

Batik: Design for a Sustainable Environment

By

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Sustainability is related to the quality of life in a community. The three components of sustainability are economic, social and environmental systems that make up the community in providing a healthy, productive, meaningful life for all community residents, present and future. The issues of using less, re-use, preservation, conservation, re-manufacturing or rebuilding and recycling all become part of this endless journey. Every process and almost every operation within the batik production such as chanting, dyeing, printing and finishing has environmental aspect that should be consider and which the environmental performance can potentially can be improved. Today, a large proposition of environmental issues in batik industries are related to the use and discharge of water which includes residual dye stuff, toxicity, colour waste, heavy metal contamination and other environmental issues particular to the location of a facility. Furthermore, the highly use of paraffin wax and the emissions of wax fume that generates wide range of harmful chemicals which affected the batik artist's health. In Batik business and production, through research and development, we have the ability to find new application for alternative method of production and process, materials, for a better world. This presentation will discuss on the key concepts of batik design for sustainable environment within the Malaysian batik industries context.

Introduction

In modern society human creation is still quite in complete and unsuitable because of large amount of waste discharge that causes global warming. It is anticipated that it will fail the future. What shall we do now in order to pass our modern society in good condition to our future generation? Therefore we need to redesign of the whole system that based on a new paradigm rather adding something or making partial revision to the existing system (Horiuchi,M 2004). For example; a new paradigm clusters of industries could be optimized to reduce emission as a whole system is the waste from the factory could be used as material for another sustainable produce of batik in Malaysia scenario.

Imagine when batik becomes one of the important commodities and Malaysian batik were recognized globally but we fail to take care of our own environment. The higher the production of batik we make, the greater pollution may affect the river. Rules and regulations have been created be by the government, for example Environmental Quality Act 1974, and subsidiary legislation act, regulation 6: Prohibition of discharge of effluent containing certain substance into inland water.

Sustainability Development of Batik

Sustainability of batik design is the ability to meet today's global economic and social needs. As mention in the Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) guidelines stated that a high level of environmental performance, which is sustainable, continuously improves the product appearance and environmental performance. Figure 1 shows that there are three components in sustainable development of batik. It is the opportunity for batik producers to expand strategies towards *eco batik* business to improve its profitability, competitiveness, and