



UNLEASHING POTENTIALS

Awakened Youths,
Awakened Villages



KOMPAK
Kolaborasi Masyarakat dan Pelayanan untuk Kesejahteraan



It was seven A.M, but Samsuri's stall right next to the entrance of Sulaeman waterfalls in Glingseran Village in Bondowoso Regency of East Java was already busy with customers. "Alhamdulillah," Samsuri said, "since our village became tourism spot, I can now rely on this stall for my family needs," the former rice field worker shared in full smile.

The father of two children did not expect that a group of University of Jember's students could bring such dramatic change in his life. The students came in mid-2016 under University for Village (Universitas Membangun Desa, or UMD) program to do their Kuliah Kerja Nyata or KKN, a compulsory program for university students to live and conduct a developmental program in designated villages.

"Before UMD, KKN is only about one-time development, like building a monument, or signage for village chief's house," commented Moch. Abdahu, 36, Glingseran's youth organization (Karang Taruna) chief, referring to an already defunct independence day monument built by another KKN group a few years back nearby the village office.



“

THIS IS A HUGE
RESOURCE
IF WE CAN
EXPLOIT ITS
FULL
POTENTIALS”



Azwar Hasan, KOMPAK's senior advisor

KKN program in Indonesia has been long deemed as a mere requirement for university students to graduate, due to unclear program and goals during their stay in the village. It has become such a joke that people often associate it with a classic film by a comedy trio Warkop DKI, depicting the trio doing the KKN program with nothing but flirting with the village girls.

This unfortunate situation, however, was seen as an opportunity by KOMPAK (Kolaborasi Masyarakat dan Pelayanan untuk Kesejahteraan), a partnership between the Indonesian and Australian governments.

“Every year, there are thousands of university students going through KKN program,” said Azwar Hasan, 46, KOMPAK’s Senior Advisor for Innovation, “this is a huge resource if we can exploit its full potentials.” He later initiated UMD, a program to optimize KKN to be able to give significant contribution to village developments.



Muhammad Idrus Ali Bahar, KKN student who discovered the waterfall

One of UMD partner was University of Jember, whose proposal was to introduce village information system in 10 villages in Bondowoso Regency to make way for data-driven developmental planning. The first phase of the program was to familiarize village communities with technology by developing village website.

It was during his search for the website content that Muhammad Idrus Ali Bahar, 22, one of the initial students in the KKN program in Glingseran Village, discovered the Sulaeman waterfalls. He found the four meter waterfalls after an hour trekking through a scenic paddy field terrace and passed rows of a-meter-tall rocks.

He quickly updated the village chief, Sulaedi, on its huge potentials to be a tourist destination.

“This is gold! We can sell this!” Sulaedi recalled on how Bahar tried to convince him that the ghostlike site in his village was a hidden gem. Sulaedi then decided to allocate the village fund to build better facilities surrounding the waterfalls.



A large, spreading tree with a thick trunk and many branches is the central focus. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees. In the lower-left corner, a person in a blue shirt and dark pants stands on a large, dark rock. The overall scene is a lush, green forest.

“

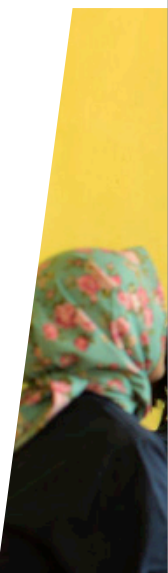
THIS IS
GOLD!
WE CAN
SELL
THIS!”

