



DEPARTEMEN PERDAGANGAN
REPUBLIK INDONESIA

Indonesian Basket-
Endless Creativity



MINISTRY OF TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

TREDA

Trade Research & Development Agency

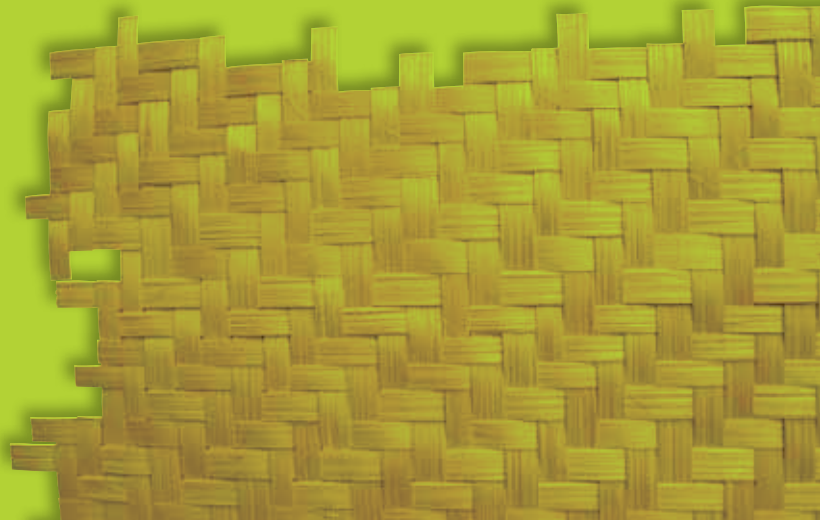
Handbook of Commodity Profile

“ Indonesian Basketwear : Endless Creativity ”

is developed as part of national efforts to create mutual beneficial economic cooperation and partnership between Indonesia and world communities.

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Indonesian Basketware, Green Creativity



Introduction

TREDA is tasked, among other, to study a number of major export products and distribute the results to selected general public to increase their awareness and knowledge about the rich potentiality of each major production center. Towards that end, TREDA has organized a series of efforts at collecting and analyzing relevant data and information on specific products with regards to their respective potential in order to improve their competitive advantages.

This booklet under the title “Indonesian Basketware: Endless Creativity” presents an account of one of the major Indonesian products, namely basketware. The reader will find interesting background information around this attractive product. Indonesia with a rich cultural heritage offers the world a rich variety of furniture for the people to enjoy. A better comprehension on its background will enhance the readers’ appreciation for this attractive Indonesian product.

Muchtar
Director General
Trade Research and Development Agency (TREDA)



Minister of Trade
Republic of Indonesia

Message

It is our great pleasure to share with you one special type of numerous product lines belonging to Indonesian creative industries, in this particular case, basketware. As a country situated at the crossroad between two oceans and two continents, Indonesian culture displays a unique mix shaped by long interaction between original indigenous customs and multiple foreign influences. Being a tropical land, Indonesia is also endowed with rich choices of fibers from numerous types of vegetations within its vast rain forests. The creativity of Indonesian people has given birth to numerous attractive art forms.

In today's world that demands highly creative, unique, and increasingly, green products, Indonesian basketware products can be counted on to present a formidable array of choices to the world market. With a wide variety of natural materials locally available, a rich tradition of handicraft-making and internationally established reputation, Indonesian basketware is almost synonymous with beautiful, elegant, classical, high quality products made from weaving natural fibers to enrich the life of people using them for various purposes.

As part of our national efforts at improving Indonesian share in the world market, this booklet present background information on Indonesian basketware products for the readers to appreciate. Enriched with vivid illustrations, this book is dedicated to those who enjoy the beauty and attractiveness of Indonesian basketware products made by skillful artisans using natural materials.

Mari Elka Pangestu





CONTENTS

1

A VALUABLE CONTAINER

7

FIBERS OF NATURE

28

INDONESIAN BASKETWARE IN FIGURES

44

BASKETWARE INDUSTRY



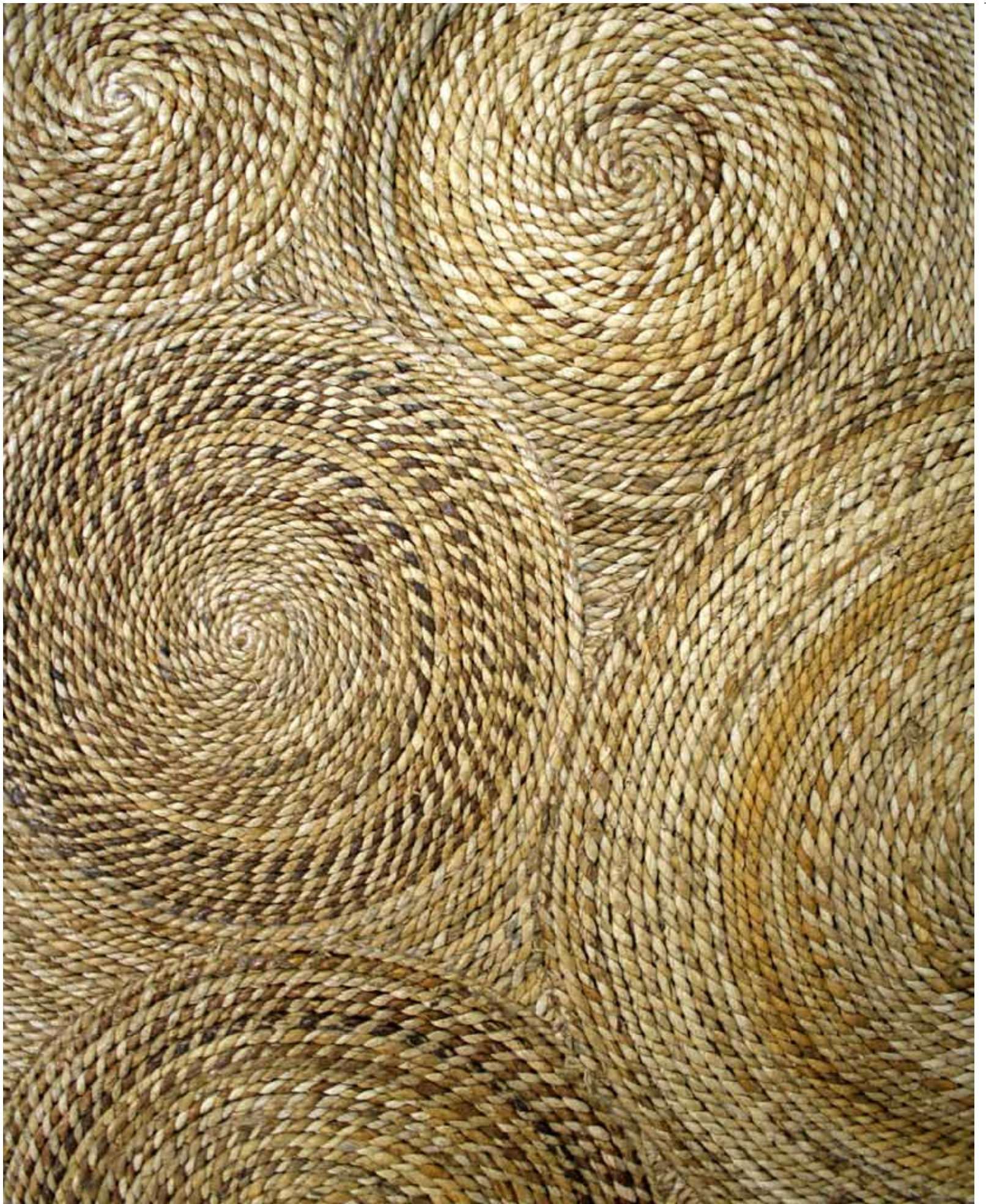
A Valuable Container

Indonesian basketware is a part of the Indonesian handicraft industry that has been well known throughout the world for its creativity in design and unique materials used. The combination of tradition, craftsmanship and wide variety of locally available raw materials combine to make Indonesian basketry one of the most unique and creative one can find in the world. Basketwares are found in virtually all parts of the country, and many places in Sumatra, Kalimantan (Borneo) and Sulawesi (Celebes) islands.

Indonesia produces a wide variety of basketware which have also been widely exported. Indonesian basketware has been one of the primary handicraft export products sought after by foreign buyers. This book attempts to showcase and explore the Indonesian basketry world in a concise, yet informative and attractive manner. In this book one will find descriptions of Indonesian basketry, especially those made of natural fibers as these are the most-used materials of Indonesian basketware.

It is hoped that this book will attract its readers to find out more about the unique and varied world of Indonesian basketware, and to eventually find something to like and love about them. Furthermore, this book attempts to provide as much information as possible to interested and would-be buyers, such as where to find the items and list of valuable contacts.





The Origins of Basketware

The making and usage of basket containers go back thousands of years to the time of Ancient Egypt. Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest known evidence of basket-making in Faiyum, Upper Egypt that dates back to 10,000 to 12,000 BC. It is speculated that basket-making is older than pottery-making. Baskets are simpler and easier to make, even without the use of any special tools. Unearthed archaeological evidences for basket-making to-date are also older than any known artifacts of pottery-making. Basket-making is found in all cultures in all parts of the world. It is safe to say that basket-making predates and is a precursor to pottery making.

Baskets were used as the earliest form of carrying vessel. Ancient uses of baskets include carrying food, harvested products, stone and building materials, caught hunting preys (such as fishermen's baskets), and other articles except water. Baskets are usually not used for carrying water for the obvious reason that baskets are typically made from woven materials and are porous, and thus are unsuitable for carrying liquid. Some cultures, such as the Anasazi of the Arizona desert even had a baby carrier type basket woven to resemble and support a baby's body. When baskets are used to carry water, it is typically to carry clay or other container of water. Some cultures however, do make water carrying baskets. The Native American tribes that lived in the arid desert regions of America and India for example, had water baskets to carry water during long journeys. These water baskets are made from the weaving of natural materials so tightly as to make them into watertight vessels. The materials used to make these watertight vessels are bamboo. Baskets were probably replaced or supplemented later by clay articles as pottery-making technology became known.

Baskets are traditionally made by the weaving of natural materials, usually in the form of plant fibers. Plant-fiber materials traditionally used to make baskets are ash



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woodsplint, oak woodsplint, willow, bamboo, hickory bark splint, birch bark, rattan, reed, cattail, cedar, devils claw, gourd, horsehair, palm, pine needle, porcupine quill, rivercane and veneer cut to name some. In addition, there are also baskets made out of animal muscle or shed horn fibers. These include fibers from deer, moose, caribou, elk

antler shed fibers. These animals shed their horns (antlers) regularly to make way for growing new, larger antlers. The shed antlers are then taken and splint into fibers, which can then be woven into baskets. Other materials for basket making also include baleen, which is the fibrous straining plates of a whale.



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Most baskets are made by the weaving of its materials in a number of ways to create a container. Coiled type of basketry uses grasses and rushes in a combined in a coiled pattern. Plaiting technique uses materials that are wide and ribbon-like, such as palms or yucca. Twining baskets use materials from roots and tree bark. Wicker and Splint baskets use reed, cane, willow, oak and ash.

