

## **Geology, geotourism as definite factor for Geopark Ciletuh Indonesia**

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The Geopark concept that integrates the preservation of geological heritage into regional sustainable economic development is becoming popular in Indonesia since the first Indonesia Geopark was inaugurated in 2012. Ciletuh is the only region that has a very unique geological diversity and the oldest in West Java. The rock formation of this region is very complex and unique where the ophiolite (peridotite, gabbro, pillowed basalt); metamorphic (serpentinite, phyllite, schist); sedimentary (greywacke, nummullite limestone, black shale, red clay), and volcanic rock complex are side by side in harmony as a tectonic remnant of subduction between Eurasia and Indo-Australia plates in the Cretaceous age. The spectacular geomorphological landscape of the region resembles a giant amphitheater that opens directly to beautiful blue ocean of Ciletuh Bay. These fantastic geological heritages have become famous as geotourism objects when viewed from seaside along from Ciletuh Bay to Ujung Genteng Cape. The presence of green turtle breeding places makes Ciletuh and surrounding region a very good destination for geo-education and geotourism. In addition, part of Ciletuh region also includes Cibanteng Nature Conservation. The northern side of Ciletuh Bay is the famous tourism area of Pelabuhanratu Bay. Within this region, the Cisolok Geyser is another best heritage geo-site. The beautiful geology, landscape and beach sand along the Pelabuhanratu Bay in combination with the myth of Nyi Roro Kidul as Queen of Southern Ocean, makes Pelabuhanratu the best side for development of sustainable geo-tourism and economic activities. Those mentioned above are definite factors to establish a Geopark that would extend along Ujung Genteng, Ciletuh Bay, Pelabuhan Ratu, and Cisolok as the best candidates for Geopark Region in West Java. However, there are other important factors need to be inventoried as supporting factors in the establishment of Ciletuh Geopark such as cultural heritage and activities.

Presented in Theme 4