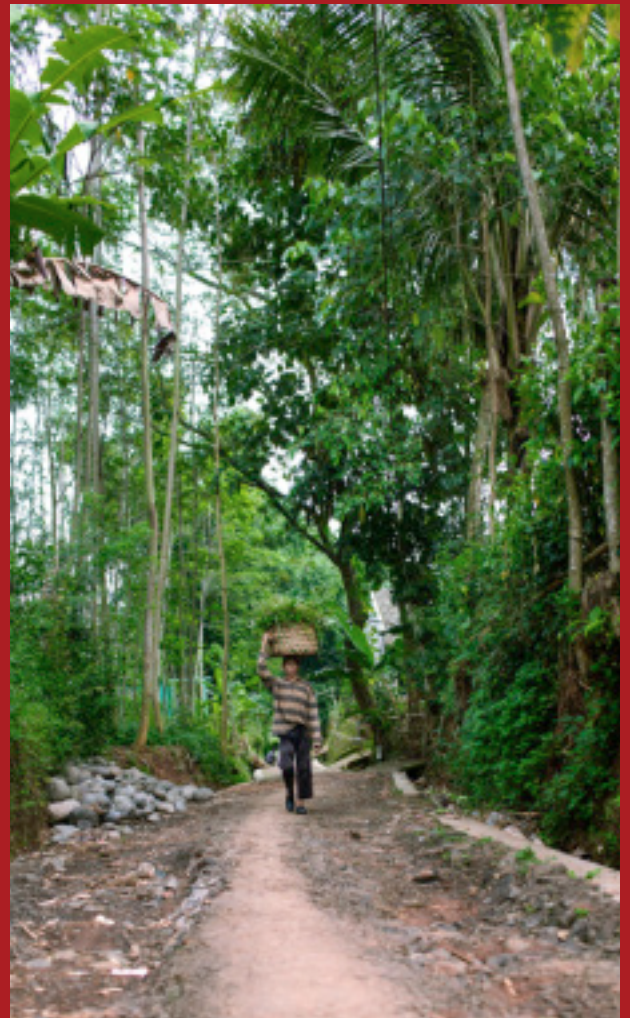


“MAKE OUR OWN VILLAGE A TOURIST DESTINATION”

Desa Glingseran

This move was welcomed by Glingseran’s residents, who happened to have a deep interest in tourism. “Most youths from our village were working in Bali as tourist guides, drivers, or souvenir sellers,” said Zainullah, 25, a member of Glingseran’s youth organization. “So we were enthusiastic to make our own village a tourist destination,” continued the former part-time driver.





“

DESA WISATA
RENGGANIS
HAS BECOME
**TOP 10 HIGHEST
VISITORS SPOT**
IN BONDOWOSO
WITH 20.587
TOURISTS IN 2017”

The village then worked together to build a paved road to the waterfalls, gazebos for visitors to rest and a parking lot. Once the work was done, Bahar and his other five KKN team members promoted the village in media they were familiar with; the internet. They posted stories on the waterfalls complex, through Youtube, Facebook, Instagram and the village website.

The news quickly became viral. Within months, Glingseran received thousands of visitors. Desa Wisata Rengganis, the name the residents chose for the complex, has even become top 10 highest visitors spot in Bondowoso with 20.587 tourists in 2017, according to the local newspaper, Radar Ijen.





Karang Taruna youths who joined a social group that focuses on tourism, POKDARWIS



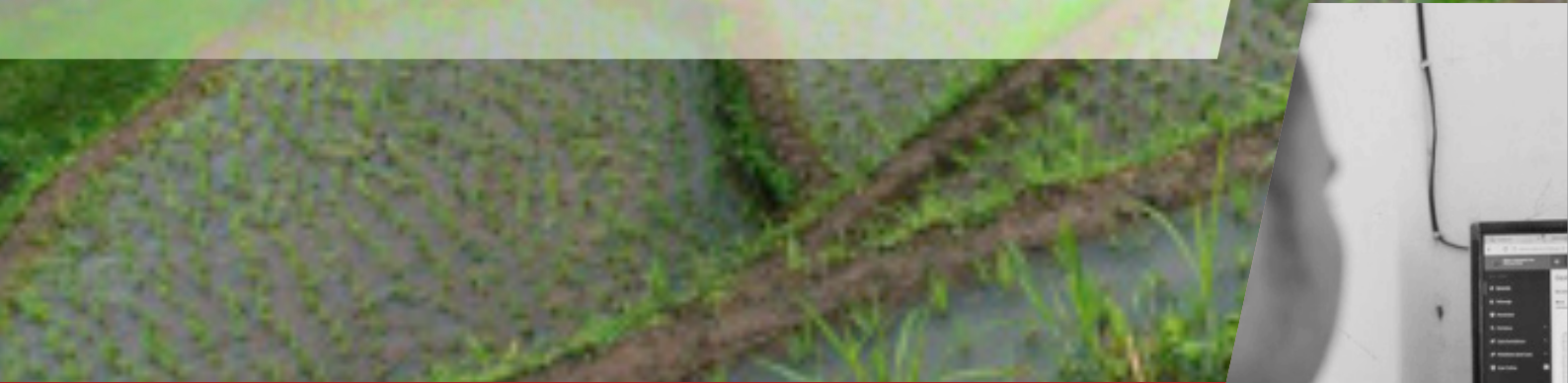
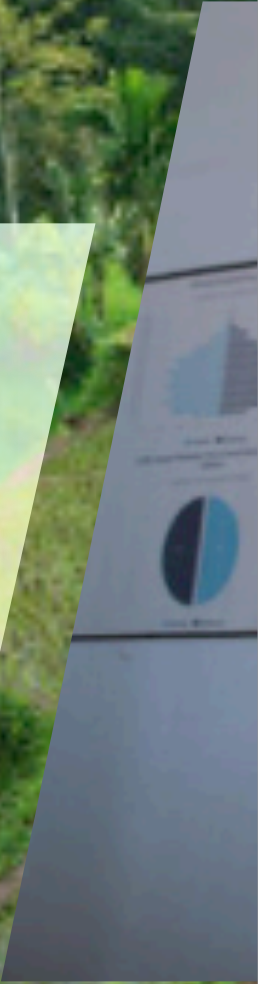
Sulaedi, the head of Desa Glingseran

