

## 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 seminars. *lumbung* tends to be more familiarly known as an object, a building structure, or a container where 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, especially in difficult times such as disasters, conflicts, or other forms of crisis. However, we rarely hear or read about *lumbung* as a concept of thinking and as work practice, as software, and as a metaphor for sharing resources, which applies not only to agrarian societies, but also to maritime 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, *gotong royong* or mutual cooperation occurs where all parties work hand in hand to face all situations: from crises to celebrations of joy.

*Gotong royong* 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 experiences 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 here 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, caring, 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 relating 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 texts: some are short stories, some essays, opinions or other appropriate forms. The scope of themes is also varied, such as the experience in organizing women's groups post conflicts and natural disaster in the central areas of Sulawesi, experience in printing and music, the music group of Nasida 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 first edition will explore the working practices of *lumbung* in relation to crop culture. In a similar manner, the next edition will look at the phases of *Caring*, *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 own 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 artistic approach that *ruangrupa* adopts in documenta fifteen. This magazine will be continued with the

publication of a follow-up edition, namely *Planting* and *Caring* after documenta fifteen and it is hoped that it will continue in various editions and themes.