



From Sergai to Kefa

An Anthology of Reports on the
Daily Life of People

Editor:
Linda Christanty

Jakarta, November 2018



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SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme





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Editor:

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Writers:

Linda Fitria

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Annas Chairunnisa Latifah

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*





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A number of fishermen in Sergai fight against the control of fish collectors, cantrang trawl and mangrove deforestation which almost drown their village – through reforestation, which transforms community-based ecotourism site.



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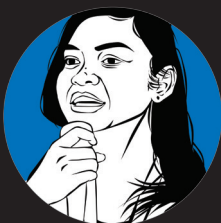
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FOREWORD



Laksmi Dhewanthi
GEF Operational Focal Point

A Valuable Source of Knowledge

ALHAMDULILLAHIRABBIL'AALAMIN, all gratitude are praised to Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. It is because of His gifts and blessings, this book “**From Sergai to Kefa**” can be presented to all of our readers as a series of well-crafted writings about commitment, enthusiasm and struggle to create a balance amongst social, cultural and economic life

“*Think Globally Act Locally*”. Global commitment and responsibility for sustainable development is applied through the action of preserving and managing natural resources and the environment to meet local and national needs of each country. To secure this sustainable development, *Global Environment Facility* (GEF) through *Small Grant Program* (SGP) provides financial and technical supports to community actions to preserve and rejuvenate the environment and at the same time to improve the welfare and livelihood of the community. GEF-SGP shows that the community are able to maintain good balance between economic and social needs and their obligation to preserve the environment.

GEF-SGP has gone through quite a long journey in Indonesia,





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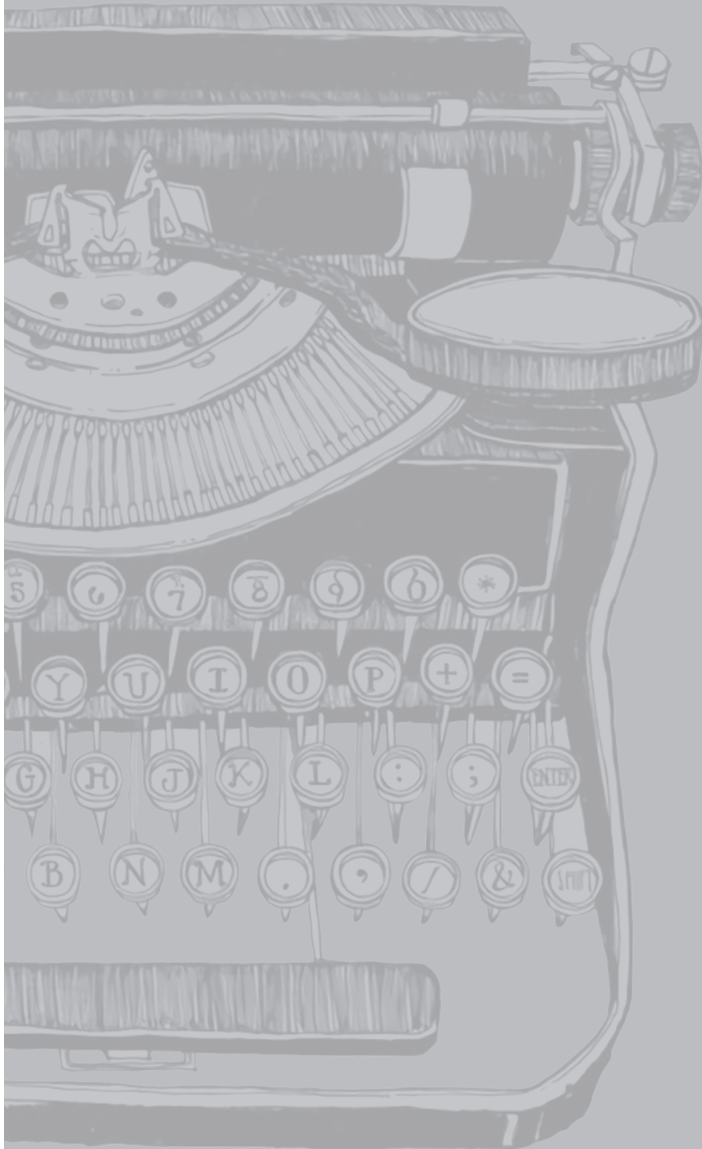
marked with stories, experiences and lessons learned by a number of GEF-SGP beneficiaries as environment warriors. To quote Albert Einstein, “the only source of knowledge is experience” – hence the stories of 10 GEF-SGP beneficiaries and partners captured in this book is a valuable source of knowledge. It becomes much more interesting because they are written by 10 (ten) millennials who has experienced and absorbed the enthusiasm and struggle of these figures – through a collaborative effort between GEF-SGP and Institute for Press and Development Studies (Lembaga Studi Pers dan Pembangunan/LSPP).

