jawa (PSJJ) Plan between 2003 and 2005³⁾. These organizations mostly concerned with activities related to the environment and heritage conservation. The establishment of these forums had raised the awareness about the importance of cultural landscape conservation around the Borobudur Temple amongst the organizations in sub-district level, which becomes an important asset for the community-based cultural landscape management.

Finally, there is also network structure of community organizations and the community system at village level. It is formed from the administrative hierarchy in the village, such as RT, RW, Dusun and Desa⁴⁾. This community structure leads to horizontal and vertical hierarchy of the community social network structures in the village level. Villages' communities in Borobudur Sub-district usually still perform traditional customs in their daily life, such as traditional ceremonies for harvest crops, wedding, etc. They also conduct community gathering at least once a month where they share information as well as discuss and solve their problems. Villagers and their local communities have an important role in managing Borobudur cultural landscape because they have close relation and connection with Borobudur environmet in their daily life⁵⁾.

Given the above conditions, double-layered management system may offer effective cultural landscape conservation in Borobudur. 'Double-layered system' means utilizing community systems and social networks at both sub-district and the village levels to support community-based cultural landscape management. Communities in villages are important in keeping the villagers awareness of keep and conserve their surrounding landscape. On the other hand, community networks at sub-district level could maintain connection and coordination between villages in the whole Borobudur Temple surrounding area.

This kind of social network has big potency to help the process of finding out the mechanism to support community-based cultural landscape management. There is possibility to utilize the community network to raise the people awareness on conserving and managing their surrounding environment and landscape

through their daily life.

NOTES

¹⁾ The followings are the kind of vendors' activities: selling souvenirs, selling clothes, selling postcard, renting out umbrella, food stall, souvenir kiosk, etc. There are also vendors who offer service such as photographer, tourist guide, massage, renting out toilet, cleaning the cars, etc. (Ahimsa, 2003).

²⁾ Based on statistic data, there are about 793 vendors in 1997, but in 2003 turns into \pm 2500 vendors (2800 during peak season), and become \pm 3500 vendors in 2008.

³⁾ PSJJ Plan was aimed to gather the vendors in an art/souvenir market integrated with the parking area. The market is similar to a huge shopping mall and located very near to the temple. The model and location of PSJJ thus may cause problems in terms of landscape conservation. PSJJ plan raised polemics and invited reactions from both local community and several organizations who have concerns on heritage issues.

⁴⁾ *RT (Rukun Tetangga)* is the smallest community group in the village, consists of 20-30 households. *RW (Rukun Warga)* usually consists of 2-5 *RTs*. Several *RWs* form a *Dusun* (hamlet), and several *Dusun* form a *Desa* (village).

⁵⁾ The majority of villagers (41%) are farmer and most of them live in rural areas.