

‘Gintingan: A Case Study of Socio-Economic Tradition and Community Initiative Management
in Kabupaten Subang, West Java, Indonesia’

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ABSTRACT

The cultural dimension of development has been widely accepted to propose an alternative strategy to reach sustainable development. While Warren, Slikkerveer & Brokensha (1995) underscore the significance of an *emic* approach to development with the full participation of local people, Woodley *et.al* (2006) state that the absence of the cultural factor in microfinance leads to unsuccessful development programs, particularly in poverty alleviation. Later, the Kompas Group on Sustainable Development and Bio-Cultural Diversity introduced an Endogenous Development concept which is based on the emic view which uses the people’s worldview and livelihood strategies as a starting point for development (*cf.* COMPAS 2007).

Gintingan as an indigenous institution in the Sunda Region of Java, Indonesia is an interesting example of a community-based socio-economic tradition which has been adhered to for many generations in Kabupaten Subang of West Java. The institution represents an indigenous form of Community Initiative Management which is based on the Sundanese Worldviews of *Tritangtu* being the binding factor of the community.

This paper attempts to describe the indigenous institution of *Gintingan*, and its role in socio-economic development in the rural areas of Kabupaten Subang. In addition, the paper also discusses its contribution to integrated microfinance management with a view to achieve Sustainable Community Development through participation of the local people and the refunctionalisation of local institutions within the context of development planning in West Java (*cf.* Toledo 2001).

Keywords: *Cultural and Development; Community Initiative Management; Gintingan; Sustainable Community Development.*

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