

Preface

The book is about the relationship between societies and their culture in the context of traditional settlements in Indonesia. The study is focused on the search for meanings of local concepts that have something to do with human settlement. The aim of the study is to dismantle, unveil, and unmask the concepts concerning home and their sociocultural strategy to keep the sense of community and identity. In this study, dismantling, unveiling, and unfolding of local concepts become the hallmark and the hub of analysis that explores, verifies, and builds relations of ideas and phenomena. Based on these relations, this study attempts to set forth the reality of the local life-world that upholds and sustains their values, norms, and principles for what may they call it as a homeland.

The book is organized into two parts. Part I describes a cross-regional habitation in Indonesia. The part is focused on the search for common properties and shared characteristics of Indonesian habitation, especially in urban areas. This part is an inquiry of cultural identity of Indonesian arts of living and its values as a nation in Southeast Asia. Part II is the search for unique and specific aspects of traditional settlements in specific regions of Indonesia. Part II is presented with four chapters representing four ethnic regions of Indonesia: Sa'dan Toraja, Bali, Naga, and Minangkabau. Their unique traditions, customs, beliefs, and attitudes transpire to provide diversity in backgrounds and lifestyles though they share something in common to sustain their sense of home in dealing with modernity in terms of changes and developments toward a technologically industrialized society. The research questions are what is the development of settlement in terms of culture and environmental sustainability? How do the communities in Indonesia response to modernity?



Map of Indonesia and Southeast Asia

Perspectives on Traditional Settlements and
Communities

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