Editor's Introduction

Lumbung Connect and Interconnect

In Indonesian society, lumbung, the central idea of documenta fifteen, is not a novel thing. The word is common knowledge to many people and is often found written in books or mentioned in conversations. Lumbung tends to be more familiarly known as an object, a building structure, or a container wherein harvest crops or seeds are stored to be sowed in the next planting season. The word came up from agrarian traditions throughout Indonesia and is closely related to the principle of sharing. Lumbung as a noun is a place where resources are stored for later use in times of scarcity. In many instances, it is used to help communities. In this regard, resources do not only refer to tangible resources, but also intangible ones such as energy, creativity, information, knowledge, networks, time, and others. In addition to mapping resources, strengths, needs, and limitations are also mapped so as to ensure that cooperation takes place in a manner that everyone complements each other. Thus, growing together or mutual cooperation occurs where all parties work hand in hand to face all situations from crises to celebrations of joy.

Growing together itself is one of the unique characteristics in the life of the people of the archipelago. The phrase carries the meaning of working together, mutually helping each other, or voluntarily helping each other within a community. As part of the concept of adat or custom, lumbung also expresses an inextricable connection as a cultural idea consisting of cultural values, norms, habits, institutions, and laws that govern behavior between humans which is commonly carried out in a community group. Adat is also the code of conduct of the highest position because it is eternal and very strongly integrated into the community that owns it.

Moving on from this concept, majalah lumbung is born to provide stories and practices as well as lumbung values that have grown from various cultural contexts in various places in Indonesia, especially in several large islands and provinces that extend from the western to the eastern tip of Indonesia such as Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Java, Papua, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, Bali, and also Maluku. With diverse models and practices associated with lumbung, the concept of this magazine is an attempt to record several main aspects and at the same time the cycles of agricultural work, which includes several general processes such as planting, harvesting, and sharing.

In order to provide general insights, majalah lumbung also invites guest contributors from various backgrounds. With different professions, such as researcher, lecturer, poet, community organizer, musician, journalist, or social-cultural activities, it is expected that they can elaborate their knowledge in relation to the concept, practices, and values of lumbung. As with other writers and researchers from different places in Indonesia, these guest contributors have been allocated with spaces to portray the practices of lumbung which are related to their expertise and experience. This also extends to the form of the text: short stories, essays, opinions, or other appropriate forms. The scope of themes is also varied, such as the experience in organizing women's groups post conflict and natural disaster in the central area of Sulawesi, experience in printing and music, the music group of Nasids Ria, or the experience of the implementation of some periodic art-related activities in Indonesia. These discourses are oriented to provide other insights outside the areas of implemented researchers.

Each of these processes is then selected to be the theme of each edition. The next issue will explore the working practices of lumbung in relation to crop culture. In a similar manner, the next edition will look at the processes of Caregiving, Harvesting, and Sharing. Among the things that will be explored are practices, thinking concepts, values, metaphors, and those associated with them in the hope of enriching references as well as expanding knowledge regarding the meaning and definition of lumbung in various cultures.

In preparing and working on this magazine, ruangrupa took into consideration the diversity of contexts, especially in nine contexts and locations in Indonesia. Obviously, it will not cover all the lumbung practices that exist in Indonesia, but as a first step, it is considered adequate to provide a picture of the diversity that exists. What happens in Sumatra may be different from what is practiced in Maluku. This is because each practice has its unique name and creative efforts in facing challenges as well as forming bonds of togetherness, especially in relation to resource management.

In addition, what is considered to be part of the value of a lumbung is "locally anchored". How local communities adopt practices and grow has also been time-tested in their respective contexts. With this idea as a starting point, majalah lumbung invited nine writers and researchers from nine regions in Indonesia, which include Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Java, Papua, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, Bali, and Maluku. Furthermore, this project also involves editors and illustrators from various locations in Indonesia, most of whom have been involved in a variety of ruangrupa's previous programs.

Several stages were undertaken to prepare for this magazine. Before the writing process began, writers and illustrators were invited to join a workshop together with a number of practicing historians, academics, and journalists. Geared toward getting the writers and illustrators to arrive at a common perception, the workshop was also aimed at expanding and enriching references with regard to work practices of lumbung in various regions in Indonesia and the values that surround it, as well as problems that might come up. This initial knowledge then became the starting point for a more specific explanation in the context in which each author lives.

One important consideration was the use of language. The purpose was to prevent the findings in the field from being presented like a rigid and dry research report. Writing in a storytelling style was expected with the aim of making reading easier and more interesting to follow.

With this preparation, the authors were deployed to conduct field research for several weeks. They visited and interviewed a number of people who were involved in the practice of lumbung in their respective regions and recorded them and then put them in written form. Through these writings, readers would be able to find models and patterns as well as problems and challenges faced in their daily practice. These articles were then edited and subsequently translated into English and German to reach a broader readership.

In the early part of this project, the first two editions, Harvesting and Sharing, are published. The presence of this magazine is expected to provide understanding about and enrich references related to the practice and concept of lumbung which is the articulation approach that ruangrupa adopts in documenta fifteen. This magazine will be continued with the publication of a follow-up edition, namely Planning and Caring.