Multi-ethnic community participation in the preservation of the heritage area of Ampenan, Indonesia

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Abstract. Ampenan is located in Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara. The city was previously known for its port and was the center of trade and economic activity in Lombok. To this day Ampenan still preserves its cultural heritage. The community in Ampenan is multi-ethnic due to its historic function as a port city. There are some ethnic villages located in the heritage area of Ampenan. Specifically, Malay, Chinese, Arab, Balinese, Banjar, and Bugis villages are located in the core of heritage area, and in its surroundings. This research aimed to identify the participation of the multi-ethnic community in preserving the heritage area of Ampenan. The study used descriptive-qualitative methods through observations, in-depth interviews, and literature review, using the variables of preservation of cultural heritage. The study found that the majority of the multi-ethnic communities who live in the core of the heritage area have a high level of participation in preserving cultural heritage. Meanwhile, those who live in the villages located in the surrounding area still lack participation because heritage preservation only affects their villages indirectly.

1. Introduction
Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts, heritage buildings, structures, sites, heritage areas, and the intangible attributes of a group or society. Cultural heritage is inherited from previous generations and is important to preserve because of the important historic values and the knowledge it contains. The conservation of cultural heritage in urban areas can contribute to the preservation of local identity, increase knowledge and awareness, which in turn help to instill pride in its urban heritage and local culture[1]. Nowadays, culture plays an important role in the development of urban areas. Aside from giving identity and special meaning to people in the city, culture is a source of income in all post-industrial cities[2]. Cultural heritage contains many cultural values that must be preserved and conserved to support the future development of the city.

Ampenan is located on Lombok Island, West Nusa Tenggara. This city has a heritage area that represents the history of Lombok since the 1800s. Ampenan was developed by the Dutch as a port to curb the influence of Balinese Kingdoms at that time. Since the 1900s, the government has further developed the city and expanded it in 1924. The Dutch colonial government designed the Ampenan
region to contain a port, warehouses, settlements, a commercial area, as well as other facilities. However, this development was stopped during the Japanese occupation[3].

As an international port and trading area, Ampenan had a bustling multi-ethnic community as Chinese, Arabic, Malay, and Bugis came and settled in the area. The Dutch used these people as cheap laborers. The cultural diversity is still evident along Yos Sudarso, the main road of Ampenan. Oneside of the road was lined with shophouses that belonged to the Chinese. While on the other side, Arab shops sold various goods, especially middle eastern specialties[4]. Almost all the buildings in Ampenan have colonial architecture designed by the Dutch and with multi-ethnic influences, including the local culture. Nowadays, rapid physical development takes place in Ampenan, which, unfortunately does not follow the right regulations and has a negative impact on the surrounding areas. These uncontrolled developments have turned Ampenan into a non-productive high-density area, which requires a special approach.

According to many studies, heritage preservation and conservation is strongly related to community participation in promoting a participatory approach to sustainable tourism [5-7]. Local residents with knowledge of heritage often have a greater awareness of heritage preservation, while others with less knowledge about preservation and conservation tend to have low levels of participation [7,8]. The multi-ethnic communities in Ampenan have the potential to be involved in heritage preservation because of their great impact on the physical and non-physical conditions of the area. One of these impacts is the complex system of activities and habits of the local communities in the area.

The heritage city of Ampenan has been designated as a strategic area of the city[3]. The main strategy for this area is to revitalize and preserve it according to socio-cultural conditions via community participation[3]. Heritage preservation projects can increase the awareness of the local community of the need to preserve their own cultural heritage and identity[6,9]. Considering these situations, this research aims to identify the participation of Ampenan’s local community, especially of the multi-ethnic community settled in the area, to improve the sustainability of the heritage city of Ampenan.

2. Methodology

This research uses a qualitative approach in the form of descriptive methods comprising observations, in-depth interviews, and literature review. The search items for the literature review are connected with urban heritage preservation and revitalization, i.e., protection; development; and utilization[10]. Based on preliminary research, this paper focuses on how the multi-ethnic community can participate in improving the sustainability of Ampenan as a heritage city. Nevertheless, Ampenan is not just a heritage city, but also the area where the multi-ethnic community lives.

In-depth interviews were carried out with 105 members of the community in Ampenan. The interview samples were taken from seven villages in which certain ethnicities stand out (see Figure 1). Interviews were held in the following locations in Ampenan, i.e., the Arab Village; Banjar Village; Bugis Village; Chinese Village; Javanese Village, Melayu Village; and Sasak Village. The researchers interviewed 15 respondents from each of the villages. A series of in-depth interviews was done to obtain information from this multi-ethnic community. Hence, more detailed and focused information can be collected to achieve the aim of this research.
3. The multi-ethnic community of Ampenan

Ampenan was very famous until 1970 when the government moved the port to Lembar. The development pattern of the city is directly influenced by the importance of the port. Notably, Ampenan developed along the main road (from the east to the west) that connects the port and Mataram City. The multi-ethnic community composition in Ampenan’s heritage area has greatly impacted the physical and non-physical conditions of the area. There are many architectural styles within Ampenan, yet the colonial style is the most dominant. In general, the main buildings and land use types in Ampenan are as follows:

- Settlements, which are dominated by linear housing and shop housing corridors (1-2 floor), warehouses, villas, single houses (small and medium-size) and pavilions (Figure 2).
- Religious: mosques, and small prayer buildings (mushola), churches, and Chinese temples (Figure 5).
- Commercial: industrial areas, warehouses, hotels, office areas, trading areas and tourism areas (Figures 3 and 4).
- Socio-Cultural: schools, hospitals and village area.
- Specific: fortress and military area.

