

## Developing Geotourism as Part of Sustainable Development in the Ciletuh Sukabumi Region, West Java, Indonesia

Ayu Krishna YULIAWATI (AKY)<sup>1</sup>, Agus RAHAYU (AR)<sup>1</sup>,  
Moh.Sapari Dwi HADIAN (MSH)<sup>2</sup>, Bombom T. SUGANDA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Economics Education and Business, Indonesia University of Education,  
Indonesia < E-mail: ayukrishna@hotmail.com >

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Geology, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia

Indonesia is a country rich with natural and cultural resources, which have the potential to be developed further the tourism sector. Located in the ring of fire, Indonesia has 3 world heritages, 50 national parks and 7 geoparks in Indonesia. Geopark is a form of sustainable development with a new paradigm in managing resources such as natural resources, human resources, and cultural resources. Geopark concept in Indonesia is the development of a region based on a sustainable manner that combines three diversities, namely: geodiversity, biodiversity, and cultural diversity. Sukabumi regency is located at West Java Province, Indonesia where there is Geopark Ciletuh as a new tourism destination. The area has geosites with the oldest rock formation in the region, fossils, water fall and natural amphiteater. Tourism in the area have brought concerns regarding issues such as biodiversity conservation, waste management, and water supply. The study objectives is to explore how geotourism can contribute to the region sustainable development, and what the implications are there for Geopark stakeholders. Mixed method (desk study also field survey) and descriptive analysis was used in the study. The study found exploitation of natural resources (local mining) in the area that can threaten tourism activitiy also sustainable development and weakness in the regional policy for development that focus mainly on regional growth but fails to include preservation of the built environment. The community is lacking capacity building in understanding the geopark concept and their role in sustainable development process.

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