

ISBN : 979 820 433-6

PROCEEDING

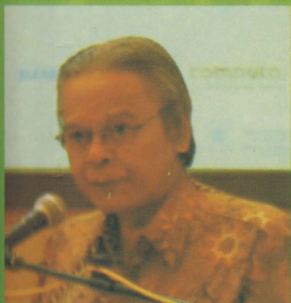
# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON TRADITIONAL CULTURE AND RANCAGE AWARD 2010

Auditorium of Yogyakarta State University,  
May 29, 2010

# Local Wisdom

for Character Building



FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS

# LOCAL WISDOM FOR EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT MERAPI DISASTER

Poerwanti Hadi Pratiwi<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

*Local wisdom about the volcano disaster preparedness has been practiced from generation to generation by Kinahrejo community living on the slopes of Mount Merapi, Sleman, Yogyakarta. Some examples of local knowledge possessed among other things, the ability to observe, anticipate, adapt to, and communicate about the symptoms that arise when Mount Merapi would erupt. Based on the examples obtained, showing that most people develop a lot of practice and local wisdom about the eruption of Mount Merapi, preparedness, and this knowledge acts save lives and reduce property loss. However, local wisdom is often underestimated only by external parties, both nationally and internationally, which tend to only pay attention to scientific knowledge from outside.*

*Way that can be done so that local knowledge can be effectively utilized to document the local wisdom is that a systematic basis. Documenting steps include: (1) Basic information gathering, (2) verification of the strengths and weaknesses, (3) review of the possibility of its application in various contexts (physical, social, cultural, and economic), and (4) classification technology may be applied based on specific criteria*

*Keywords: Local Wisdom, Disasters, Mount Merapi*

## A. Introduction

These studies in the field of development shows that the success and sustainability of development efforts at the community level depends on several factors. These factors include: the existence of culture, knowledge and practices of indigenous communities that can be harmonized with new ideas to create innovation. Knowledge and practices of indigenous communities not only contribute to the success of development efforts, but more on the sustainability of these efforts in the long term.

In recent years many people were interested to study the relationship between local knowledge and natural disasters. Recent discussions in this regard focuses on the potential of local wisdom in improving the policies of disaster risk reduction through the integration of local wisdom in disaster education and early warning systems. In the realm of literature on disaster risk reduction, there are four basic arguments that support the importance of local wisdom. First, various specific strategies and practices of indigenous peoples contained in the local wisdom, which has proven very valuable in dealing with

---

<sup>1</sup> The lecture of Yogyakarta State University, Faculty of Social and Economic Science, Department of History Education, Sociology of Education Studies Program. E-mail address: pratiwi65@gmail.com