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### Local Wisdom Reduce Plastic Bags Through *Boenthelan*<sup>1</sup>

#### *Abstract*

Plastic bags have become an integral part of most people's lives in the world. As their impact, plastic bags waste has become one of the serious problems, not only for the nature (land, sea and air) but also human being. Hard plastic degraded because of gas and petroleum refining (natural resources that cannot be renewed), so it takes hundreds of years to decompose completely. This means, the more the use of plastic bags, then the sooner we spent natural resources.

Indonesian people, in fact has the local wisdom in an effort to reduce plastic bag waste by *Boenthelan* (Java) or *Pundutan* (Banjar-Kalimantan). While in Japan, better known as appliance *Furoshiki* as a tools for wrapping stuff. It is time we should dig right back and do the coaching society for our own nature and culture, especially the *boenthelan* can be one of the solutions to reduce plastic bag waste. *Boenthelan* is made of a square of cloth, so it can be washed and used over and over again. *Boenthelan* size varies depending on the size of the items to be covered of brought. Wrap techniques vary, so the more adds aesthetic value *boenthelan*. *Boenthelan* can used to wrap or carrying goods, such as books, boxes, bottles, and so on. In addition, by using *boenthelan* as a modern lifestyles we take part in preserving the local culture, especially traditional cloth from each region, by making *boenthelan* as souvenirs. Thus, local wisdom plastic bags waste management and coaching of nature info a single entity which needs to be conseed.

*Key words: boenthelan, plastic bag, local knowledge, nature.*

#### **Background**

Plastic bag is one of objects sticky in our life. Plastic bag even became the main component given seller to carry and wrap groceries, besides paper or cardboard. Plastic bag become the first choice because it is more practical, frugal, even more modern. Moreover because plastic bags offered a choice variety color, form and motives being diverse. Even not uncommon buyers asked for more plastic bag for carrying freight goods. It is mentioned that buyer has become consumers or main users using it, both in active and passive.

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<sup>1</sup> This article will be present at the Serantau Kearifan Tempatan (RCLK) in Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia, October 5-7, 2013.

Alamendah (2011) estimated that in the world population uses a plastic bag around 500 million to one billion per year, or about one million plastic bags per minute (Bentala, 2013). In France, 2006 recorded about 1,2 million tons of garbage per year. Indonesia's population as users of plastic bags estimated at 100 billion per year or about 700 sheets per person. Due to the enormity of the use of plastic bags, waste of plastic bags was not inevitable. This waste can reach 400 tons per day or the equivalent of 16 Boeing 747s. United Nations Environment Program in June 2006 noted there are at least 46,000 waste plastics in the oceans per square mile. Even waste plastic shape a floating island nearly twice the area of the island of Borneo, Indonesia. In Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, this plastic garbage can reach 6,000 tons per day, or a pile of plastic approximately 30,000 cubic meters, equivalent to half the Borobudur Temple in Central Java, Indonesia.

The author wanted to convey that the plastic bag as though it has become an integral part in the lives of human beings in carrying and wrapping. To make plastic bags require at least 12 million barrels of oil per year and 14 million trees. Most plastic bags are made from natural resources that cannot be renewed as from the distillation of petroleum and gas (ethylene). Because the material is not of biological compounds, it will be difficult being relegated (non biodegradable) perfectly. In this, the plastic bags are categorized as products that are not environmentally friendly.

Actually, plastic bags have a number of negative effects, both for the environment and human beings. Plastic waste carried by ocean currents could contaminate marine life, even cause death in sea animals. The environmental agency Grobogan, Indonesia (2012) released the death of a number of marine animals about one million seabirds, one hundred thousand marine mammals, as well as the fish due to consume waste plastic. On land, the land containing the poison plastic particles can kill animals, such as worms which resulted in lower levels of soil fertility. The garbage that piled up on the river can lead to superficiality and clogging streams, so that causing floods. For humans, the fumes of burning waste plastic can trigger cancer, respiratory disorders, disorders of the nervous system, as well as hepatitis. In this, the actual plastic waste is very dangerous for humans and the environment. Therefore, we are required to be able to preserve the environment through sustainable development that is environmentally friendly.

## **Reduce Waste Plastic Bag**

Various parties have contribute reduce waste plastic, good of a community of social, businessman too government. In Japan, (Richard Susilo, 2012) a piece of plastic bag spending by two yen or around Rp 240,- will we get if shopping using or carrying a groceries own. Economic value this will significant impact if multiplied by intensity us shop. Prohibition the use of plastic bag also valid at shopping centers in Paris (Lucia Ruth Kusumadewi, 2008 ). In Indonesia, mayor Surabaya province of East Java campaigning on ways to reduce plastic bag with program a day without with plastic bags to commemorate the garbage care 2009. Mayor Surabaya even instructs the shopping center and association industry Indonesia in order joint tenant limiting the plastic bag for three years.

In fact, one of Carrefour in Jakarta on October 15, 2012 has ever issued a policy to reduce plastic bag. The ways is to offer consumers to carry items with three options (1) all items included in cardboard box; (2) carrying goods of all at once, without wrapped and; (3) bought a bag of groceries to environmentally friendly. However, according to Ida Syahrani and Evelyn Suleman, an offender diet plastic bag, the policy is failing in its implementation. In addition, self service Super Indo also has ever issued program “protect our neighborhood” (ended 31 December 2009) by offering a minimum of Rp 10.000,- shopping program gained 1 point (not applicable multiples) to go shopping without the use of plastic bag. Extra 1 point will be given to any spending Rp 50.000,-. If it has been accumulated 70 point buyers can exchange with vouchers worth Rp10.000,- or get a purse. A number of communities care environment in Indonesia conducting campaign by offering signing petitions pum “pay4plastic to stop giving free” plastic bag. Petition this mean manufacture and encouraging the government to make the system and rule in giving a plastic bag as one strategy to reduce its use of plastic bag (Lantan Bentala, April 17, 2013).

