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**Gunem Catur in the Sunda region of West Java :
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and practice within the Arisan in Lembang, Indonesia**
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PROPOSITIONS

Gunem Catur in the Sunda Region of West Java: Indigenous Communication on
MAC Plant Knowledge and Practice within the *Arisan* in Lembang, Indonesia
by

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- 1 *Gunem catur* as an important expression of informal group discussion on such matters as food, education, health and disease, including Medicinal, Aromatic and Cosmetic (MAC) plant knowledge and practice, should be further promoted and encouraged as a vital instrument for sustainable community development '*from the grassroots*' (*this thesis*).
- 2 Current research in health communication focusing its attention largely on the outcome of communication intervention programmes for behavioural change for better health tends to overlook the significance of the study of the process of communication itself in terms of actors, different types of communication behaviour, their characteristics and their uses (*this thesis*).
- 3 Indigenous communication as an important aspect of local culture should be documented, analysed and integrated into the configuration of global and local systems of knowledge and technology, including the media, schools, organizations, extension services and bureaucracies (*this thesis*).
- 4 The emphasis in many indigenous cultures on the local peoples' obligation to protect the Earth and its resources is rooted in their religious respect for the sacredness of all living organisms, rendering conservation first and foremost a religious task (*cf.* Balick & Cox 1996) (*this thesis*).
- 5 The socio-cultural role of ROSCA's (Rotating Savings and Credit Associations) such as *arisan* in Indonesia in terms of their members' social activities of mutual aid for health, education and community development is overshadowed by the scientific interest in the economic dimension of fundraising within these local associations.
- 6 The spread of the concept of IKS as: '*specific systems of knowledge and practice, developed and accumulated over generations ... and as such unique to a specific culture or region*' among various academic disciplines has also pertained to the appropriate theoretical approach in communication science of local *versus* global exchange of knowledge, information and technology (*cf.* Slikkerveer 1995).
- 7 The study of indigenous philosophies of nature and the environment from an *emic* point of view is important as it forms the basis for local peoples' use and conservation of natural resources, including MAC plants for health promotion, illness prevention and the treatment of illness.
- 8 The innovative approach of *Integrated Microfinance Management* (IMM) to develop 'grassroots' institutions and associations including *arisan* with a view to build not only an inclusive financial sector, but also extend integrated services for finance, education, and health at the community level will provide a major contribution to poverty reduction in Indonesia (*cf.* Slikkerveer 2007).
9. The current public debate on organic food production is more focused on the financial aspects of the products than on their health-enhancing properties.
- 10 The construction of open public shelters at bus stops should pay more attention to the sometimes severe weather conditions than to fashionable advertising opportunities

