



(1) Author Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta displays a sample of the batik made by the Griya Jati Rasa Co-op. (2) Dipping the fabric into dye reveals the patterns the batik artists create with wax. (3) One of the Griya Jati Rasa artisans starts a new piece of batik fabric, applying wax using a Tjanting tool, a hollow cylinder with a needle. (4) PW Moderator Carol Winkler presents a necklace to one of the women of Griya Jati Rasa.

Griya Jati Rasa's Co-op

Justice, Peace, Relationships and Livelihoods

BY FARSIJANA ADENEY-RISAKOTTA

On September 21, 2017, *Griya Jati Rasa*, a community-based cooperative made up of village entrepreneurs from throughout the province of Yogyakarta, proudly received Presbyterian Women's Global Exchange delegation. PW's arrival had been eagerly anticipated by the women of Griya Jati Rasa. Fajar Batik ("house of batik"), a member of the co-op and host for the PW visit, was noisy as women eagerly awaited the 19 delegates from the United States. The PW visitors arrived to an enthusiastic reception and a lunch prepared by Ibu Wahadah and her husband, owners of Fajar Batik, where village women learn to produce batik fabric. Though the visit was short, the presence of the delegation in the village of Giriloyo, Imogiri, Bantul District, an hour's drive from downtown Yogyakarta, left a deep and lasting impression.

As a grassroots organization that practices principles of economic justice, Griya Jati Rasa Co-op is a place

where people of faith help each other build businesses and save money. The co-op is an extension of the Griya Jati Rasa Foundation, and the related Institute for the Study and Empowerment of National Creativity for Justice and Peace, which we founded two years ago. *Griya Jati Rasa*—which can be translated into "House of Authentic Senses" (HAS)—initially offered entrepreneurship training in five villages within the Yogyakarta Province. It has since expanded to additional villages. Women learn skills and build businesses around food processing, batik making, goat milk processing, organic tea cultivation and more.

After entrepreneurship training, trainees are invited to participate in the Griya Jati Rasa Co-op. The confidence of its members, who currently total 72 people, inspires them to share their experience and help each other develop their products. Each member is a change agent in the society in which they are located.



(1) Traditional Javanese dancers perform for visitors to Yogyakarta, including Presbyterian Women. (2) The Nglotak Cultural Sanggar Orchestra plays *gamelan*—traditional Javanese music often performed with metallic percussion instruments. (3) During a panel discussion at Duta Wacana Christian University (DWCU), faculty discuss ways they and the local community support and guide the Griya Jati Rasa entrepreneurs. (4) Global Exchange participant Barbara Allen (left) enjoys a cup of tea with the farmer who grew the tea plant. (5) A couple whose tea farming enterprise Griya Jati Rasa helped nurture answer questions about and offer samples of their tea. (6) Students of DWCU discuss the future of Christianity in Indonesia with Global Exchange participants. (7) DWCU president Henry Feriadi thanks PW moderator Carol Winkler for the cross Presbyterian Women presented to him.

About the Co-op

Microenterprises or cottage industries are important in Indonesia, as they are worldwide. Particularly in smaller villages with limited opportunities for steady employment, microenterprises provide women (and men) with a livelihood. Particularly for women, who often shoulder more childcare responsibilities than men, having the flexibility to work around other responsibilities is vital.

Griya Jati Rasa Co-op was founded to help women create their own stable sources of income. It teaches women how to run a business and become financially stable, but it does so by emphasizing economic and environmental justice, relationships and community building. The cooperative is organized around eight principles, with the understanding that individuals in the co-op also prioritize these

values in their individual lives. The principles are

- + independence and mutual cooperation,
- + organizing and networking,
- + natural conservation, eco-innovation and "green" stores,
- + high-quality products,
- + full equality and participation,
- + partnership with the government,

Small Businesses, Big Differences

BY JENNY MAMBU



Left: When they work at home in small businesses—like this shuttlecock production business—women can earn income and care for their children. Right: Entrepreneurs supported by the GPIB find self-development and a culture of mutual support with one another.

First of all, I would like to express my utmost thanks to Presbyterian Women for including me as part of the Global Exchange. Even though I am a native Indonesian, it was a worthwhile and enlightening experience for me because this was my first time visiting Solo and Bali.

One of the most meaningful moments for me was during our time in Solo. We visited a GPIB church, Penabur, where we heard presentations from a number of people, including women entrepreneurs supported by the GPIB. The women we met are single mothers who have very low incomes. They struggle to survive with their children—to feed them and to enroll them in school. These hardworking women operate their own small businesses, such as beauty salons, massage shops and kiosks selling tempe, tofu and other foods.

