

Natural Dyeing Batik Program

Economic Development Program

Through the natural dyeing batik program, Koestini is now able to develop herself from a batik artist to become a leader of a batik artist group who actively promotes the image of Tuban's Batik.

A resident of Gesikharjo village, Tuban, Koestini's interest to create batik had grown since she was in senior high school. Driven to support her family's economy, after she got married, she decided to be a professional batik producer.



She underwent many courses to leverage her skills and knowledge in batik production. But among the many trainings she participated, the natural-dyed batik training conducted in 2017 was the one that impressed her the most. "Not only was I able to learn new techniques that are environmentally friendly, but members of the group and I were able to make batiks with modern patterns, which inevitably generated more income as there were increasing new orders from our customers," said Koestini.

The natural-dyed batik program was initiated by ExxonMobil Cepu Limited (EMCL) in collaboration with Kopernik – a local NGO. It was aimed to leverage the skills of Tuban batik producers, as well as, introduce them to a new dyeing technic that is both environmentally friendly and safe for their health.

The program has now made Koestini a leader of a group of batik producers in her neighborhood. Her perseverance in promoting the group's creation and involving them in various batik competitions has made the group more widely known. Today, the group has established a partnership with

SUKKHA CITTA, a national brand to supply modern batik with natural-dyed. The commitment that this group established since 2017, so far has generated 261 pieces of handwritten batik clothes with an average of 10 -15 pieces, monthly.

For EMCL, this program dedicated for batik producers is a commitment to preserve and develop batik as a cultural asset. With that in mind, a program with different focus is also developed for batik producers in Bojonegoro, in collaboration with Ademos, a local NGO.

"We received many benefits from the program. Not only it helped me to craft environmental friendly batiks, it also supported me to promote our batiks to a larger audience."



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