Despite numerous technological advances, basket making survives into the modern world relatively unchanged from its prehistoric past. Baskets today are still mostly hand-made crafts. No one has ever invented basket-making or basket-material twining machines. This is probably due to the fact that basket-making as we know it is a highly complex and detailed craft. No machine can match the attention to detail and complexity required in producing the twining, coiling and other methods of traditional basket making. As Erdly mentions, even with the aid of molds, electric saws and sanders, and a multitude of “assembly line” processes, traditional basket-making is still a highly labor-intensive endeavor.

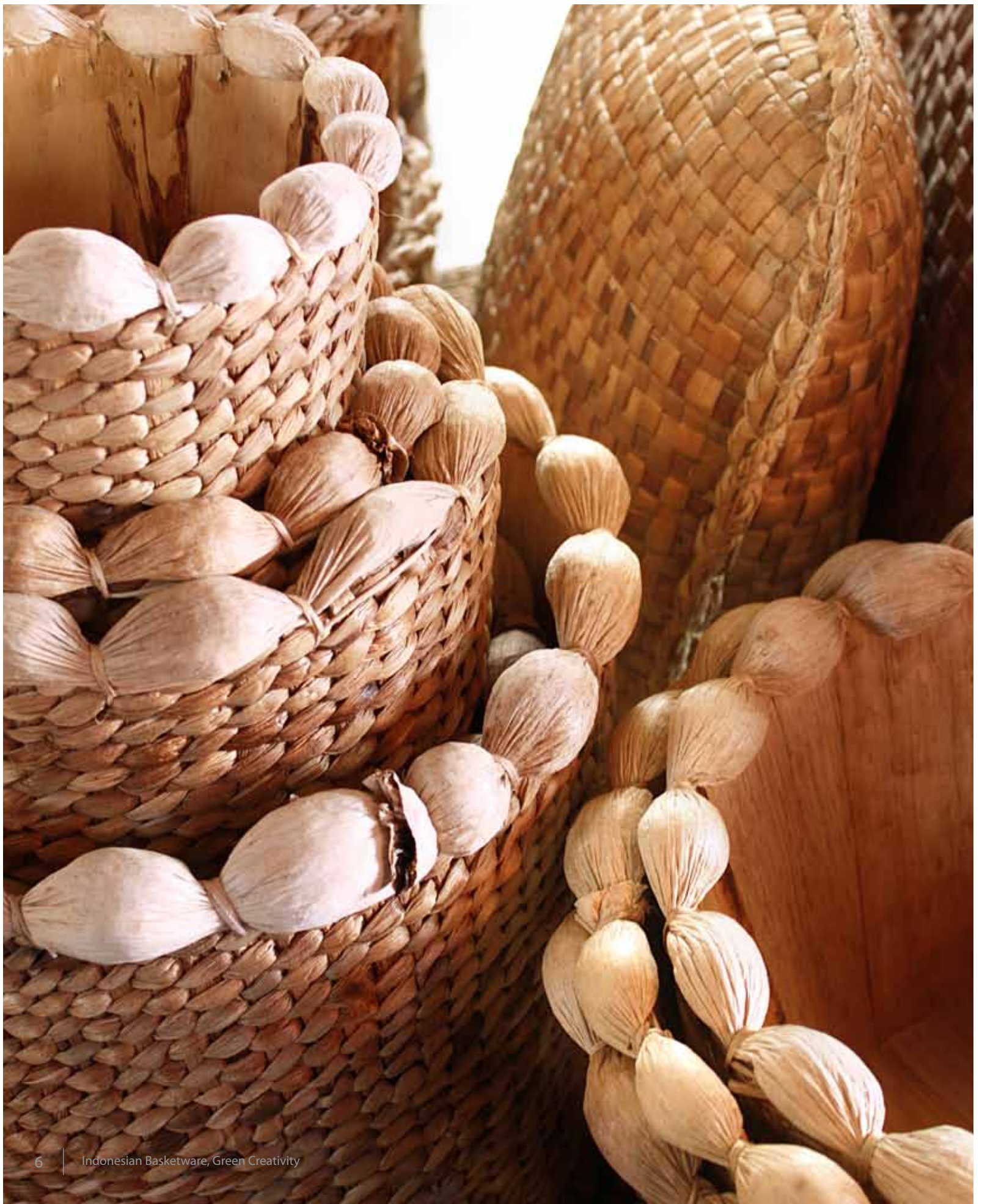
Basketware Today

Baskets today are utilized in a variety of uses. Today's baskets are used for their attractive artistic value and natural looks. They are chosen more out of an interior design and artistic values rather than out of necessity (there are many articles that are stronger and more durable). Some of the uses of baskets today are as storage containers, for example laundry baskets, shoe baskets, umbrella/walking stick baskets, egg baskets, firewood log baskets and baskets for other storage uses.

In Indonesia, baskets are also often used as containers for holiday gifts (the Indonesians call them "parsel"). These "parsel" may contain articles of food, dinner sets and other gifts arranged attractively. They are typically sent to the desired recipient just before the holidays as a sign of respect and appreciation. There are also wine/drink carrier baskets (some even include wine baskets with its internal layered by special material that keeps the wine/drink container bottle cool). Baskets can also be made and designed into handbag baskets, harvest baskets and even shopping baskets. Basket cribs for pets are also available. Basket making, or rather basket material weaving, also extends into non-storage uses. Examples of these include gardenware made out of baskets or basket materials. Gardenware baskets include pot holders, flower/garden produce carrying baskets (called trugs) and plant cones.

As mentioned, despite the technological advances of the last thousands of years, baskets survive to the modern day in many forms. The amount of creativity and ingenuity applied keeps basket making an interesting art form. Today, there are even enthusiasts, hobbyists and collectors of basketware. Baskets are used more for their decorative values rather than their utilities.





Fibers of Nature

Basketware has been known for ages in Indonesia. Indonesian baskets are typically made of materials that are readily available locally. These are natural fibrous plants, such as eceng gondok (water hyacinth), pandan, mendong and bamboo plants.

Indonesian basketware is unique in a way considering the materials used in its construction. Consider the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) for example. This plant (called Eceng Gondok in Indonesian) was introduced to Indonesian soil in 1894 by the Dutch to adorn the botanical garden in Bogor. However, in its development, it has become undesired plant in many Indonesian waterways, lakes and marshes. Despite of this, Indonesian ingenuity has turned this invasive plant to beautiful, durable basketware and other handicraft articles.

Indonesian basketware is unique in a way considering the materials used in its construction. Indonesian baskets are typically made of materials that are readily available locally

Water Hyacinth Basketware

Raw Material

Water hyacinth is a plant originated from South America. If left unchecked, water hyacinth that has been introduced to any body of water such as lakes and ponds will cover them entirely; this dramatically impacts water flow, blocks sunlight from reaching native aquatic plants, and starves the water of oxygen, often leading to fish kills (or turtles). Water hyacinth plants invastation also create a prime habitat for mosquitos, the classic vectors of disease, and a species of snail known to host a parasitic flat-

Water hyacinth grows in abundance all over the country in large bodies of water



worm which causes schistosomiasis (snail fever). Directly blamed for starving subsistence farmers in Papua New Guinea, water hyacinth remains a major problem where effective control programs are not in place. However, Indonesians can turn these “bad” plants into attractive, durable and good-selling handicraft articles. Weaving of water hyacinth can be turned into all kinds of articles.

Base material used for weaving basketware from water hyacinth plant is the stem of the water hyacinth plant that has been dried. Typical water hyacinth has a stem of 45 – 50 cm long, however some are as long as 50 – 60 cm. There are also some supporting materials, such as clean water, coloring agent, preservative agent and whitening agent.

Processing

The water hyacinth is of course first lifted from the water where it has been growing. Then clean water is used to wash away all the dirt and filth since water hyacinth typically grows best in filthy waters. It is suggested to use cleaning agent such as soap or detergent and protective clothing (such as gloves) to protect the person cleaning the plant. After cleaning, the plant can then undergo a drying process.


Drying process for the water hyacinth plant typically takes about 6 days depending on the thickness of the stems and, of course, the weather. The drying process is best done by leaving the water hyacinth stems on a flat surface or on sand to ensure even overall drying. The drying process can be hastened by squeezing the stems with a pressing machine in order to squeeze out the water inside them. The dried stems can then be separated for weaving purposes. They can be separated by length, so as to make it easier to choose the most suitable stem during the actual weaving.

The best color for water hyacinth stem for weaving is white as this is the most flexible color. However, dried water hyacinth that are brownish in color can be cleaned into white by using a whitening agent. Whitening agents that can be used include caporite, H_2O_2 , and natrium metabisulfide.

After the whitening step, preservatives agent can then be applied to the stems. This is to prevent the stems from decaying after being made into woven articles, which will severely damage the finished product’s quality. Preservative agent used is typically sulphur mixed with water in the ratio of 1 ounce of sulphur for every liter of water. The water-sulphur mix can then be sprayed over the dried stems. After applying preservative agent, the stems can then be woven into basketry or other articles of handicraft.

There are a number of weaving patterns that are typically be used for the water hyacinth stems. These are single pattern, double pair, triple pair, *kepang*, cloverleaf, ombak banyu (water wave), *pihantuan tangkup* and wajik (trapezium). The single pattern is the simplest weaving pattern that is done by alternating every strand of the water hyacinth. The double and triple pair patterns alternate every two and three pairs respectively.





Baskets and bags can also be made by using a frame or mold that the stems are woven over. The use of frame enables the basket weaver to weave articles according to their desired size and shape. For the purpose of making basketware, water hyacinth may be combined with other materials, for example bamboo, for the handle of the basket for example, to form a more varied piece.

