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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB
JAKARTA

19th
Inter-WIC
CONFERENCE

Jakarta, 25 - 28 March 2013

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WIC SEMARANG IN HARMONY WITH GREEN ENVIRONMENT

By: Delianis Pringgenies, Lili Gondokusumo and Tuti Srihadi

Women's International Club Semarang

Environmental issues have become increasingly more important the last decade.

It becomes a worldwide issue cause it involves every **human being** on this planet earth. What happened with the environment in one area may affect the whole zone under the same atmosphere where air and water do not recognize borders.

Most environmental problems faced nowadays are largely the result of overconsumption that lead to exploitation of natural resources. In developed country, their economic strength and higher standards of living rise their consumption while in developing and under developed countries, the poverty became a solid reason to let deforestation and fossil fuel exploitation.

Indonesia, a country as vast as 1.904.569 km² where forest **covers** 60% of the land is the **eighth** largest forest in the world. Unfortunately, Indonesia also holds the record as the second highest deforestation in the world. Therefore it is paramount that the natural state of our planet is preserved and be protected from further destruction. Human as the sapient being of the Earth, capable of evolving from primitive to modern lifestyle, has the largest responsibility of planning and performing natural preservation of the environment.

WIC Semarang realizes the concern and makes some projects that directly or indirectly support the green environment program, such as waste management, conservation of nature in Karimunjawa, introducing The Barn Owl (Tito Alba) as a natural pest control, socialization of betel leaf for traditional herbs and jack-bean as a substitute for soy bean, foster parents program and rolling capital.

Waste management project

Research Centre of Consultation and Development Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Institute for Research and Community Service Diponegoro University Semarang together with WIC Semarang also take an active part in raising the proper household waste management of the community in Semarang. The initial program was introduced in the vicinity of Tembalang district together with the women in PKK, university students, and local public figures in the form of compost fertilizer-compensated composter. In this program, the local community is educated and empowered to change their ways in managing household waste. The program is run by introducing the separation of waste as a part of waste management. Household waste is separated into three kinds; organic, metal, and paper waste before further process. Organic waste is then processed into compost fertilizer, by means of the composter. Metal, paper, and other non-decomposable waste is sorted and then sold to pools which generates additional revenue to the community. The compost fertilizer is used to support various green revolution activities all over the city such as the planting of new trees in green areas and many gardening activities. This project is a distinct practice from resource recovery which focuses on delaying the rate of consumption of natural resources.

CONSERVATION OF NATURE IN KARIMUNJAWA PROJECT.

Plants are universally acknowledged as an indispensable part of natural biodiversity and as an important resource in our planet. Thousands of wild plant species hold important cultural and economical value, source of food

and clothing materials, medicinal uses, and raw materials to build housing for people all over the world. Plants also play a vital role in Earth's environmental balance and ecosystem stability. They provide habitat for a myriad of insect species. Unfortunately, more and more plant species come under the threat of extinction from habitat transformation, over exploitation, foreign species invasion, and climate change. The loss of a number of invaluable species of flora and fauna has presented the global community with a challenging task; to prevent further destruction of biodiversity that is important to our present and future welfare.

At the same time, the sea is one of the largest natural reserve or carbon compounds important to many lives on Earth. As such, it serves as an important regulator of atmospheric CO₂ gas which directly affects the change in climate on Earth's surface. Temperature, salinity, and biological activity collectively contribute to the partial pressure of CO₂.

Women International Club of Semarang partakes in the undertaking of natural preservation through "Harmonious Co-existence with The Environment" program. The indiscriminate destruction of environment poses negative impacts to society. Poor sanitation system management and the deterioration of floodplain areas causes flood and the destruction of forest causes landslide. Other irresponsible human behaviours that both directly and indirectly affect the environments are the exploitation of coral, over exploitation of natural resources, and malpractice in waste management.

WIC of Semarang makes its effort to realize the harmonious life with nature and to conserve the nature in co-operation with Diponegoro University Semarang and Office of Research and Development of Semarang. Research Centre of Consultation and Development Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Institute for Research and Community Service Diponegoro University Semarang together with WIC have created sustainable programs aimed at the conservation of nature. Karimunjawa fisherman community, whose sole source of income comes from the sea, had been making their living from using environmentally damaging methods. If

left unchecked, the environmental damage to the waters surrounding Karimunjawa islands and its marine life would be irreversible because of this. One of the evident facts found is that the population of sea cucumber, known to be abundant in the not too distant past, is showing signs of decline and even bordering to extinction for several species. In reaction to this, efforts have been made to introduce the fishermen community of Karimunjawa to environmentally sustainable sea cucumber farming method. The method ensures **the perseverance** of various sea cucumber species in the islands as well as gives the fishermen community an alternative method to obtain sea cucumber as their source of income.

GREEN PEST CONTROL

WIC Semarang together with the Office of Research and Development of Semarang also introduce The Barn Owl (Tito Alba) as a natural means of rat population control in paddy fields throughout Central Java.

FOOD SECURITY AND NATURAL PRESERVATION

Another activity of WIC in natural preservation is the socialization of betel leaf and jack-bean as a substitute for soy bean. The two products have been widely socialized to the mentor group under WIC.

Other programs non natural preservation themed programs by WIC which has proven to give benefit to the community are: foster parents program, program for leprosy care, program for tuberculosis care, nutrition improvement for infants, children **and elderly** through community health centres, and rolling capital.

The preservation of nature is undeniably an urgent agenda for all of us. Every man, woman, and child must do what they can to keep their environment as naturally sustainable as possible to their own capacity. Even the smallest act of natural preservation will bring about advantages for us and generations to come. **It is under this cause** that WIC Semarang continuously strive to support Green Environment to save our next generation.