

# Indonesia's Progress in the Development of Wild Silkmoths

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## Abstract:

Indonesia's wild silk moths development project has proved to be very helpful in supporting low-income farmers and thus becoming a good model of a "people-eco friendly" local industry.

The wild silkmoths development project in the republic of Indonesia was initiated by the Yogyakarta royal family in 1994. The wild silkworms, which this project focused on, in Indonesia, are *Attacus-atlas* and *Cricula Trifenestrata*.

From the past to the present, the cricula had long regarded as a useless insect or noxious insect which ruins farm products in Indonesia. However, this project totally changed people's perception of this worm and cocoon, now this insect is obtaining the evaluation as the useful insect which brings the income to rural area.

The aim of the royal family in initiating this project was firstly to uplift the income level of low-income farmers in the region, by creating a new wild silkmoths industry. Another aim was to revitalize and further promote the traditional crafts of Batik and Ikat by making the best use of products of the wild silk.

This new attempt was especially appreciated given for economic downturn, which hit hard Indonesia in 1997. Amid economic difficulties, this project offered great potential as a new undertaking, and has attracted thousands of people to create a new local industry, which will benefit those in many regions. Although the project started as a small-scale local industry, it has gradually gained support from various sectors and has become successful sample.

Another unique aspect of this project is that many organizations are involved as equal partners for a common goal to contribute to the well being of individuals in region while maintaining an ecological balance, *and promoting the Income generation and Sustainable development.*

After The 4<sup>th</sup> International conference of wild silk moths held in Indonesia in 2002, The range of use of Indonesian wild silk expanded not only for fabric and handicraft but also for cosmetics material, food supplement and construction materials. Various usage of the Indonesian wild silk is starting now. The newest topic is that the Golden cocoon sheet is adopted in walls of pavilion of the World Expo Aichi in 2005, which focus to environment and sustainable society.

In 2005, The Royal Silk Foundation was established with the aim of Contribution to the Global Environment by planting the wildsilk Hostplant, in 150 Hectare at Karang Tengah Village.

However, In May, 27,2006,Java Earthquake disaster was stricken Jogjakarta, and effected its entire Development Project, and the destroyed the farmer's houses.

The Royal Silk Foundation has been committed to playing very active role in the recovery efforts post disaster. This commitment was recently realized through the Inauguration of "Global Support and Planting Participation from Japanese people for Karang Tengah Village" on 19 January,2008.

We believe that wild silk development is also a suitable model project for other developing countries, as well.

Although the project started as a small-scale local industry, as its people-centered concepts disseminated, individuals and related local industries saw great potential in this new undertaking, the project gradually gained support from various sectors and has become a very successful local industry.

**Keyword:** economic downturn, new attempt, great potent, people-ecofriendly local industry,Royal Silk Foundation,Java Earthquake disaster,recovery efforts,Global Support.

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