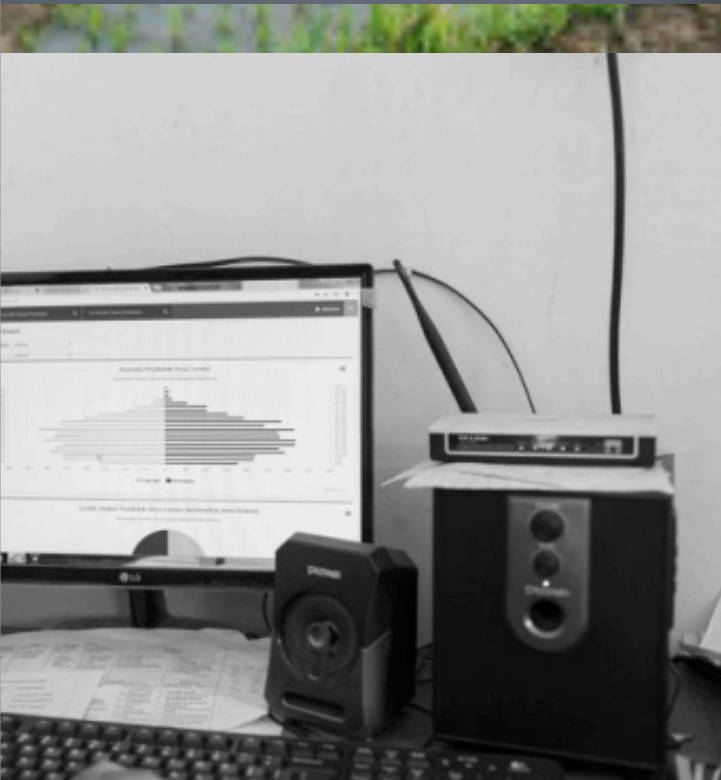
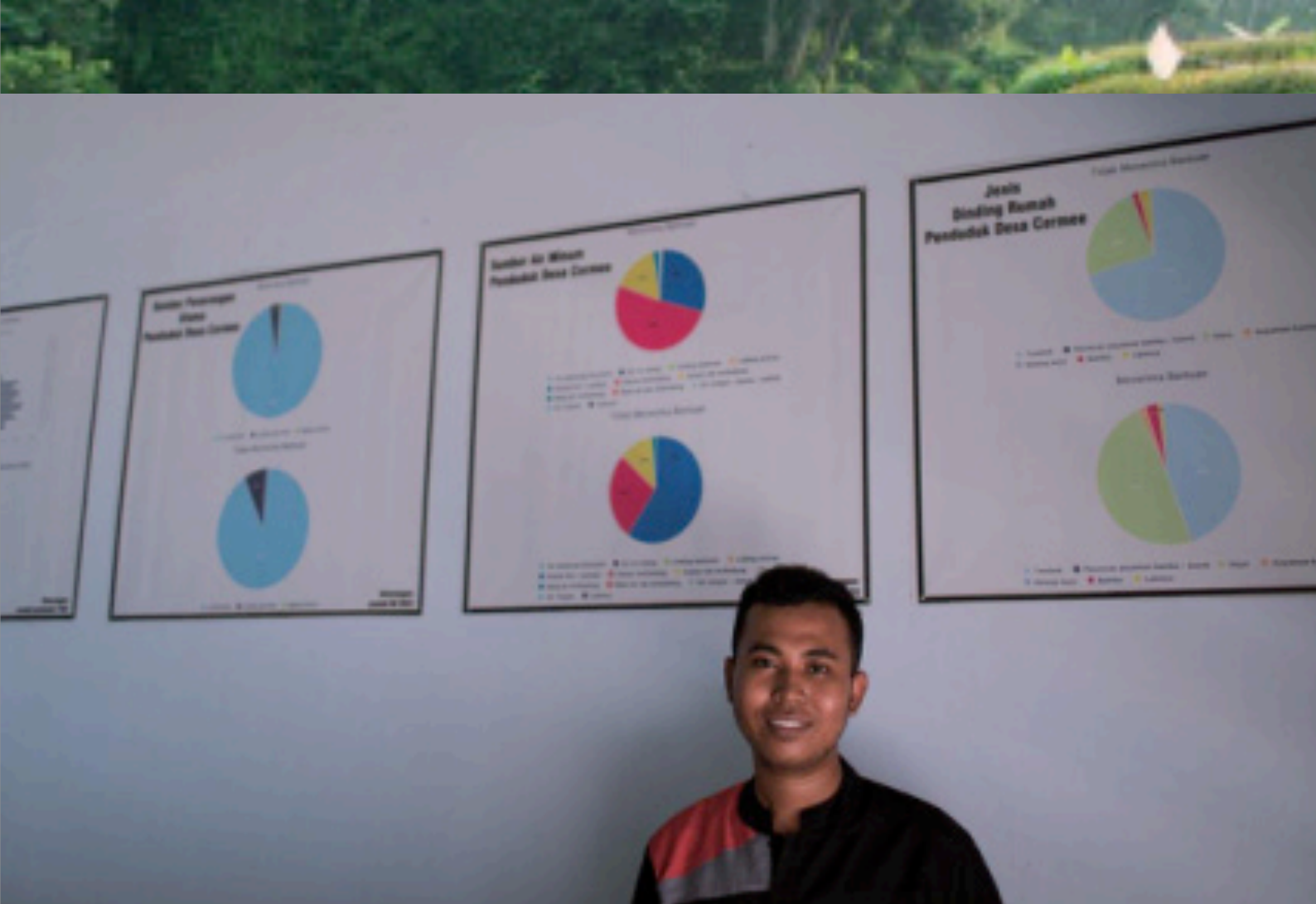
“This has translated to a significant 20% increase in the village income, just by entrance tickets alone,” claimed Sulaedi. He then explained how the money was then used to fund the village’s enterprise (Badan Usaha Milik Desa or BUMDES), which later dispersed loan for the citizens to build their own ventures.



