Revitalizing Kota Tua Jakarta, through Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Conservation

UNESCO is working to support the revitalization of Kota Tua Jakarta, through Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Conservation.

The Kota Tua (Old City) area of Jakarta, Indonesia, is a multi-layered and complex urban heritage place that has local, national and international significance. Kota Tua contains a rich variety of heritage places such as colonial period buildings, Tionghoa (Chinese-Indonesian) influenced houses and temples, Arab-Betawi mosques, and post-independence modernist architecture. The intangible heritage of the area is also complex and multicultural, with unique music and cultural expression such as the Portuguese influenced Keroncong music still practiced by local communities to this day. The harbour of Sunda Kelapa is also the home of rich seafaring heritage, with fisherman and sailors using traditional wooden boats that sail throughout the archipelago and retain a link to the regions rich seafaring history.

Despite this significance, Kota Tua is currently facing a number of challenges, such as the state of conservation of some historic buildings in the area; the identification of the heritage significance of the area and interpretation of this significance to audiences; the community involvement in the conservation and management of the area or recognition of the intangible cultural heritage of the area.

In this context, UNESCO has worked with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Jakarta government to support the revitalization efforts though the project entitled ‘Old City, New Vision: First phase project for the revitalisation of Kota Tua, Jakarta through sustainable tourism and heritage conservation’. The overall goal of the project is to support the initiative and vision of the Jakarta government to protect, conserve and revitalise the area of Kota Tua while providing opportunities for sustainable development for local people and businesses.

Under the course of the project, UNESCO has conducted analytical study of Kota Tua, developed conservation best practice information kit for building owners, as well as provided expertise and fund for heritage conservation pilot sites. As for capacity building, the project presents trainings for staff/actors involved in conservation in Kota Tua and other cities in Indonesia. Other activities within the project are House call and Heritage Clinics for heritage building owners, to provide them with conservation advices and conservation management plan from national and international conservation experts. Through this project, UNESCO has also supported the establishment of a participatory and inclusive planning and management mechanism for integrated heritage conservation management and sustainable tourism through various activities and researches such as cultural mapping activities, stakeholder meetings and Focus Group Discussions. Last but not least, UNESCO has developed and organized exhibitions focusing on conservation issues, UNESCO Recommendations on Historic...
Urban Landscape and best practices in heritage conservations. UNESCO also teams up with other partners including Ministry of Public Works in organizing the activities within the project.

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Links:
Caring Your Heritage Building Information Kit: http://www.lestarikanbunanguntua.info/#/information-kit/cee5