After the presentations, we had time to financially support the women. The woman who gave me a massage told me her rate was Rp 25,000 (\$2.30/hour). Instead I gave her Rp 200,000 (\$17). She was so grateful and said, “This is my earning for a week! Now I can pay my son’s school and buy some food.” I was joyful to know that my small act of kindness was able to help this woman and her son.

My participation in this year’s Global Exchange to Indonesia revealed to me that as God’s disciples, it is indeed our duty to care for our brothers and sisters who are struggling. Thank you for this experience.

- celebration of cultural traditions, multiculturalism and peace, and
- developing transformative leaders who advocate for entrepreneurial villages.

A Vibrant Tradition

Fajar Batik, where PW was welcomed, is a center for batik making in the Griya Jati Rasa Co-op. Batik making is a centuries-old method of

dyeing fabric using wax to create patterns on the fabric. It is practiced around the world. Javanese batik is particularly renowned. Various patterns mark life events—from a child’s first steps to a couple’s wedding—even royalty. (Batik used to be produced at the king’s palace in Yogyakarta.)

Members of the Global Exchange delegation brought home “peace batik” from Fajar Batik. The batik is called

“peace batik” because women at Fajar Batik use the wax to create messages on the batiks. Each has a particular theme. For example, some of the batik tells about how the earthquake in 2006 brought blessing to the people because they got to start making their own business of batik. The words are written in three languages—English, Indonesian and Arabic—to underscore unity in diversity.

Community and Possibility

That afternoon, Presbyterian Women came to my husband’s and my home for a cultural evening prepared by Griya Jati Rasa Co-op members. The Cultural House (Kaliagung village, Kulon Progo district), Center of Dancing Training, *Pondok Tali Rasa* (Catur Tunggal village, Sleman district) and the Nglotak Cultural Sanggar Orchestra filled the night with traditional Javanese music and dance. Members of Griya Jati Rasa also performed wayang, a traditional style of puppet theater.

The next day, the Global Exchange delegation attended an exhibition of Griya Jati Rasa products at Duta Wacana Christian University (DWCU) in Yogyakarta. Griya Jati Rasa Co-op has a close relationship with DWCU. University lecturers guide the cooperative in economics, product design, architecture and more. Presbyterian Women heard about how members of the co-op, for example, adjusted their methods for packing organic tea, based on design principles outlined by DWCU lecturers. While tasting a variety of processed snacks, the delegation also tasted tea served directly by a tea farmer who is a member of the co-op.

Singgih Santoso, dean of the faculty of business at DWCU, and I have found that the co-op is an

effective way to increase the participation of ordinary citizens in Indonesia’s development. We cofounded the Center for Social Development and Transformation Studies at the university and encourage lecturers to conduct research into ways of teaching and coaching community co-op principles, hoping to turn this success in Yogyakarta into one that reaches even more of Indonesia.

The co-op is an economic-based social organization that allows members of different religious backgrounds, social status and education to build a more just economy that contributes to world peace. 🍀

Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta and her husband Bernie serve as PC(USA) mission co-workers in Indonesia through partnership with Duta Wacana Christian University (DWCU).

Trash into Treasure

BY GAIL CUNNINGHAM



Ingkan Harahap creates beautifully designed products from items that would likely otherwise end up in a landfill.

Ingkan Harahap has determination. After her son, a bio-physicist, devised a fist-sized container system (that went to the international space station, to show that rice can be grown in outer space), Ingkan was determined to show that rice could be grown in a limited space on Earth, too. So she planted rice in pots on the roof of her home!

Her determination to make it work isn’t just about supporting her son or maximizing small spaces. She wants to help the environment. Another project of hers involves upcycling plastic packaging on its way to the dump. She has an eye for discovering, then re-imagining, package design elements as solid colors or as repeating visual motifs. She cuts the packaging into small strips that she folds and weaves into an array of colorful purses, placemats, picture frames and other useful items.

A number of Indonesian women have gained personal independence by starting their own businesses based on upcycling. Kathy Orshee and Jenny Manurang make lovely trays, bowls and other containers. Their basic raw material? Newspapers!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PARTNERS TOGETHER!

The Presbyterian Women Histories for local churches of the PC(USA) and PCUS are kept at Columbia Theological Seminary. The collection contains over 5,800 histories from churches across the United States.

Columbia Friendship Circle includes all who participate in the Presbyterian Women’s organizations throughout the synods of South Atlantic and Living Waters. These women support students through prayer and financial scholarships, and visit the campus for Come See Columbia Day to learn more about the great things God is doing here.

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews (2017-18 Horizons Bible Study Leader Author’s Course) July 31 – August 2: This course will provide an overview of major themes found in Hebrews and prepare participants to use the 2017-18 Horizons Bible Study, Cloud of Witnesses: Community of Christ in Hebrews, in women’s circles, church school or small group bible studies.

Learn more about how we work together at www.ctsnet.edu/presbyterian-women