## **Local Wisdom To Reduce Plastic Bag Waste By Boentelan**

Actually many ways we can do to reduce the use of plastic bag. Carrying goods of by using paper, cardboard box or bag is a solution to reduce waste plastic bag. Having local wisdom of Indonesian people who has hereditary to preserve the natural in the packing and carrying goods are environmentally friendly. Are categorized as local knowledge, because durning in Rachmad K. Dwi Susilo (2012: 109-110), conveying that local knowledge is knowledge that develops in the community of certain that can be categorized as the aboriginal peoples of being localized with features:

1. The offspring of a native an area inhabited by then group of peoples of the outer stronger.
2. A group of people having tradition, language, cultural and religious as contrasted with the group are predominant.
3. Always associated with some types and economic conditions for the community.
4. A hunter, the sons of the people nomadic, agriculturalists devolve.
5. A society with the social relation who insists on groups, decision-making through the agreement, and the management of resources in the group.

Concern about the environment is local wisdom a society. Hence, wisdom environment important for revitalized, excavated, and empowered especially on the offender and decision makers. Furthermore recently, the threat of environmental disasters could happen any time. Consciousness of sustainable development it began when the summit the earth about environment and development (the United Nations conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Brazil). Furthermore, elaborated back in 2002 summit sustainable development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sustainable development (of sustainable development is awareness of a global community to curtail damage the earth as a result of construction itself, to be more prioritize programs pro-environment. Wisdom environment need to empowered to accelerate the process of sustainable development because of the success of saving the environment is the responsibility of the whole citizen in the earth.

One of examples local wisdom to reduce waste plastic bags in Indonesia is located in Banjar and Javanese. Banjar in Kalimantan have known "*pundutan*" as how to wrap and carry the goods by using a piece of cloth. Similarly, in Java, the public knows the "*boentelan*" and "*ules*" as cloth for wrapping stuff. Actually, *pundutan*, *boentelan*, *ules* and *furoshiki* is the same, namely a square of cloth that is useful for wrapping and carrying goods. However, techniques wrapped more popularized by Japan society as "*furoshiki*".

Currently the local wisdom constantly campaigned. *Lantan Bentala* is one of community care for the environment in Jakarta which campaigning using *furoshiki* or *boentelan* or *pundutan* as one way to reduce plastic bag. This *boentelan* made of cloth, so that you can wash and use repeatedly. Therefore, using *boentelan* will be more environmentally friendly than using paper or plastic bags. This is some photos of Lantan Bentala community activity in the campaign boentelan.

**Foto 1.**



Ida s. Syahranie demonstrated *boenthelan* in the LSPR, Jakarta; September 10, 2011.

**Foto 2.**



Lantan Bentala community demonstrate *boenthelan* to visitors FX. Plaza mall, Jakarta; October 26, 2012.

**Foto 3.**



Lantan Bentala community held an exhibition in the framework of “Jak Japan” Matsuri; September 9, 2011 at Hotel Nikko Jakarta.

**Foto 4.**



End B. Ekawan, Pelatihan Furoshiki, 2 April 2013, Jakarta

Ida syahranie provide training wrap around with *pundutan* in the residence of the vice president of Indonesia; April 2, 2013, Jakarta.

**Foto 5.**



The visitors demonstrated how to make a handbag by using *boenthelan*

**Foto 6.**



Pelatihan Furoshiki-Boenthelan, FISIP UI 23 Maret 2013

Lantan Bentala Community training *furoshiki-boenthelan-pundutan*; March 23, 2013 at University of Indonesia, Depok.

**Foto 7.**

**Foto 8.**



Wrap the book with *boenthelan*.  
Photograph by Ida Syhranie

**Foto 9.**



A hand bag with two fruit ring made of *boenthelan*, a photograph by Ida Syhranie.



One of my *boenthelan* are given on the Ida Syhranie as souvenir

**Foto 10.**



Wrap a single bottle by using *boenthelan*, photograph by Ida Syhranie.

Lantan Bentala community has offered an alternative the packing and carrying goods. By using a technique that is varied of course will be more add value aesthetics *boenthelan* itself. It is also simultaneously sharpening levels of creativity, neatness and nicety someone within the enveloping a goods. Indirectly, by using *boenthelan* we will revive wealth native Indonesia there will be abandoned. This has mentioned that actually Indonesia has implemented society and harmonious life being in harmony with nature. Moreover, by using *boenthelan* we could actually introduce directly wealth native traditional cloth an area. Shades of color cloth being diverse and will be more enrich a choice to use *boenthelan*. Thus, in addition, the reduction of waste campaign of plastic bags we all can preserve cultural an area to make *boenthelan* as souvenirs.

Therefore, the locality is not simply identical with primitive or traditional, because in fact the locality can also appear in the urban sense or return campaigned in urban areas, such as in Jakarta and other big cities the majority of its citizens are educated and aware of the environmental impact. In this case, the writer who was one of those community members

attempt to socialize the use of *boentelan* in Palembang, South Sumatera with a target group of mothers PKK (family welfare empowerment) at Sukarami subdistrict, Palembang City, South Sumatera (Sununianti et al., 2013; Dadang Hikmah Purnama and Vieronica Varbi Sununianti, 2013). Mothers and women are considered to be the most consumed plastic bags. Hence, socialization and the internalization of the use of *boentelan* will be right on target. Besides, they can also be the agent of change in family and the community. Thus, campaign reduce waste plastic bags will give positive impact and more massif. The end of words, as young generation should be do lifestyle environmentally friendly, one of them is by using *boentelan* as solution reduce waste plastic bag.

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