Production Centers

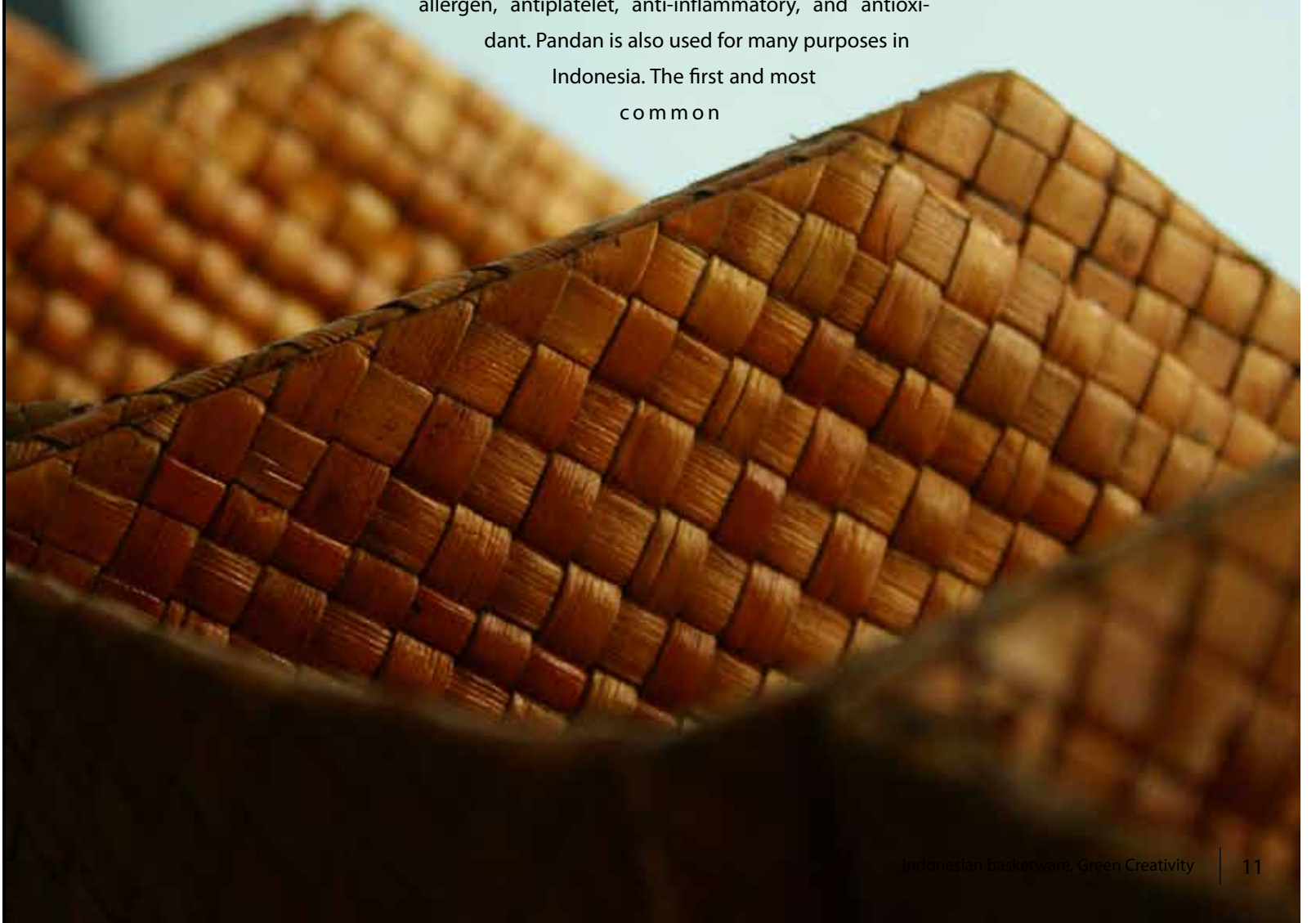
Water hyacinth basketware is produced in Indonesia in many places, especially those with easy access to the raw materials. In Indonesia it can be found in virtually any of the major islands. However, most water hyacinth basketware production centers are located in West and Central Java. Notable production centers include Yogyakarta, Pekalongan, Klaten and Surabaya in East Java Province. These areas typically thrive due to their proximity to a ready supply from water hyacinth-invested bodies of water. For example, Yogyakarta is close to Rawa Pening marshland, which is a marshland covered almost entirely by water hyacinth. Klaten is close to the Rawa Jombor marshland. Surabaya has a number of streams and rivers nearby that are filled with water hyacinth which routinely causes flooding problems.

Pandan Basketware

Raw Material

Pandanus (pandan) is a genus of monocots with about 600 known species. Plants vary in size from small shrubs less than 1 m tall, up to medium-sized trees 20 m tall, typically with a broad canopy and moderate growth rate. The trunk is stout, wide-branching, and ringed with many leaf scars. They commonly have many thick prop roots near the base, which provide support as the tree grows top-heavy with leaves, fruit, and branches. The leaves are strap-shaped, varying between species from 30 cm up to 2 m or more long, and from 1.5 cm up to 10 cm broad.

Pandan is said to be a restorative, deodorant, indolent and phylactic, promoting a feeling of wellbeing and acting as a counter to tropical lassitude. It may be chewed as a breath sweetener or used as a preservative on foods. It is also said to have flavonoids which are believed to have a variety of healthful properties, including antiviral, anti-allergen, antiplatelet, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant. Pandan is also used for many purposes in Indonesia. The first and most common

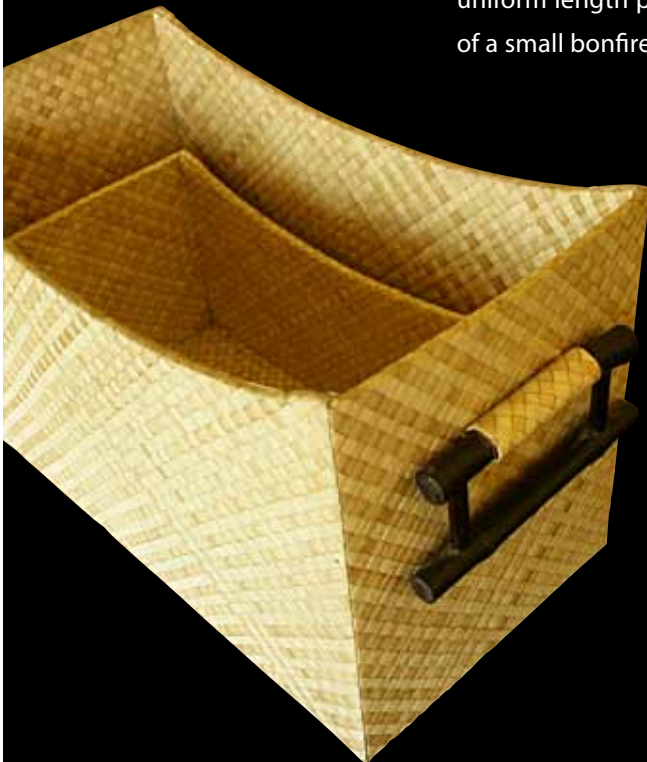


use is in cooking. Pandan leaves in Southeast Asian and Indonesian cooking (often called screwpine leaf in English speaking countries) are used to add aroma to rice and curry and also to make cake (green pandan cake).

Processing

The part of the pandan plant that is most suitable for weaving basket articles is the pandan leaf. The long and green pandan leaves can be processed through simple traditional methods to be ready for basket weaving. There are a number of pandan types in existence in Indonesia: the pandan wangi (fragrance pandan) and pandan duri (thorned pandan). The pandan wangi is typically used for cooking and the pandan duri is the type of pandan that is suitable for making basketware and other woven handicraft articles.

For the purpose of making pandan basketware, pandan leaves that are old enough are chosen and are cut at the base of the plant, taking only the long green leaves. Seven or eight young leaves are typically left to prevent from killing the pandan plant and enable the pandan plant to continue growing and thus possibly provide for future harvesting. The cutting is typically done carefully since the pandan duri is surrounded by sharp thorns and the ground around the plant is also typically wet and slippery. The cut leaves can then be stripped of uneven and unwanted parts. Typically the sharp and thin edges will be stripped off leaving fairly smooth and uniform length pandan leaves. The leaves are then withered by laying them on top of a small bonfire.



Another method to dry and wither the pandan leaves is by drying them up in open air. After the leaves are weathered the thorns of the back spine of the leaves are then stripped away with a fiber held between the thumb and the index finger. The stripping of the back thorns will usually immediately split the leaves from the spine. The split leaves can then split again if so desired. The next process concerns softening the pandan leaves to enable easy weaving. The softening process is done by first striking the leaves that have been cut with hammer and repeatedly “massaging” the pandan leaves from end to end. After this process is done, the leaves are then soaked in water for two to three days. The water used for soaking the pandan leaves are replaced two or three times during this time to prevent foul odor from accumulating in the leaves.

On the third or fourth day, the leaves are taken out of the water, washed clean and then dried in open air. The dried leaves will turn white. The dried leaves may be colored if so desired. The coloring process is usually done by boiling the dried leaves with coloring agent. Traditional methods employ natural ingredients as coloring agents and therefore are limited in the choice of color available. Traditional natural coloring agents come from various leaves and trees and typically only provide the color red, green and yellow. Today, however, one can easily find coloring agents of almost the entire color spectrum. After the coloring process, the leaves are then dried again, and as a final step, "massaged" again to ensure softness and ease of weaving.

Production Centers

One of the centers of pandan basketware handicraft production is located in the Indonesian Regency of Tasikmalaya. Handicraft production is spread in 11 villages of this Regency. The Regency of about 1,600,000 inhabitants lies approximately 380 km to the southeast of Jakarta and 106 km to the East of the West Java Province's capital of Bandung. The basketware and other handicraft industry in this Regency have grown into a formidable collection of home-made handicraft article makers, and many have found markets overseas.



Pandan basketware products can also be used for office stationery



Mendong Basketware

Raw Material

Mendong is a type of vegetation that thrives in marshlands and swamps in tropical and subtropical climates. Mendong is commonly found in Java. Mendong has been made into baskets and woven into mats since ancient Javanese times. The mendong plant grows in muddy grounds with sufficient water content. The physical and agricultural properties of Mendong are similar to that of the rice paddy. Mendong is a type of weed and typically grows to height of more or less 100 cm. It is typically available for harvest once every 100 days and thus can be harvested three to four times a year.

Mendong plants used in basketware making usually do not come from natural growth. The plants used are typically purposely planted and then harvested. Mendong is planted in the similar fashion as one would plant a rice paddy. In fact sometimes during difficult times, such as when the price of rice drops, or when the planting season is unexpectedly dry, ruining rice paddy crops, Indonesian farmers in some areas switch to planting mendong instead.

Processing

The mendong plant is planted on flooded fields as mendong is a type of aquatic plant. Flooding provides water essential to the growth of the crop. After 3.5 to 4 months, the mendong plant will have grown large enough to be harvested and used as raw material for basket weaving. The mendong plant is harvested by cutting the mendong brush, typically with a sickle or sickle-like cutting tool, at approximately 3 cm from its base. This will ensure that the mendong plant will grow again after harvesting. Since mendong is a plant that grows out of its roots, it will continue growing so long as it is not uprooted. By simple maintenance such as weeding and some fertilizer, the mendong plant will resume its brush growth. However, the growth of the mendong plant is affected after each harvest. The length and width of the mendong leaves shrinks after each harvest. Newer growths are smaller and shorter. In addition, its roots become larger due to the growth of the entire plant and hence space between mendong plants will become tighter, which eventually tightens



The mendong plant grows in muddy grounds with sufficient water content



competition for nutrients among the plants. Typically after two or three harvests, a mendong plant no longer provides practical raw material for basketware weaving and needs to be replanted.

After harvesting, the entire brush can then be taken for cutting and stripping. The mendong leaves are selected for their length and width and then they are dried out in the sun. After the drying process, the mendong leaves are flattened. This is usually done by basketware crafters by beating the wrinkled leafs with a wooden stick. Prior to weaving the mendong leaves into the desired basketware article, first they need to be cooked and later colored if needed. The cooking of mendong leafs is performed

in order remove dirt and other chemical properties of the mendong plant that might interfere during the next steps. Cooking is usually done by mixing chlorine to boiling water that cooks the mendong leaves.

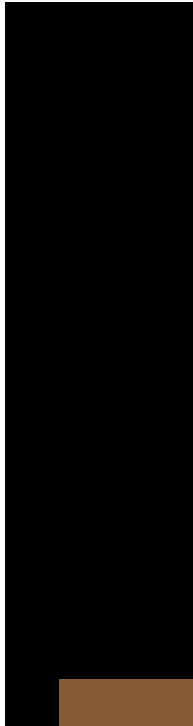
The next step after cooking the mendong plants is discoloring the mendong leaves. The discoloring process strips the mendong leaves of their natural color. This process leaves a relatively colorless, or rather white mendong leaves. Discoloring process is performed by "bleaching" the mendong leaves in one of a number of discoloring chemical agents. The chemicals used are typically Calcium chloride hypochlorite ($\text{CaCl}(\text{OCl})$), Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) or Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) After the discoloring process is completed, the basketware maker can then apply coloring agent on the mendong leaves of the desired color. Coloring is usually done by immersing the mendong leaves in a coloring chemical agent.