The diversity of the land use/functions of the buildings remains until now. Nevertheless, in some areas, the façade of the buildings has slightly changed because of renovations or land use changes.
In general, Ampenan as a heritage city has a high density of buildings. The buildings in the area are spread out along the main road and become even denser in the center. These buildings create an imaginary line through its main corridor. The density of the buildings in the heritage area is 34.63 ha. The center area is dominated by commercial buildings, industrial area and warehouses; while the supporting area is dominated by offices, settlements, yards and open spaces.
4. Results

The history, knowledge, aesthetic and religious values of a preservation area should be well-preserved for future generations. The local knowledge of the importance of Ampenan as a heritage city is very important[11]. This knowledge can help the locals, in this case, the multi-ethnic community to improve their efforts in the preservation[8], development, and utilization of the cultural heritage in Ampenan. The participation of the multi-ethnic community in Ampenan can be seen from their involvement in any activity and their willingness to contribute to preserving cultural heritage in Ampenan.

Each of the ethnic groups in the community has different points of view regarding their participation in preserving Ampenan as a heritage city, as can be seen in Table 1. The in-depth interviews with the multi-ethnic community were carried out to identify their willingness to participate in three aspects of heritage preservation, i.e., protection, development and utilization. The results show that most of the multi-ethnic community still wants to preserve Ampenan as a heritage city.

| Village  | Willingness (%) |
|----------|-----------------|
|          | Yes | No |
| Arab     | 73  | 27 |
| Banjar   | 67  | 33 |
| Bugis    | 43  | 57 |
| Chinese  | 91  | 9  |
| Javanese | 84  | 16 |
| Melayu   | 76  | 24 |
| Sasak    | 55  | 45 |

The interviews uncovered that most people in the heritage area of Ampenan are still willing to preserve the cultural heritage in Ampenan. The main reason for some of the respondents who chose not to maintain the cultural heritage was the location of the villages. Some of the villages do not feel a significant impact from the preservation of Ampenan. These villages are mostly located in the surrounding area instead of the center of the heritage city.

| Variable | Aspects                | Involved | Not Involved |
|----------|------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Building | respondents(96%)       | 101      | 4            |
|          | respondents(04%)       | 87       | 18           |
| Preservation | respondents(83%) | 12 respondents (11%) | 93 respondents (89%) |
| Development | Involvement and Activities | 25 respondents (24%) | 80 respondents (76%) |
|          | Area                   | 84 respondents (80%) | 21 respondents (20%) |
| Utilization | Utilization            | 96 respondents (91%) | 9 respondents (9%) |

The participation of the multi-ethnic community in the heritage area of Ampenan is dominated by private preservation and the commercial use of the heritage by the community. As can be seen from Table 2, the multi-ethnic community chose to strongly participate in protecting and utilizing the
cultural heritage but not participate in developing the heritage. The assumption is that the development of the cultural heritage in the heritage area is the responsibility of the government.

### Table 3. The Participation of multi-ethnic community in the preservation of cultural heritage/heritage area

| Aspects                  | Forms of Participation                      | Forms of Non-participation                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Buildings                | Buildings renovation                        | Changing the material of the buildings        |
| Preservation             | Maintaining the original form of building   |                                               |
|                         | Maintaining building mass                   |                                               |
| Area Involvement and    | Contributing to the concept of preservation, conservation | Not revitalizing the area                     |
| Activities Area         | Promotion                                   | Non-thematic design of the area               |
| Utilization              | Religious activity                          |                                               |
|                         | Economic and Tourism activity               | No special treatment to specific objects      |
|                         | Socio-Cultural activity                     | Utilize the land around the specific cultural heritage |

### 5. Conclusion

The participation of the multi-ethnic community in the heritage area of Ampenan can be seen from their attention and willingness to preserve the cultural heritage of Ampenan around their place of living. The results regarding the willingness of the community indicate that their participation is dependent on the characteristics of the community, i.e., their ethnic background, the location of their villages, and the direct or indirect impact the community feels from the preservation of the area. In conclusion, the form of participation in the heritage area in Ampenan is pseudo-participation or intangible participation. This conclusion is based on the analysis, which found that the multi-ethnic community chose to participate in forms of protection and utilization, but not in heritage development. The participation of the multi-ethnic community leads to the sustainability of the heritage area in Ampenan. Moreover, the form of participation has already reached the partnership phase between the government and the community.

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