To conclude, we would like to invite you to find out more about their spirits and commitment to ensure balance of social, economic and environment aspects documented in this book. Let us pray that we are granted with strength and diligence to carry out their fight for sustainable development.

Jakarta, October 2018

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PREFACE



Catharina Dwiastarini

GEF SGP Indonesia National Coordinator

Diversity Brings Pride and Nationalism

“God has given us eyes to observe our surroundings. Flowers, butterflies, trees, the sky - all of them can be turned into motives for our weavings. With those inspirations, we have a lot to weave,” Mama Monika explains to me. In the past, these women are widely known for their blue hands as they use them to color their weavings - a feature that has made these women highly valuable in the eyes of the men of their society.

-Linda Fitria in her writing titled *Mama Yovita-*.

GLOBAL Environment Facility-Small Grant Programme (GEF SGP) Indonesia partners with a number of communities all over the 34 provinces in Indonesia. Such diversity reflects the identity of Indonesia as a nation - reverberating strong national pride on the works they carry out as change agents themselves as well as on the impact their beneficiaries have enjoyed. This pride should be shared to the general public as sources of inspiration, especially for the young people of Indonesia, so this social movement to eradicate poverty, by adhering to the





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principles of sustainable environmental development, should continue to spread. Known as the Millennial Generation (these young people born in the early of 1980s to 2000s), these young people are assets to the future of Indonesia. Many predict that this productive age group would become Indonesia's driving forces in the next 5 to 10 years.

Many social experts view this millennials as a generation with a unique point of view. Their one-of-a-kind feature would continue to be a key developmental asset - once it is effectively identified, tapped, crafted and sharpened. Hence it is important to expose this generation of the millennials with ideas of diversity and pride of Indonesia as a nation. Such exposure could be done by telling the success stories of GEF SGP Indonesia partners.

This book comes from the idea of marrying these stories extracted from GEF SGP Indonesia partners with the strength of the millennial generation. This is why GEF SGP Indonesia collaborates with LSPP to set up a **Narrative Writing Scholarship** program for the millennial generation.

In March 2018, ten scholarship recipients were put together - all of them were university students. They came from various campuses - ranging from North Sumatera, Riau, West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, East Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali, Nusa Tenggara and all the way to Papua. These 10 participants took part in a 3-day writing workshop in Jakarta. They were provided with knowledge and skills to sharpen their writing talents. This process was facilitated to the LSPP colleagues.

In April 2018, ten writers conducted their field reporting to selected GEF SGP Indonesia partners in order to produce 10 writings to reflect the diversity of Indonesia. All of these writings are hand-crafted from the voices of the grass root partners - sharing their stories of their day-to-day interactions in protecting, nurturing, working for and creating for Indonesia. Using the vernaculars of young people's voices, each of the





Preface

writings brings us to the daily life of the grass root people who choose to never give up on life. This spirit is apparent in the writing of Laras Olivia, in her writing *True Weavers*:

This middle-aged woman, married to a man from Lombok, used to spend her days weaving setagen, just like Mbah Mijem. Now, she decides not to weave anymore as she chooses to help her husband instead by joining him mining the sand. It was because the money she earns from selling setagen was not enough for her household necessities. She also cannot use the money from the sales of setagen immediately. She has to wait at least five days for the collectors to collect her works. Yet her day-to-day needs can not wait.

This book compiles such diverse nuances in each writings as expressed by these young writers. Each has different style, none is identical to one another. Such variety of expression resonates the diversity of perspectives of the young people on the way they look at Indonesia. Pride illuminates in the sentences they put together, as implied in *Mashadi's Dreams*, written by Filisianus Richardus Viktor:

I see how those mangrove trees grow so closely knitted to each other, as some of them reach out to the sky almost 10 metres high. Some of those trees look as if they were lying down - with half of their trunks under the water. Regardless of the way they look, they help the environment. Underneath them is home of biotas - growing and living in this body of water. Abrasion continues and many mangrove trees fall down. In the past, the people in Pandansari were worried that their village might disappear into the sea water. Now they are no longer afraid.





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This book is more than a collection of reports as told by young people. This book comprises of stories from the daily struggles and their source of pride of the people of Indonesia of their own country. Therefore, this book should be read, enjoyed and disseminated to various groups in the society.