Production Centers

Basketware made out of mendong weed fibers typically have fine fibers since mendong fibers are rather narrow and small, and therefore makes for a fine weaving result. One of the most prominent centers of mendong-based basketware products is in the Indonesian town of Tasikmalaya. Mendong basketware products are used for dry articles. The types of mendong basketware products are varied and include office stationeries (file boxes, letter trays, stationery holders, etc.), tissue boxes, laundry baskets, trash cans, "parcel" gift baskets, delivery baskets, and other types of baskets that are meant to hold dry articles.



Mendong basketware product is usually used for dry articles.



Bamboo Basketware

Raw Material

Bamboo is a group of woody perennial evergreen plants in the true grass family Poaceae, subfamily Bambusoideae, tribe Bambuseae. Some of its members are giant bamboo, forming by far the largest members of the grass family. Bamboo is the fastest growing woody plant in the world. Their accelerated growth rate (up to 3-4 feet/day or 1.5-2.0 inches/hr) is due to a unique rhizome system and is dependent on local soil and climate conditions.

Bamboo is a plant that is deeply revered in Asia, although its proliferation is spread from 50°N latitude in Sakhalin through to northern Australia, and west to India and the Himalaya. They also occur in sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Americas from the southeast of the United States south to Argentina and Chile, there reaching their furthest south anywhere, at 47°S latitude. Major areas with no native bamboos include Europe, northern Africa, western Asia, Canada, most of Australia, and Antarctica. An important feature of bamboo is that it is essentially a giant grass and as with your lawn, can be cut without killing the plant unlike other hardwoods such as teak and mahogany, where the whole tree dies when cut. This makes for a highly survivable and environmentally sustainable natural resource. What could be more environmen-



tally friendly than a plant that can be harvested yet just keeps on growing?

Bamboo is one of the most remarkable resources on the planet. Both sustainable and plentiful, bamboo has been utilized for many uses. Not only as materials for furniture and weaving, some parts of the bamboo plant are also edible. The shoots (new bamboo culms that come out of the ground) of bamboo are edible. They are used in numerous Asian dishes and broths, and are available in supermarkets in various sliced forms, both fresh and canned version. A health warning is appropriate in the case of the shoots of the giant bamboo, as they contain cyanide. Despite this, the Golden Bamboo Lemur (a type of monkey) is able to ingest quantities of the toxin that would kill a human several times over, without ill effects.



In Indonesia young bamboo shoots are sliced thinly and then boiled with santan (thick coconut milk) and spices to make a dish named gulai rebung. Other recipes using bamboo shoots are sayur lodeh (mixed vegetables in coconut milk) and lun pia (sometimes written lumpia: fried wrapped bamboo shoots with vegetables). Note that the shoots of some species contain toxins that need to be leached or boiled out before they can be eaten safely.

Bamboo is durable, strong and yet can be made flexible enough by cutting them into strips (that still retain the strength property) and weaving the strips together. Strong enough to be used as building materials, the strength property of bamboo has made it one of the most commonly used materials for a wide variety of uses, most importantly when the uses require strong, flexible surfaces. Bamboo for example, has been used for making mats and baskets for centuries. Bamboo weaving is at least more than 7,000 years old. The oldest known bamboo artifact was found in China in 2004 in the form of 7,400 years-old carbonized remains of a bamboo mat.

In Indonesia, woven bamboo strips are used for many purposes. One of the most common uses of woven bamboo strips in Indonesia is as building or partition/screen for interior walls. Bamboo strips are also made into furniture, typically with bindings from stronger materials such as wood or rattan. However there



are also furnitures made entirely of bamboo as bamboo is strong enough to withstand weight such as a person's body weight. Some types of bamboo furniture include all manners of tables and chairs, mirror frames, shelving units, sofas and loungers, wardrobes, drawers, bar stools and plant stands, and just about any furniture imaginable can be made out of bamboo thanks to its flexibility.

Processing

Bamboo basketware is typically made by weaving cut bamboo strips into the desired basket shape. The traditional Indonesian weaving pattern is called "gedek". Gedek has also become the generic word for a piece of wall/screen made out of woven bamboo strips. Bamboo is one of the easiest weaving materials to process. The processing of bamboo logs into weaving materials basically requires only cutting the bamboo into strips.



Bamboo is the fastest growing woody plant in the world.

One of the types of bamboo that is most commonly used for weaving is the "paring/bambu tali" type, or translated into English "rope bamboo". Rope bamboo is a type of bamboo with exceptional fiber flexibility and strength. The fibers are strong enough and stay together that they can be made into strong ropes and are usually used for making ropes. The bamboo log is typically cut into pieces of the desired length and size. It is then sliced, which can be done with traditional knife or with a bamboo splitting tool if so desired. A bamboo splitting tool is basically a round cylinder tool with a number of knives going from the outer edge inward (like a three-pointed star symbol). The bamboo log to be split is typically inserted through the knives and the splitting tool can then be driven down through the center of cross-section of the bamboo shaft. The bamboo will then be split along its inner axis as many as the number of knives (the bamboo splitting tool commonly used has three knives). After the bamboo is split into pieces that are desired, they can be further split into ropes or ribbons. These can then be colored if desired.

The typical method for coloring is by immersing the bamboo strips in a boiled solution of coloring agent (textile coloring agent will be sufficient). The colored bamboo strips are then dried and are ready for weaving. There are numerous weaving patterns that can be applied for bamboo strips as they are flexible enough. Alternating pattern is common and some handcrafters combine bamboo strips of different color to create attractive basketware. These may also be combined with other materials to make the basketware more attractive.



Bamboo baskets are creatively designed and are widely exported

Production Centers

Bamboo basket making is found throughout Indonesia, being such a common material. The types of basketware produced in Indonesia are numerous. From fishing baskets, parcel gift baskets, rice/food carrying baskets (called rantang in Indonesian), dim sum baskets, cookie jar baskets, shopping baskets, cookie delivery baskets, various boxes and many other bamboo-based basket products. Many of these are designed creatively and are widely exported. Some of the centers of production of these basketware products in Indonesia are Tasikmalaya (West Java) and Lamongan (near Surabaya in East Java).



Other Natural Fiber Basketware Materials

Indonesian basketware makers also utilize a number of natural fibers for their raw materials. Among these are gebang (*corypha utan*), banana bark, and akar wangi.

Gebang

Gebang (*corypha utan*) is a type of palm that grows in low lands (at elevations less than 300m above sea level). Gebang tree can grow as high as 15-20 meters. Its leaves are rather large and fan-shaped, with lengths up to 3.5m. The leaves emerge from the ends of the tree's branches, which can be as long as 7m themselves. The branches are wide and filled with thorns in its sides.

Parts of the gebang trees can be used for many purposes. Its bark is strong enough to be used as building construction materials, especially as columns. Its bark ends (from which the leaves grow) can be eaten, and sago from its pith (inner-most part of the tree's bark) can be used as cattle feed. Some parts of the gebang tree are also used as traditional medicine. Its roots can be used to cure mild diarrhea and water from its frond are used as anti-oxidant. Its leaves of course, serve many purposes. The most important of which is as weaving material for a number of items. Among these are mats, caps, baskets, ropes, nets and even some traditional dresses. Gebang fiber is also known as daun gebang or serat gebang or serat agel in Indonesian. Basketware made of gebang include bags, cell phone baskets, and other basketware. Gebang basketware handicraft can be found easily in the Yogyakarta area.



Gebang tree can grow as high as 15 - 20 meters

Banana Bark

A typical staple plant of the tropics, bananas Banana plants are of the family Musaceae. They are cultivated primarily for their fruit, and to a lesser extent for the production of fibre and as ornamental plants. As the bananas are mainly tall, upright, and fairly sturdy, they are often mistaken for trees, when the truth is the main or upright stem is called a pseudostem, not a bark. Banana's pseudostem, literally meaning "fake stem", which for some species can obtain a height of up to 2-8 m, grow leaves of up to 3.5 m in length. Each pseudostem can produce a bunch of yellow, green, or even red bananas before dying and being replaced by another pseudostem.



Banana grows well in tropical countries such as Indonesia

Banana grows in 107 countries throughout the world. Banana trees and its parts can be used for a number of uses. Its fruit, of course is edible and is a staple food in many countries. For basketware purposes, fibers from the banana tree's bark (or rather, pseudostem) is used. These fibers are so strong that they are even made into furniture pieces. Baskets are also a logical use for banana fiber weaving. The fibers from the banana barks are usually stripped from the bark, and then woven by twisting methods into a basketware of desired size and shape. Banana bark fiber basketware include storage baskets and tissue boxes.

Akar Wangi (Vetiver Root Grass)

Akar wangi (meaning literally fragrance root, so called for the fragrant smell that it exudes) is a plant that thrives in tropical climate. In Indonesia this is commonly found in Java. Akar Wangi is a type of grass of the *Andropogon zizanioides* family. Akar Wangi grass has been used traditionally as fragrance material. The plant exudes aromatic fragrance due to aetheric oil that it naturally produces. The aetheric oil has very low evaporation temperature point, and hence almost immediately evaporates as it is secreted. This makes the akar wangi rather dry.

Akar wangi grows naturally although it is typically planted. Today, most akar wangi in basketware and other handicraft articles are made from plantation-grown akar wangi. Akar wangi grows well at elevations of 350-2000 meters. Its best soil type is sandy or volcanic ash types. In these types of soil an akar wangi plant may grow to large and long root bunches. They are typically planted with 0.75m to 1m distance between the plants. The plant requires about 1.5 to 2.5 months of soil tilling to prepare the land for akar wangi growth. Akar wangi is ripe for harvest after about 9 months. Late harvest is usually avoided as akar wangi plants older than 9 months will start to degrade and may not look very attractive physically, an important consideration for



Vetiver root grass or so called fragrance root can also be used for beautiful accessories in dining tables.

handicraft making. One hectare of akar wangi plantation typically yields 20-50 tons of wet akar wangi (wet vetiver roots). The drying process will shrink this weight to a mere 12-15 tons. The drying process is done simply by letting the akar wangi out to sunlight for 7-10 days. No special attention is required for the drying process of akar wangi intended for handicraft making. Akar wangi intended for perfume oil extraction however, require special attention to keep its oil contents within acceptable levels.

Akar wangi has a number of uses. Some utilize the root of the akar wangi grass to extract its oil and made into fragrance materials or used for making perfumes. Other primary use is for weaving material. Its grass is the part of the akar wangi typically used. It is used for a number of woven articles. In basketware production, akar wangi is usually made into bags and other bag-like containers since they are rather thin and flexible, which make them rather suitable for making things that require flexibility. Some example of akar wangi basketware includes bags, magazine holders . Akar wangi however, can also be easily made into other basketware articles. A unique property of the akar wangi basketware is the fragrance that it exudes.

The largest akar wangi production center in Indonesia is located in Garut, which supplies about 90% of Indonesian akar wangi oil and much of the akar wangi used in handicraft making. It is only natural that one can also find akar wangi handicraft makers in Garut. Another akar wangi production and marketing center can also be found in the Yogyakarta area.

