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Yogyakarta and its surroundings as geotourism destination: alternative media to transfer sciences and geological information to the society

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Yogyakarta geographically lies in the center of southern Java, a region where a lot of rare and magnificent geological phenomena can be found. In the north of Yogyakarta, there is mount Merapi with its amazing "Nue ardante" and other mount Merapi's can be seen. The remains of the ancient Borobudur lake can be seen near by the rivers of Progo, Elo and near mountain range Menoreh. In the south and east of Yogyakarta, there is a long south beach with its sand dunes, sand knoll and undersea volcano sediment and other "wonders" such as under water stream, dolena, uvala and polje. Karst caves are also present, such as Seropan cave, Sumuluh cave and Cerme cave, with very interesting geological phenomena.

The oldest geological site in Java can be found at Bayat and at Sangiran; in the east side of Solo Tertiary to Quaternary sediments with fossils are evident. There are also hominid fossils at Sangiran and Trinil.

Geothermal phenomena can be found on the Dieng plateau with their beautiful environments such as Dieng Colourful lakes, Sileri and Sikidang craters. There is a Geological Laboratory at Karang Sambung with a lot of Geological information available.

Besides having a lot of geological phenomena attractions, Yogyakarta and its surrounding is one of the famous and prominent tourist destination in Indonesia and internationally, Yogyakarta is very well known, particularly because of its nearness to Borobudur temple and some world –renowned sites of interests. The travellers visiting Yogyakarta are various. There are overseas tourists, domestic tourists such as students, scholars and others.

Tourism is a good medium to introduce geology especially to students and others. To augment places of interests, cultural attractions with geological qualities is consciously needed so that it would become another alternative for an interesting tourist destination where geology can be introduced as an added attraction. For special interest tourists and scholars, Yogyakarta and its surroundings is interesting and good enough to be a site of geological study.

The idea to promote part of Gunung Kidul and part of Sleman district, Yogyakarta Special Region as a "Geological Park" is recommendable due to the varied places of interest, including its geological sites.