WE express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of these 10 young writers: Linda Fitria, Jofie D Bakti, Annas Chairunnisa Latifah, Filisianus Richardus Viktor, Muhammad Fiqie Haris Prabowo, Laras Olivia, Yepuni Giyai, Irene Aprilya Meok, Maflahah, and Indri Moniaga, who have successfully put together an exceptional anthology of stories from the grass roots using their voice of the proud Indonesian millennial generation. We would also like to thank our GEF SGP Indonesia partners: IPPHTI-Brebes (Mas Hadi), KSU Nira-Banyumas (Mas Nartam), Dreamdelion - Yogyakarta (Mbak Nadiya), Perkumpulan Lawe (Mbak Atiek dan Mbak Adinindyah), Yayasan Wisnu-Bali (Mbok Denik), PPLH Bali (Mbok Catur), Yayasan Tafean Pah (Mama Yovita), KSM Muara Tanjung-Sumatera Utara (Mas Sutrisno and Mbak Jumiati) who have offered their assistance as well as their willingness to become resource people of this writing workshop.

We would like to express our gratitude to our LSPP colleagues (Mas Bintang, Mas Harry, Bang Ucock, Mas Dicky, Mas Hanief, Babe Najib and Mbak Tya) who have facilitated this writing process. We would also like to thank Mbak Linda Christanty and Mas Goenawan Widjaya as mentors in this *Narrative Writing Scholarship* workshop.

Also, we would like to say thank you to all members of GEF SGP Indonesia National Steering Committee (Ibu Laksmi Dhewanti, Ibu Latipah Hendarti, Bapak Zainal Arifin, Ibu Brigita Isworo, Ibu Ikatri Meynar, Ibu Julia Kalmirah, Ibu Martha Tilaar, Bapak Fransiscus Welirang, Bapak Agus Widiyanto, Bapak Y. Purwanto, Bapak Budhi Sayoko, Bapak Heru Wardhana, Bapak Soegiono, and

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Bapak Iwan Kurniawan) who have trusted us with the mandate to bring this idea into fruition.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues in GEF SGP Indonesia secretariat (Hery Budiarto and Meinar Sapto Wulan) who have put all of their hard work to build this idea into such an extraordinary result.

Last but not least, please enjoy all of our stories as told from the grass roots and be inspired by the voices of the millennial generation.

Jakarta, September 2018







INTRODUCTION



Samiaji Bintang N

Director of Institute for Press and
Development Studies (LSPP)

Challenging the Millennials to Write about Indonesia

WRITING stories from the corners of Indonesia, rich with diverse culture, is not simple. Challenges are many. The process is cumbersome and tiring. Anyone interested in writing about any place in Indonesia should first travel far. He or she should spend time to talk and enjoy a few laughter with the local people. He or she should listen to their experience. He or she should capture the struggle and their bitterness of life. He or she should feel the surrounding nature. Then, of course, the stories should be shared narratively, as we enjoy a movie or listen to a storyteller.

What happens if this applies to the so-called millennial generation?

Some doubt their capacity. This is a generation who enjoys access to internet since they are children. They live in the flood of information. They are surrounded by electronic media. This is a generation enjoying telegraphic-like, shallow information. Social media dominates their life. They show little care to their social issues.





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In early 2018, LSPP designs a narrative writing program specifically for the millennials. This program trains them to write. Then they take a trip to report from remote areas they have never visited before. This results in a long-form narrative writing. All cost is covered with the support of GEF-SGP. This program is called Narrative Writing Scholarship.

Digital poster and scholarship announcement were distributed through social media - a type of media close to the millennials. These quickly went viral, shared through Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter and so on. Many clicked "like" and "share"

Surprisingly they were very enthusiastic. There were around 180 candidates applied until the deadline. All of them were students. Some came from North Sumatera, Riau, West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, East Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali, Nusa Tenggara and Papua...

These candidates had diverse educational background, interest, achievement and experience outside campus. Some were active and took part in various forums through social media and blogs, all with different expression and tone of writings. There are connected by one characteristic: they were proud of Indonesia and its diversity, as reflected in their essay submission.

It overwhelmed the selection team - choosing the best 10 amongst hundreds. The team comprises of Dicky Lopulalan, Rusdi Marpaung, Ignatius Haryanto, Hanif Suranto, and myself. Besides age, the selection criteria is based on writing styles, presentation of information and novelty. Significant weight is assigned to writings based on personal experience of diversity and sensitivity to their settings.

After selecting their writings, the team focused on additional yet important points based on their campus and out of campus activities - including their virtual activities in social media forum.

Early March 2018 the team announced their selection. Ten millennials were chosen: Annas Chairunnisa Latifah from Blitar,

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Pendahuluan

Filisianus Richardus Victor from Ketapang, Indri Moniaga from Manado, Irene Aprilya Meok from Kupang, Laras Olivia from Mandau, Linda Fitria from Madura, M. Fiqie Haris Prabowo from Aceh, Maflahah from Brebes, Yepuni Giyai from Manokwari, and Jofie D. Bakti from Bogor. These scholarship recipients were students with various backgrounds.