Lontar Leaf/ *Borassus flabellifer*



Lontar tree are tall palms, capable of growing up to 30 m high. The leaves are long, fan-shaped, 2 to 3 m in length

Lontar (species name *Borassus flabellifer*, which grows in Southeast Asia, or also known as palmyra) is a type of plant whose leaves have been used by ancient Indonesian as writing medium before there was paper. They are tall palms, capable of growing up to 30 m high. The leaves are long, fan-shaped, 2 to 3 m in length. The flowers are small, in densely clustered spikes, followed by large, brown, roundish fruits.

Lontar basketware is rather rare. It is found only in the South Sulawesi Province, in the Regency of Takalar at the Galesong Selatan District. Other production center are in Bali, in the Karangasem and Gianyar Regency. Similar to gebang in appearance, lontar leaves are used as basket-weaving material.

The part of the lontar tree used for weaving is the stem of the lontar branches. The stems are cut from the lontar trees and then beaten to make them soft and pliable.

They are then immersed in water for about a week, after which they are beaten again to obtain an even softer texture. The stems are then cut to separate them from the lontar leaves. They can then be washed and prepared for weaving.

Lontar stems are used for a variety of plait materials. They are made into hats, fans, wall decoration, bracelets, etc. The most typical use of lontar leaves in basketry is in making bags and other containers. They are also made into baskets and other storage uses. Some example of lontar-based basketware are: tissue holders, stationery holders, ash trays, bottle-like vessels, etc. Most lontar handicraft makers make custom-ordered lontar handicrafts.



Indonesian Basketware in Figures

Indonesia as A Major Basketware Exporter

As of 2007, the latest year for which trade data is available, Indonesia is the fourth largest exporter of basketware articles in the world after China, Vietnam and the Philippines. Almost 4% of world basketware trade is made in Indonesia. The following table shows the top 10 exporter of basketware.

Major Exporting Countries

HS 4602 Basketwork, wickerwork & other articles made from plaiting materials

		Trade Indicators			
	Exporters	Value exported in 2007 (USD thousand)	Quantity exported in 2007 (tons)	Annual growth in value between 2003-2007, %	Share in world exports, %
	World	1705751	488849	11	100
1	China	1137213	349390	15	66.67
2	Viet Nam	157778	40708	14	9.25
3	Philippines	56489	16264	-1	3.31
4	Indonesia	53288	27186	1	3.12
5	Germany	45673	6031	26	2.68
6	Belgium	37801	7254	7	2.22
7	Netherlands	24427	3505	-3	1.43
8	Poland	24352	10933	-2	1.43
9	Hong Kong	20596	3810	-25	1.21
10	USA	18082	1139	18	1.06

Source : TREDATA, Ministry of Trade

Most of Indonesia's basketware products are bought by European buyers. This is evident in the following table which details the top 20 export destinations of Indonesian made basketware.

Top 20 World Markets for Indonesian Basketware

HS 4602 Basketwork, wickerwork & other articles made from plaiting materials

		Trade Indicators		
	Importers	Exported value 2007, (USD thousand)	Share in Indonesia's exports, %	Exported growth in value between 2003-2007, %, p.a.
	'World	53288	100	1
1	USA	14526	27.3	1
2	Mexico	5984	11.2	166
3	Japan	4307	8.1	-11
4	Republic of Korea	3613	6.8	18
5	France	3237	6.1	4
6	Netherlands	3219	6	8
7	Germany	2504	4.7	-5
8	United Kingdom	2347	4.4	-8
9	Australia	1611	3	-9
10	Spain	1434	2.7	-7
11	Italy	1392	2.6	-19
12	Belgium	1321	2.5	-1
13	Canada	540	1	-17
14	Malaysia	453	0.9	19
15	China	393	0.7	90
16	Greece	375	0.7	2
17	Denmark	352	0.7	-11
18	Sweden	347	0.7	7
19	Chinese Taipei	346	0.6	8
20	Brazil	306	0.6	45

Source : TREDA, Ministry of Trade

Major Indonesian Basketware Production Centers

Basket-making is a rather common handicraft in Indonesia. The relatively simple production method and readily available material have made it a rather easy business for even inexperienced craftsmen to get into. However, over the years, certain areas of the country have developed into major basketware production centers. These areas have developed into strongly export-oriented centers. Typically when an area become well known for its products which are sought after by foreign buyers, more and more businesses spring up to take advantage, which in turn create even more diversity and bolster the industry even further.

Two areas in particular have developed into well-known centers of basketware production. These are Tasikmalaya and Yogyakarta.



Tasikmalaya

Tasikmalaya is both a city and a regency in the West Java Province. The city of Tasikmalaya in particular, is perhaps the best known center of basketware industry in the country. It is located approximately 106 km from the province's capital of Bandung or about 380 km to the southeast of the country's capital of Jakarta. Tasikmalaya can only be reached through ground routes. The journey to Tasikmalaya takes about three hours by ground transportation from Bandung or around 7 hours from Jakarta.

The regency of Tasikmalaya is a production center for mendong, pandan and bamboo basketware. One can easily find thousands of small businesses producing these basketware. Mendong, for example, as of the writing of this book is known to be produced by 1,235 business units in Tasikmalaya. Bamboo is produced by 1,038 units, while pandan is produced by 644 businesses. Tasikmalaya's local government is also very active in promoting Tasikmalaya basketware products and will readily provide information. Following is detailed, while not exhaustive, lists of basketware production centers in the Regency of Tasikmalaya :



MENDONG BASKETWARE

	SUB DISTRICT	VILLAGE	BUSINESS UNIT	ANNUAL PRODUCTION (PIECES)
	Cineam	Cijulang	53	143,100
	Manonjaya	Gn,tanjung	252	680,400
		Kamulyan	133	359,100
		Margaluyu	98	264,600
		Jatijaya	94	253,800
		Tanjungsari	87	234,800
		Cinunjang	68	183,600
		P,muncang	65	175,500
		Giriwangi	56	151,200
	Karangnunggal	Cibatuireng	26	70,200
	Salopa	Kaputihan	49	132,300
		Karyawangi	382	1,031,400
	TOTAL		1,235	3,334,400

Source : Official Regency of Tasikmalaya website, www.tasikmalaya.go.id



PANDAN BASKETWARE

Anyone seriously wishing to explore the highly developed and export-oriented basketware industry should spend most of their time in Tasikmalaya

	SUB DISTRICT	VILLAGE	BUSINESS UNIT	ANNUAL PRODUCTION (PIECES)
	Cibalong	Cigunung	60	84,000
	Cicalong	Sindangjaya	48	64,800
		Kalapagenep	20	27,000
		Mandalajaya	20	27,000
	Cipatujah	Ciheras	37	49,950
	Pagerageung	Tanjungkerta	52	70,200
		Cipacing	38	51,300
		Sukadana	54	72,900
	Rajapolah	Manggungsari	75	101,250
		Manggungjaya	72	97,200
		Sukaraja	73	98,550
		Rajapolah	95	135,000
	TOTAL		644	879,150

Source : Official Regency of Tasikmalaya website, www.tasikmalaya.go.id

BAMBOO BASKETWARE

	SUB DISTRICT	VILLAGE	BUSINESS UNIT	ANNUAL PRODUCTION (PIECES)
	Cigalontang	Nangerang	70	283,500
	Cikatomas	Cogreg	40	162,000
	Cisayong	Cikadu	62	251,100
	Leuwisari	Cisaruni	110	445,500
		Padakembang	64	259,200
		Cigadog	68	275,400
		Mandalagiri	40	162,000
		Ciawang	42	170,100
		Jayamukti	42	151,200
		Salawu	Pusparahayu	115
	Salawu		230	931,500
	Neglasari		70	283,500
	Singaparna	Cikunir	60	243,000
	P.Ageung	Tanjungsari	25	29,700
	TOTAL		1,038	4,113,450

Source : Official Regency of Tasikmalaya website, www.tasikmalaya.go.id

Yogyakarta



Yogyakarta is a Special Administrative Area located in the southern part of the island of Java in Indonesia. It is about 560 kilometers to the southeast of Jakarta, the country's capital. Yogyakarta can be reached in 7 hours by train ride or 1 hour flight from Jakarta. Alternatively, it is a 45 minute flight from Denpasar, Bali, the only city nearby with international flight connections.

Yogyakarta is also a major city and tourist destination in Indonesia with direct international flights from neighboring countries and relatively quick international connections through either Jakarta or Bali. Yogyakarta is also one of the educational centers of the country with a large number of public and private universities.

Yogyakarta was a former Javanese Sultanate and thus has a rich history and culture. The Sultanate was founded in 1755 and joined the Republic of Indonesia at the Declaration of Independence in 1945. The Yogyakarta Sultanate is a product of a split



of the larger Mataram Sultanate. The Mataram Sultanate was an Islamic kingdom that ruled over what is now the Central Java, East Java and the island of Madura in Indonesia from the mid 16th to the mid 18th century. The Dutch colonial incursion into Java in the mid 18th century brought Mataram into conflict with the Dutch trading company, the VOC. Mataram eventually succumbed to the power of the VOC and was broken apart into the Sultanate of Yogyakarta and the Sultanate of Surakarta in 1755. The sultanates stayed under the effective control of the Dutch trading company until Indonesian nationalists declared independence.

Considering the rich and tumultuous history, the culture of Yogyakarta is one of the most fascinating combinations of Javanese, Hindu, Buddha, Islamic heritage and even Chinese and European influences. Being the capital of a Javanese sultanate, Yogyakarta boasts unrivalled Javanese cultural heritage. Yogyakarta has always been a center of handicraft, homewares and wooden products. Yogyakarta is also a production center of handicraft. Yogyakarta products can be found in many handicraft outlets. Some find their way to Bali and sold as souvenirs. Following is export data of Yogyakarta basketware export.

