

The role of geological museum to support geoconservation and geopark development in Indonesia

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Museums have an important role in collecting, preserving, conservation, documentation, and exhibition of tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage for education, research, and geotourism. Geological Museum in Bandung preserves geological collections, either they are written as fieldwork notes or laboratory works, as well as records in term of landscapes as natural heritage. Geological Museum is one of the favorite destinations for many people. There were 400,000 visitors in 2011 – about 85% were students of all levels. The museum also disseminates geological knowledge to school teachers and students through seminars and exhibitions, as well as conducting cooperative research. Research with other institutions has made two spectacular findings: the largest coal reserve, and the most complete fossilized skeleton of elephantidae. It is important to note that Geological Museum stores collections of rocks, minerals, and fossils that have been collected since the end of 19th century reaching hundreds of thousands in number up to this day. Those rocks and fossils were found in many places/locations in Indonesia and, unfortunately, most of the places were destroyed or damaged either naturally or by human activities. Therefore there might be no evidence for the next generations to witness the existence of the locations. Thus, the collections of the Geological Museum become an authentic proof for geoconservation and geopark development in Indonesia.

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