Community Participation in Heritage Conservation in Kotagede

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ABSTRACT

Kotagede, which means "big city", represents the Javanese site and its unique characteristics. It has not only the complex of the ancient mosque "Masjid Mataram" but also hundreds of 200 year old traditional wooden houses with unique roofs called joglo. Those buildings have been declared as both local and regional heritage.

After the earthquake Yogyakarta-Central Java region, May 2006, attention to the management of heritage, particularly the reconstruction of the damaged joglo is increasing. The stakeholders have made various efforts to ensure that the special character of Kotagede will not be lost due to impact of the earthquake. Many efforts that have been conducted in the post-earthquake development in Kotagede also focus on heritage conservation. Up to now, various forms of assistance programs are still in progress.

This paper focuses on how the stakeholders elaborate various development programs in order to revitalize and to preserve the character of Kotagede as a heritage district. Examples are the collaborative traditional house reconstruction program with the community in which several damaged traditional houses were successfully reconstructed and the participatory heritage planning in CSP (community settlement plan) scheme. The findings show the awareness and involvement of the community in conservation activities. The community makes choices what heritage to conserve and considers its new use and with support from heritage organizations makes use of various conservation programs to fulfill it.

Keywords: participation, heritage, conservation, Kotagede,