YOGYAKARTA BASKETWARE EXPORT

HANDICRAFT MATERIAL	VOLUME EXPORTED (KG)			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
BAMBOO	512,523.45	372,102.12	401,227.46	300,488.53
PANDAN	546,513.50	687,497.81	177,734.21	87,831.96
WATER HYACINTH	121,745.64	107,841.73	170,831.23	316,718.15
MENDONG	111,792.96	62,441.40	76,603.47	89,093.17
TOTAL	1,292,575.55	1,229,883.06	826,396.37	794,131.81

Source : Trade and Industry Agency, Yogyakarta Province

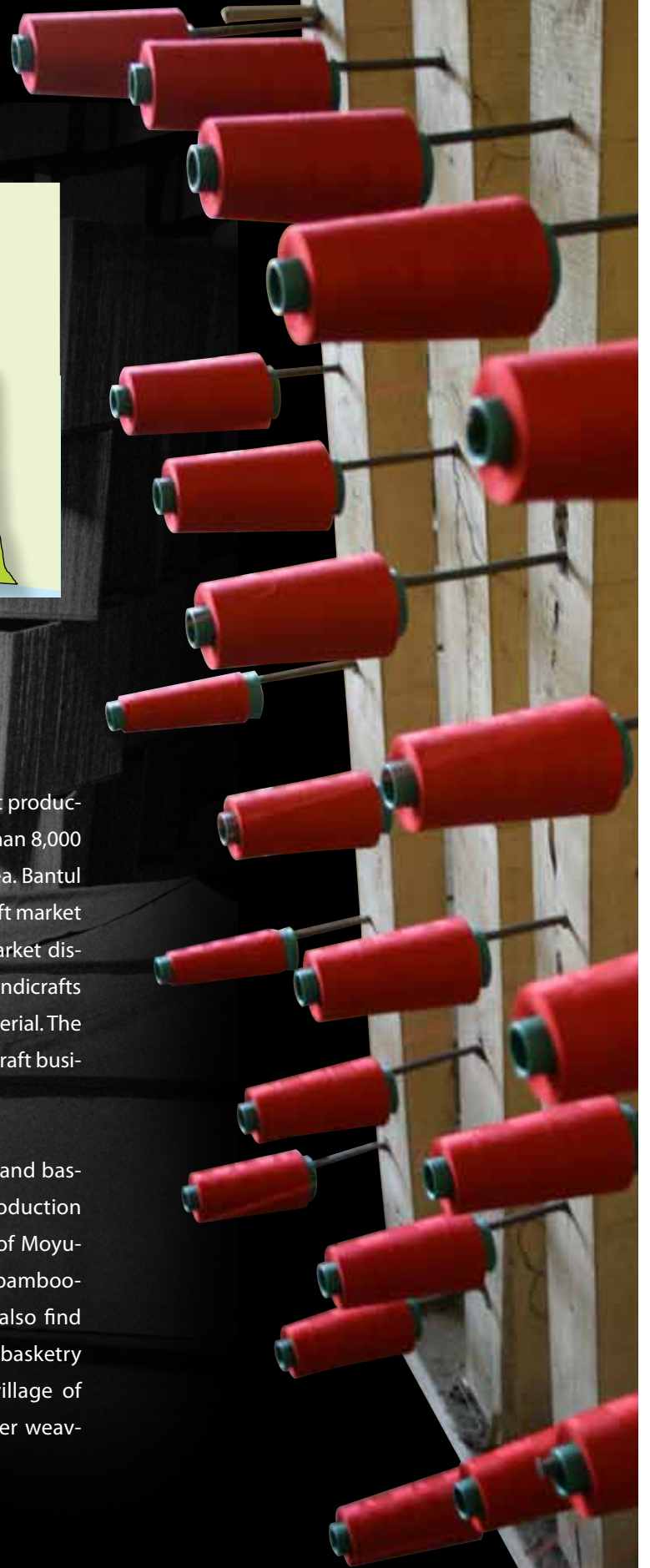


Yogyakarta is a provincial-level Special Administrative Region. It is divided into 4 regencies (kabupaten) and 1 city (kota) administrative area, as can be seen in the map. Basketware making industry can be found in all of the regencies mentioned. Yogyakarta has been a primary center for Indonesian handicraft for a long time. One can find in Yogyakarta a wide range of handicraft from all materials and designs. The areas of Yogyakarta that produces handicraft are spread over its four regencies, the regencies of Bantul, Sleman, Gunungkidul and Kulonprogo.



The regency of Bantul has been a center for handicraft production and marketing. As of the writing of this book more than 8,000 handicraft business units reside in the Bantul Regency area. Bantul also boasts perhaps the most comprehensive arts and craft market in the area, the Gabusan Arts and Crafts Market. This market displays the most comprehensive collection of arts and handicrafts one can find in one location, including of course, plait material. The Gabusan Market provides space for more than 400 handicraft business units in its kiosks.

Sleman is also the home of thousands of handicraft and basketware businesses. The most notable plait material production center in the Sleman regency is located in the villages of Moyudan and Minggir. Minggir is a production center of bamboo-based plait material and basketry. In Sleman one can also find rather sizeable mendong plantation. The handicraft and basketry production center in Gunungkidul is located in the village of Ngawen. Kulonprogo is also home to many natural fiber weaving-based handicraft businesses.



Other Notable Centers

Garut

Garut is a regency directly neighboring to the west of Tasikmalaya. Garut is home to more than 3,000 bamboo handicraft businesses. It is also blessed with a plentiful supply of bamboo. In Garut there is more than 300 hectares of bamboo plantation producing more than 700,000 tons annually. Bamboo basketry is highly developed in Garut. Among the notable products of bamboo basketry in Garut is the bird-cage. Garut also supplies large numbers of akar wangi basketware.





Magetan

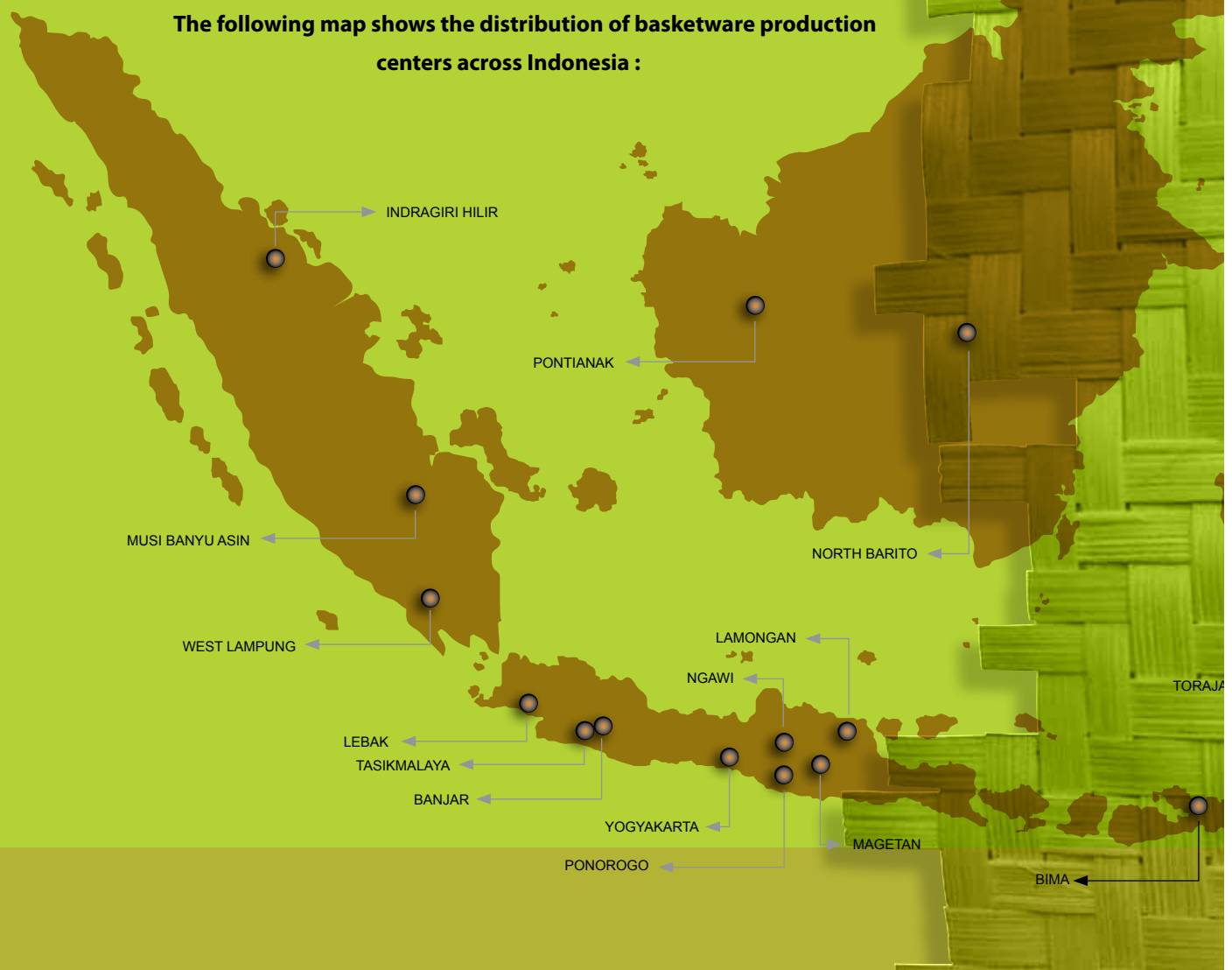
Magetan is a regency in the Indonesian Province of East Java. It is home to a bamboo and pandan basketware industry. The basket-weaving industry in Magetan is centered in the village of Ringinagung. In spite of the basketware industry, Magetan also produce various furniture industry and one of the company received a kind of award as one of the best exporter by the National Agency for Export Development, Ministry of Trade in 2007.

Map of Basketware Production Centers

Basket-making, as previously mentioned, is a rather common handicraft in Indonesia. The relatively simple production method and readily available material have made it a rather easy business for even inexperienced crafters to get into. Other production centers in Indonesia have sprung up over the years in most of the 5 major islands in Indonesia.



The following map shows the distribution of basketware production centers across Indonesia :

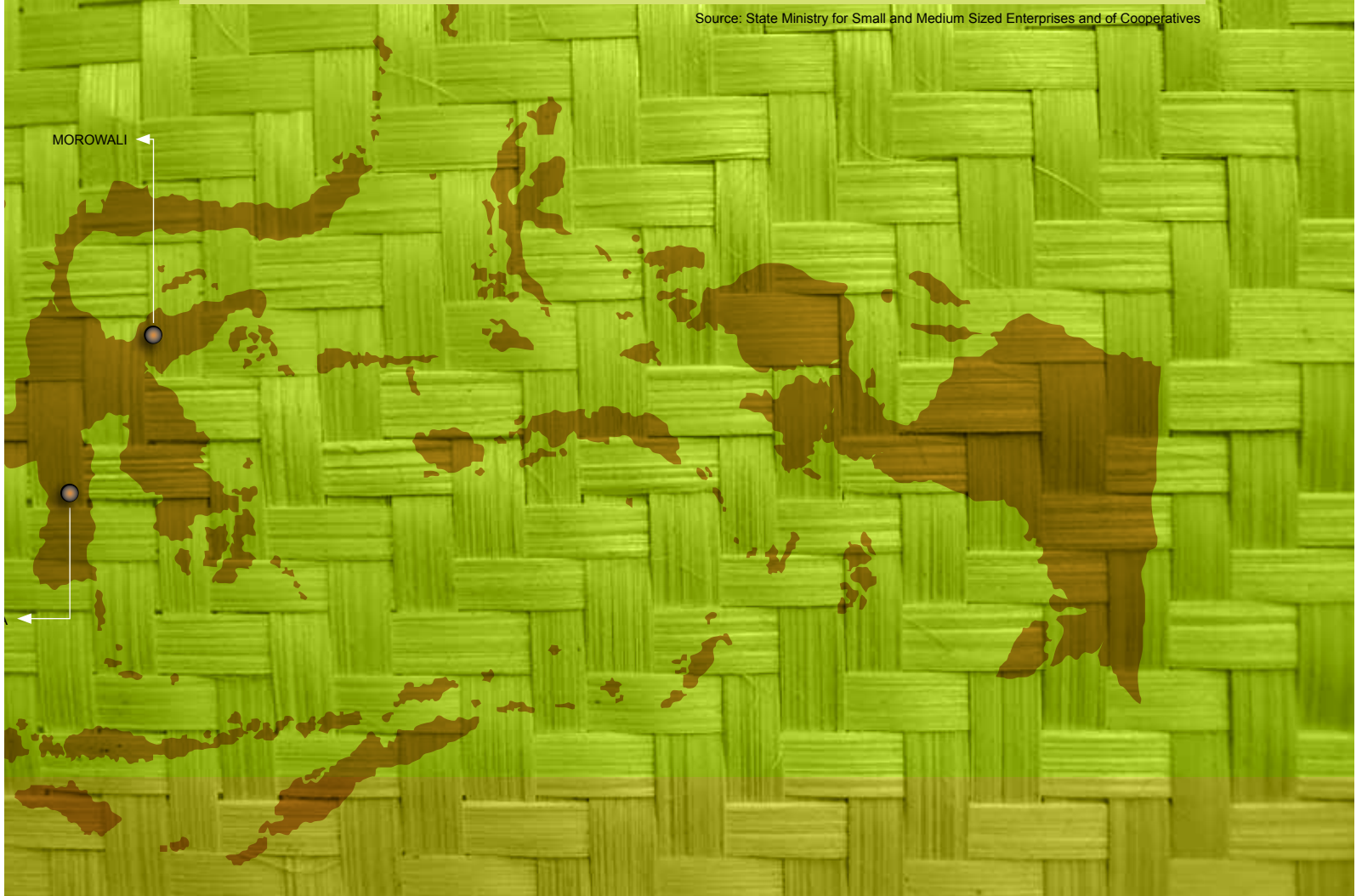


A list of these production centers can be seen in the following table:

