

Title of dissertation			
The local wisdom in marine resource conservation for strategies of poverty reduction in Indonesia			
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Indonesia as the largest archipelagic state has a wealth of marine ecosystem and biodiversity. Besides its ecological function, the potential marine resource is an important factor in improving the indigenous economy in the fishing communities, and even it could be used as a source of the future welfare of people. The Indonesian government has committed to establish marine conservation areas, each of which has an important role in supporting local sustainable fishery management and human resources having the local wisdom. To study such issues and their concerns demonstrates that some activities for the marine resource conservation management are major parts of the fishermen's strategy for the poverty reduction at the coastal communities. This ethnographical dissertation mainly treats the village of South Tiku, Tanjung Mutiara District, Agam Regency, the Province of West Sumatra in Indonesia, which was researched by the anthropological field work along the Tiku coast. The dissertation consists of 7 chapters. In Chapter I, the introductory information concerning ethnographical setting, such as geography, population, language, migration of the Minangkabau, is provided. Chapter II discusses the most important social and political unit of the Minangkabau village, which has the long historical background from the colonial times. Chapter III provides some anthropological problems of the Minangkabau matrilineal descents group, which is the most noticeable characteristic of their social organization. The largest descent groups are clans, which are further divided into several subclans, lineages, and then sub-lineages; all members of each sub-lineage used to live together in a large traditional house. Because of its descent system, males always marry into their wives' villages. Chapter IV is concerned with special features in fishery activities and natural environment in Indonesia and the Province of West Sumatra. Many newcomers as fishers migrate into the village of South Tiku these days; some move in by using the Minangkabau migration tradition, and others do by the matrilineal residential rule. Chapter V presents the problem of the marine and coastal resources in the village of South Tiku, which is vividly related to their livelihood and household welfares. The village of South Tiku has 5 categories of

fishermen, viz. fishpond businessman, skipper, catcher, middleman, and worker. Chapter VI is concerned about some conditions in marine resource conservation and strategy for the poverty reduction in local fishermen's community, with the aspects of the local wisdom. In total, 4 aspects could be observed at the village of South Tiku, viz. spiritual wisdom, environmental sustainability wisdom, cultural tradition wisdom, and economic wisdom. The final one, Chapter VII, draws conclusions, which describe that the existence of the traditions from the local wisdom such as cultural ceremony or fishermen's party is indispensable for the marine resource conservation, which comprise controlling fishing gears, using no harmful gears, catching and killing no sea turtles, or throwing no rubbish into the sea, managed by the controlling sector and seeding and planting mangroves or coral reefs along the shore, managed by the resource sector. At the village of South Tiku, the various forms of activities concerning marine and coastal resource conservation are carried out by local fishermen, whose behaviors are always based on the value and culture of their local wisdom. This dissertation would predict the further necessity of future marine resource conservation along the Tiku coast, which could improve the balance between marine resource conservation goals and poverty reduction outcomes.

Photos



They are beach seiners at the village of South Tiku; using this gear is one of the traditional fishing methods in Indonesia. According to the local wisdom, local fishermen decide when it is used, which beaches the best are, or for which fish species it is set. After finishing the fishery operation, they are dividing the catch on the basis of traditional rule for distribution among fishers. These days, however, most of them cannot live only on fishing, and therefore their wives tend to open small businesses, such as processing fish or tourism, at the village.



On the basis of the local wisdom, the fishermen's party (*pesta nelayan*) is annually held at the village of South Tiku, which is said to have been handed down from their ancestors. Around 100 cows and buffaloes are slaughtered for the purpose of expressing their deep gratitude to the God for the favor, in particular, for the favor giving the abundant catch to the fishing community, only when in former days villagers could eat animal meat. At this party, a sense of communal unity, or the relation between maternal uncles and nephews, are stressed according to the Minangkabau customary law.