“

UMD USED
TECHNOLOGY
TO HELP
BOOST THEIR
VILLAGE'S
POTENTIALS”





UMD does not stop there. Once the community felt the impact of technology in boosting their village's potentials, a more advanced Village's Administrative and Information System (Sistem Administrasi dan Informasi Desa, or SAID) is introduced.

Students were then tasked to guide village information and documentation officials (Pejabat Pengelola Informasi dan Dokumentasi Desa or PPID Desa) in training on how to operate SAID. Once updated, the system will contain accurate information on village conditions, such as demographic, health and welfare information, which can later be used as a base for accountable developmental planning.



Amin Said Husni, Bondowoso regent

This groundwork will be continued, as the regional government is committed in ensuring the program sustainability. In November 2017, Bondowoso Regency has released a Regent Order (Peraturan Bupati, or Perbup) in November 2017, to govern the implementation of SAID in all villages in the regency.

Bondowoso Regent, Amin Said Husni hoped that the order would give the adequate base to ensure sustainability of the program, as it regulates SAID budget allocation from village funds and training support assurance from the regency government.

He also hoped that the regency's support could encourage more focused KKN programs in the future. "UMD has helped us to accelerate information-based governance into village level, as previously we only focused on regency level due to limited resources," Amir Said explained, highlighting the importance of partnership between university and government in village development.

“

IF THE
GOVERNMENT
SEEKS ANY
SUPPORT, WE
ARE FULLY
READY TO HELP”



Drs. Moh. Hasan, M.S.c., Ph.D., Rector of the University of Jember

The spirit is in-line with University of Jember's intention to continue to work hand-in-hand with the government in village development. "If the government seeks any support, we are fully ready to help," said Drs. Moh. Hasan, M.S.c., Ph.D., Rector of the University of Jember. He shared that the university is planning to use information gathered in SAID to base their future KKN theme.



With support from its government and an increased awareness from universities on their KKN program potentials, Bondowoso Regency is expecting more and more positive programs implemented by their youths in the villages. And we could expect more village residents like Samsuri, who enjoys the impact of KKN program, which no longer becomes just a one-hit-wonder initiative.

KOMPAK

Kolaborasi Masyarakat dan Pelayanan untuk Kesejahteraan



Australian Government

Jalan Diponegoro No. 72
Jakarta Indonesia, 10320
T +62 21 8067 5000
F +62 21 3190 3090
E info@kompak.or.id
www.kompak.or.id