OTHER BASKETRY/PLAIT MATERIAL PRODUCTION CENTERS

ISLAND	PROVINCE	REGENCY	PRODUCT TYPE
JAVA	BANTEN	Lebak	Plait Articles
	WEST JAVA	Kota Banjar	Bamboo Plait Articles
	EAST JAVA	Lamongan	Pandan Mat Plait
		Ngawi	Bamboo Plait Articles
		Ponorogo	Bamboo Plait Articles
KALIMANTAN (BORNEO)	WEST KALIMANTAN	Landak	Mat Plait Articles
		Kota Pontianak	Plait Articles
	SOUTH KALIMANTAN	Tapin	Plait Handicraft
		Takalar	Palmyra Plait Articles
	CENTRAL KALIMANTAN	Kapuas	Rattan Plait Articles
		Barito Utara	Rattan Plait Articles
SUMATERA	LAMPUNG	Lampung Barat	Bamboo Plait Articles
		Tanggamus	Bamboo Plait Articles
	SOUTH SUMATERA	Musi Banyu Asin	Rattan Plait Articles
		RIAU	Indragiri Hilir
LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS SULAWESI (CELEBES)	WEST NUSA TENGGARA	Kota Bima	Bamboo Plait Articles
	SOUTH SULAWESI	Tana Toraja	Bamboo Plait Articles
	CENTRAL SULAWESI	Morowali	Bamboo Plait Articles

Source: State Ministry for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and of Cooperatives



Sales of Basketware

Exports by Country of Destinations

Displayed below are statistics on major basketware export by country of destination for the period of 2003-2007 (sorted by 2007's values):

BASKETWORK AND THE LIKE OF OTHER VEGETABLE MATERIALS

HS 460210900

in US \$

COUNTRY	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003-2007
UNITED STATES	1,898,377	3,558,230	6,943,047	8,515,262	2,985,813	23,900,729
JAPAN	881,975	1,966,042	1,594,436	1,230,083	2,069,275	7,741,811
GERMANY	160,037	866,044	807,865	726,855	1,027,415	3,588,216
SOUTH KOREA	33,185	383,035	665,349	794,148	983,216	2,858,933
AUSTRALIA	345,629	939,799	824,140	954,187	889,646	3,953,401
FRANCE	351,867	854,716	934,835	950,906	801,798	3,894,122
SPAIN	426,956	1,347,973	1,194,000	911,109	758,899	4,638,937
ITALY	593,652	842,899	894,329	767,609	715,909	3,814,398
UNITED KINGDOM	712,593	1,163,731	1,501,150	1,727,455	632,224	5,737,153
NETHERLANDS	182,762	470,815	882,978	934,803	527,459	2,998,817

Source : TREDA, Ministry of Trade

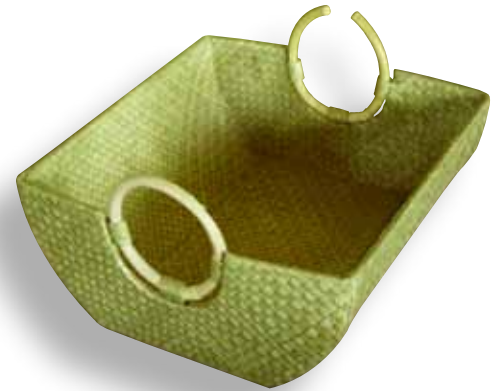
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OTHER BASKETWORK OR WICKERWORK

HS 460290000

in US \$

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Source : TREDA, Ministry of Trade

OTHER BASKETWORK OR WICKERWORK

HS 460290000

in Kg

COUNTRY	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003-2007
UNITED STATES	259,750	377,778	948,212	1,791,966	4,370,610	7,748,316
CHINA	1,499	4,334	909,141	4,819,232	1,083,016	6,817,222
AUSTRALIA	93,553	144,214	310,699	316,006	316,127	1,180,599
MALAYSIA	26,374	30,538	40,815	151,452	279,737	528,916
ITALY	129,848	184,110	223,113	252,137	168,697	957,905
UNITED KINGDOM	28,901	102,063	108,161	141,681	168,621	549,427
SPAIN	33,538	210,853	169,016	239,333	141,309	794,049
GERMANY	24,579	65,421	86,223	113,802	124,035	414,060
FRANCE	68,948	133,743	178,950	162,373	121,875	665,889
NETHERLANDS	19,761	69,862	74,962	109,520	114,745	388,850

Source : TREDA, Ministry of Trade

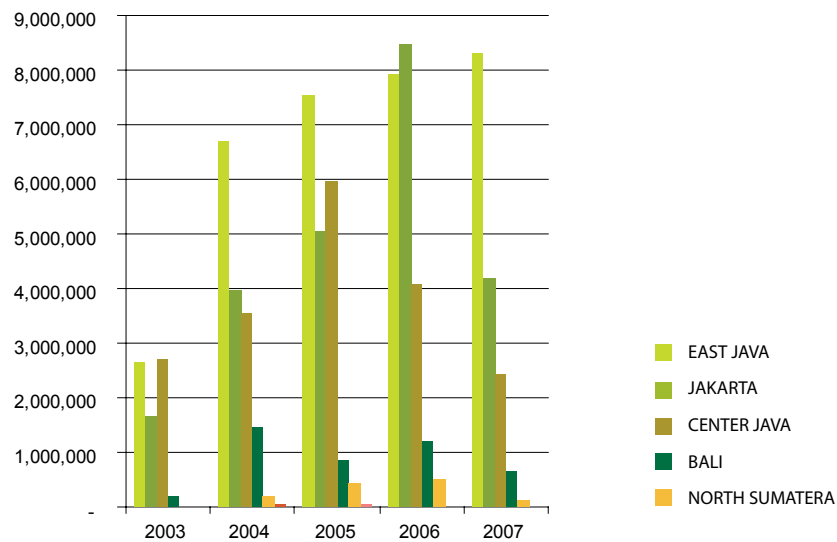
Exports by Province

Displayed below are statistics on major basketware exporting provinces in Indonesia for the period of 2003-2007 (sorted by 2007's values):

BASKETWORK AND THE LIKE OF OTHER VEGETABLE MATERIALS

HS 460210900

in US \$

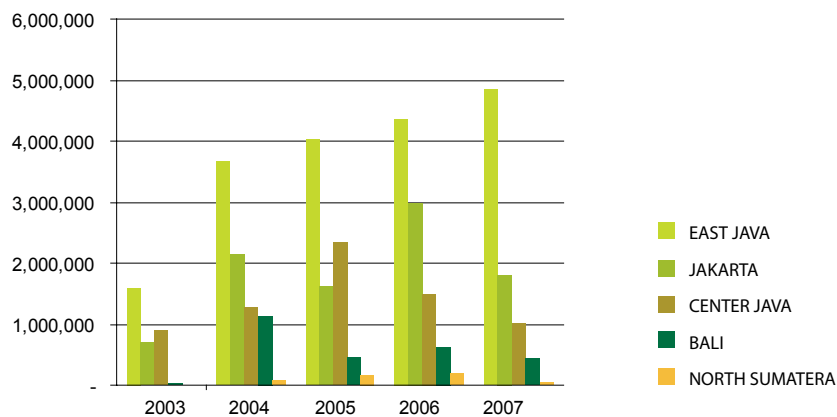


Source : TREDA, Ministry of Trade

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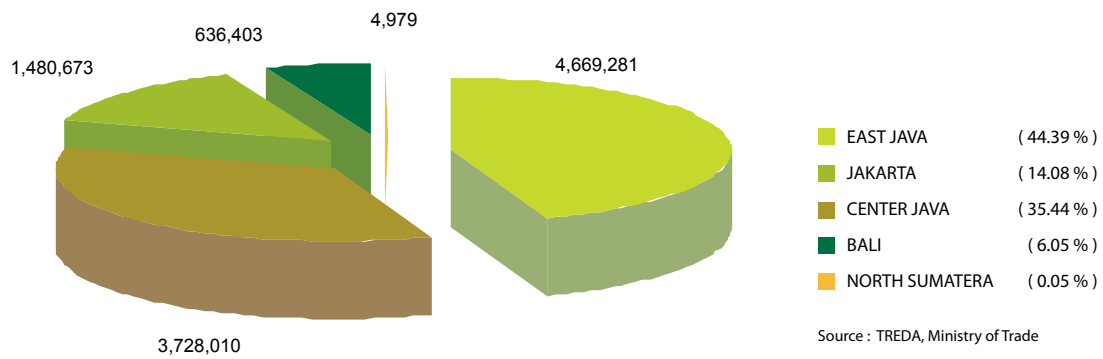


Source : TREDA, Ministry of Trade

OTHER BASKETWORK OR WICKERWORK 2007

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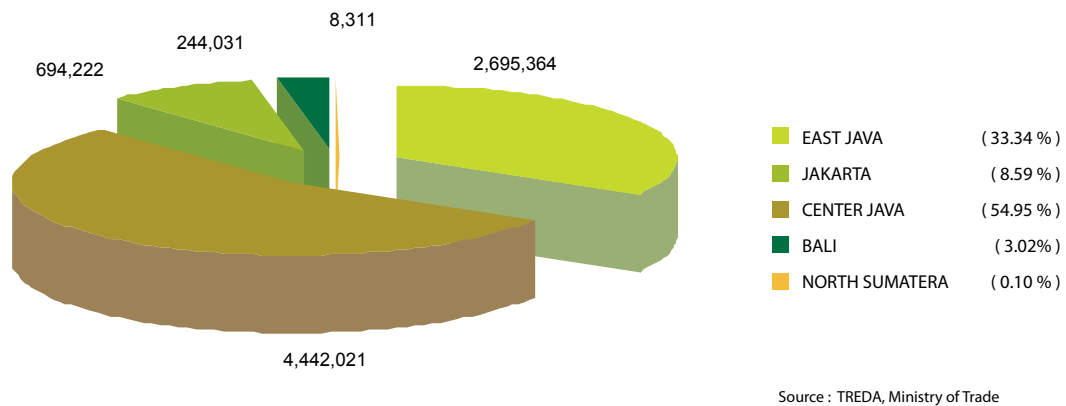
in US \$



OTHER BASKETWORK OR WICKERWORK 2007

HS 460290000

in Kg



Basketware Industry

Competitive Advantage of Indonesian Basketware

In a world that demands highly creative, unique, and increasingly green products, Indonesian basketware products can be counted on to present a formidable array of choices to the world market. With a wide variety of natural fibers locally available, a rich tradition of handicraft-making and internationally established reputation, Indonesian handicraft businesses are well positioned in the world stage.