IN the end of March 2018, we asked Linda Christanty to mentor the scholarship recipients. Linda is an experience journalist and a Khatulistiwa Award recipient. She has lead a syndication and also the editor of *Aceh Feature Service*, a media comprising of features on post tsunami Aceh. This syndicate journalists were young people.

This training was hosted in a hotel in central Jakarta. Linda shared her writing experience. Before going to the field, she shared her habit of preparing a half-cooked planning - comprising of background information, topics to explore, key questions and writing outlines. She offered tips to gather information and interview resource persons for field reporting. One of them was “make friends with taxi motor drivers, they have a lot to tell.”

After the training, 10 recipients received financial supports to travel and report to 5 areas in Indonesia. Some went to fishermen community in Serdang Bedagai, North Sumatera. Some reported sap tappers community in Banyumas, Central Java. Some dropped a visit to women weavers in Yogyakarta and in Kefamenanu, East Nusa Tenggara. Another went to Tenganan traditional community in Bali fighting for local wisdom in the middle of hotel and residential areas.

Those selected areas were location of GEF-SGP communities. Each had interesting stories to write so the public could learn more about them. Inspiring insights from figures and communities showcase resilience and pride in preserving local wisdom. It took a toll on them though. Up until now, they are





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still fighting the challenges. Those fight are reflected on the writings of these ten millennials.

Linda Fitria shared a story about *Mama Yovita* who built a community of weavers in North Timor Tengah Utara for woman economic empowerment as well as preserving their cultural heritage. She faced the threat of losing her land and weaving studio. To be able to write about her, Linda listened to the experience of strong women weavers - and laughed with them. Jofie D Bakti shared a story about Sergai fishermen community against the collector, trawls and mangrove deforestation that almost drown their village. This writing was followed up by Annas Chairunnisa Latifah. Both lived and tasted the hot and scorching coastal settings - as well as enjoying delicious seafood and snacks. Coastal damage also happened in Java, as reflected in "*Mashadi's Dreams*" written by Filisianus Richardus Viktor. His writing captured the struggle of a man leading his fellow villagers to plant 3.000.680 mangrove to save his village from drowning and transforming it into ecotourism site in Brebes District, Central Java.

The women of Biboki in East Nusa Tenggara had a different struggle and challenge. In "*Young Weavers*", Muhammad Fiqie Haris Prabowo unearthed regeneration of weavers through informal education and the initiative of concerned teachers. Laras Olivia showcased the story of stagen weavers in her "**True Weavers**" of Sejatidesa, Yogyakarta, where weaving tradition remained on the face of life demands and modernization. Yepuni Giyai took a long trip from Manokwari to Yogyakarta, to write about a community of Yogya youth who develop weaving tradition through internet in an interactive and engaging fashion.

From Bali, Irene Aprilya Meok wrote about the abandoned microhidro electricity supply project - about uncontrolled urban development leading to the decrease of water discharge and the failure of this project in Tenganan. Still from Bali, Maflahah writes





Pendahuluan

about the effort to “Preserving Subak” done by the community in Bali. New Order administration policy, business interest and pesticide place the peasants and community environment under threats.

Indri Moniaga, flew from Manado, North Sulawesi, to Banyumas in Central Java, to write about “*Young Sap Tappers*.” Regardless of her difficulties in understanding Banyumas dialects, she managed to conduct her field reporting there. Her writing captured the struggle of Kedung Urang sap tappers who transformed palm sugar into Indonesia’s commodity for global market.

IN-DEPTH reporting compiled in this book is a narrative endeavour. Each is a story told like movies, as if a storyteller is there with us along the way. Each writings try to answer the doubts people have over the millennials. This anthology aims to support the fight of the communities all over Indonesia, captured by 10 millennials *Narrative Writing Scholarship* recipients who had passed a series of selection, training and trips to remote areas.

We thank the fishermen, sap tappers, women weavers and other community for their warm welcome to talk to these young people. We thank Catharina Dwihastarini and GEF-SGP fellow for their support throughout the process.

To Linda Christanty, thank you for your writing mentorship, observation and editing each paragraphs written by these millennials. Thank you to Gunawan, Dicky Lopulalan, Rusdi Marpaung, Ignatius Haryanto, Hanif Suranto, and Nadjib Kilalawang, who guided them all the way in writing about Indonesia’s cultural diversity. This pride will live on and continue to remain forever.

Jakarta, Oktober 2018



