UNESCO Helps Restore Borobudur

Organization of Education, Science, and Culture of the United Nations or UNESCO ready to support and facilitate the Government of Indonesia, in this case the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, in rehabilitating the Borobudur temple complex.

UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Director Hubert Gijzen expresses this in a press conference at the event Wisdom 2010 Yogyakarta, on Monday (6/12/2010). Gijzen stated that the eruption of Mount Merapi has provided a profound effect on one of mainstay attractions such Yogyakarta. The effect, further Gijzen, are felt in the tourism sector income and also in other sectors. “The main concern of UNESCO is the restoration of Borobudur temple,” he said.

However, ash that blanketed the temple is not as easy as cleaning the dust. It is more difficult because volcanic ash can damage the stone. Not to mention if exposed to water, says Gijzen, dust will become increasingly dense and difficult to clean. Plus, the ash also went into the drainage system of Borobudur Temple.

UNESCO and Kembudpar Parties and experts will visit Borobudur Temple, on Wednesday (12/08/2010), to determine the extent of rehabilitation that must be done. “We must see not just the Borobudur monument. We must think about the people who depend on this temple,” he said.

Gijzen asking for the public role of Borobudur temple survived with preserved continue to the next generations so that the community needs to be understanding of the importance to maintain this historic site. “Borobudur is the world’s largest Buddhist monument in the middle of the largest Muslim community,” said Gijzen.

Meanwhile, responding to a statement Gijzen, Head of Tourism Department of Yogyakarta Special Region Tazbir, to Kompas.com, said that residents will continue to maintain Yogyakarta Borobudur regardless of religion. Many people helped clean the Temple of Borobudur is not limited to any particular religion. “Because of this Borobudur Temple is our heritage,” said Tazbir.

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