One aspect of the Indonesian handicraft and basketware industry is their creativity. Anyone can easily find basketware articles of every imaginable types, sizes, designs, uses and materials. These designs are updated regularly to keep up with demands. Creativity has become the defining competitive edge for Indonesian products in order to survive in the world market.

In order to survive in the world market and to continue to attract buyers, basketware makers, not just in Indonesia but everywhere, must rely on creativity. Creativity covers not just the designs but also marketing of products. If there is a weakness in Indonesian basketware industry, it is in the area of marketing. Since most of Indonesian basketware makers are small to medium-sized businesses, they typically have rather limited access to marketing channels. Most producers simply supply their products to larger basketware or handicraft makers or put their products on display locally. This leads to little potential buyers, of course. However, some small scale basketware producers and some resellers have begun putting their products on the Internet to reach a larger audience.

At the moment, very few of these basketware makers put their products up on the Internet because very few of them have the knowledge and understanding of this new marketing medium. This in turn is taken as an opportunity by others. Some of the “producers” putting up Indonesian basketware products on the Internet are really resellers. Resellers travel to Indonesian basketware centers and pick out products they think might appeal to foreign buyers, purchase them, and then put them up for sale on the web. This is a wasted opportunity for the real basketware makers.

Government Support

The Indonesian Government is highly supportive of Indonesian basketware industry. The central government, for example, organizes trade exhibitions showcasing Indonesian basketware and other products. Some of these government-sponsored annual trade shows are INACRAFT (Indonesian Craft Exhibition), TEI (Trade Expo Indonesia) and ICRA (The Indonesian Interior & Craft Exhibition). National Agency for Export Development (NAFED), a unit of Ministry of Trade, is the organizer of Trade Expo Indonesia in Jakarta, the largest export-oriented exhibition in Indonesia. In addition, NAFED and other government agencies regularly lead trade missions overseas, bringing many entrepreneurs and industrialists to attend world-class exhibitions, and also directs visiting dignitaries and foreign businessmen to qualified Indonesian companies. Online exhibition of Indonesian producers is available at NAFED's virtual exhibition website at <http://www.nafedve.com>.

Assistance goes beyond marketing and promotion. Local government also fosters the development of small-medium sized handicraft enterprises by providing guidance and technical and basic business management trainings. Inside the Ministry of Trade, a unit of NAFED called Indonesian Export Training Center (IETC) provides trainings for would-be exporters.

Government designed Plans for the Development of the Basketware Creative Industry which set priorities of government policies and commit resources to support the business communities. Among the priorities are development of cultural-heritage-based handicraft products—including basketware—and the emphasis on the use of eco-friendly materials and the application of eco-labeling, as well as ensuring that the supply of those materials (wood, rattan, metal, pandan, etc.) is reliable. Central and local governments cooperate with universities, practitioners, and community organizations to implement a one-village-one-product (OVOP) in order to empower small-and-medium businesses and create focus and specializations. Those government agencies also try to improve production by human resources development and equipment modernization. On the demand side, government assistance is arranged through the use of Internet as an affordable, and yet effective marketing medium, to reach untapped market overseas. Another important strategy is the partnerships between producers of basketware and other sectors, most notably tourism industry.

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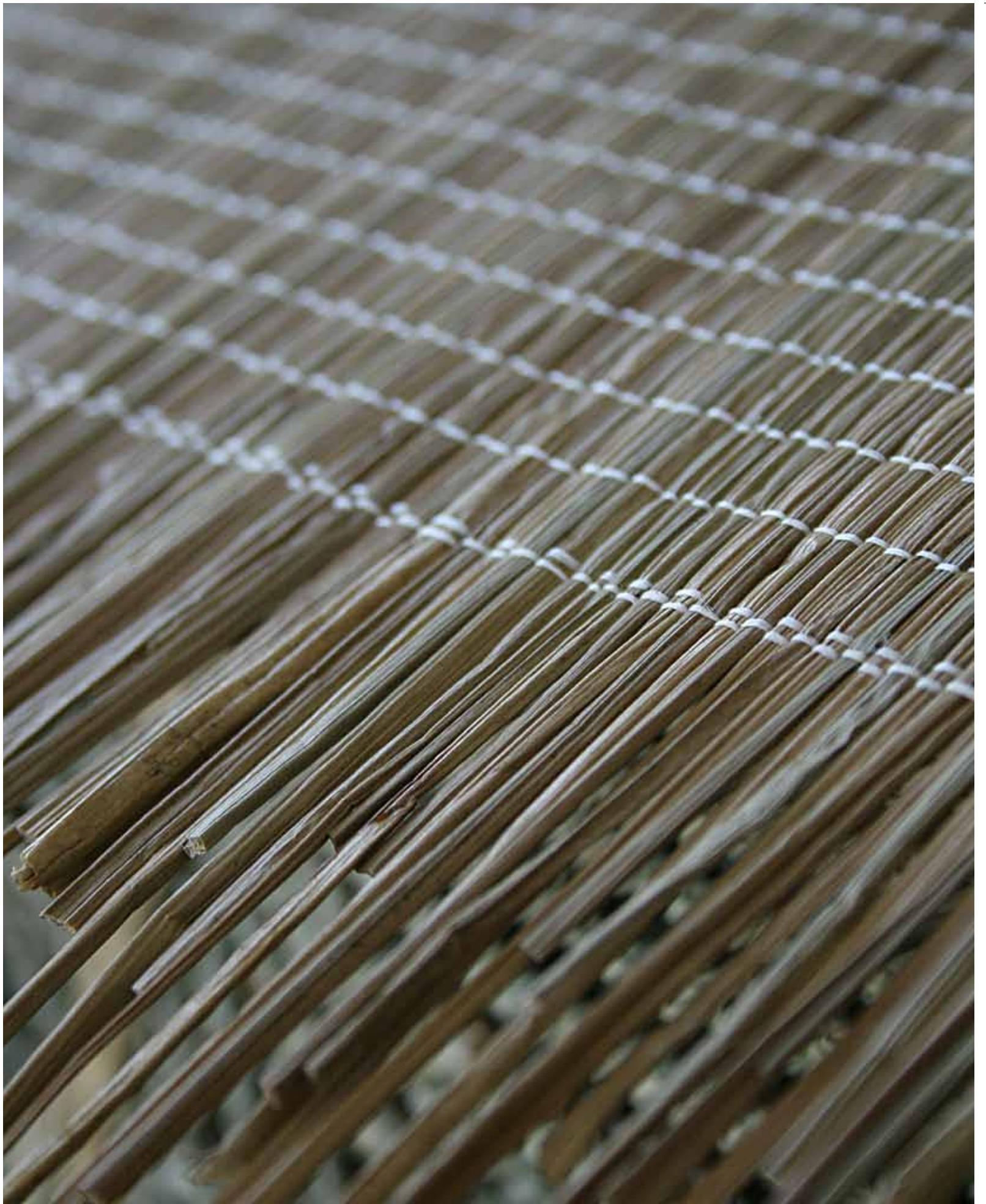
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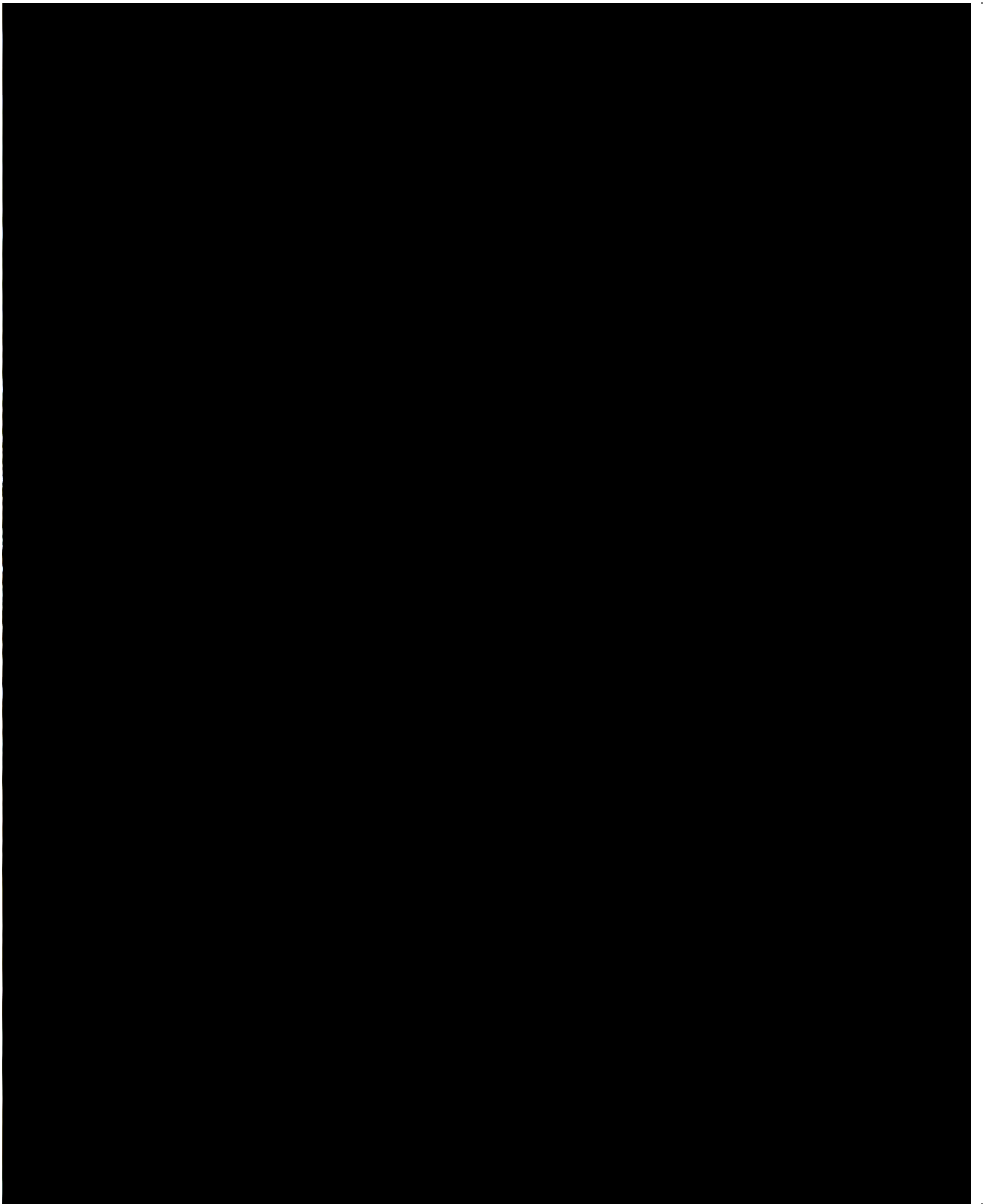
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