



Greening the Hajj Indonesia

The Hajj – one of the five pillars of Islam – is the biggest annual pilgrimage in the world. Muslims have been doing a pilgrimage for Hajj from their countries to Makkah, Saudi Arabia, at least once in their life, which becomes an important part of being a devout Muslim and having a profoundly important individual experience. In 2010, there were 2.5 million pilgrims attended the Hajj. Yet, as the world gets richer, numbers of people who going to Makkah are increasing almost every year, and making the desert ecosystem is under pressure. However, such massive human activity inevitably has an impact on the environment with over 100 million plastic bottles as well as many tons of other rubbish left behind every year after the pilgrimage.

The Hajj has an enormous environmental footprint. During Hajj, huge quantities of wastes are generated which needs to be appropriately collected, handled and managed. Other impacts were water use and wastewater generation and treatment, vehicles which causing terrible air pollution and damaging the health of the pilgrims, littering which causing choking of public infrastructures, plastic bottles, used diapers, food packaging, etc. All of those impacts are an eyesore. Some actions have been made in order to increase environmental awareness and reduce the impact of it to the planet earth such as campaign on the Greening the Hajj. This important pilgrimage is also a strong opportunity for people from all over the Islamic world to learn how important the environmental message is to Islam, and remember their own responsibility and choices.

A guide book on Green Guide for Hajj has been published in 2012 and translated to Arabic, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, Hausa, etc. This book version also translated into Green Hajj Applications which still under development. In 2013, Indonesian Green Hajj Facebook page was launched to further spread the influence of the book in Indonesia which sends more pilgrims to the Hajj than any other Muslim country. In 2014, Indonesia sent 168,800 Indonesian pilgrims to Makkah. The Center for Islamic Studies, Universitas Nasional together with Hajj & Umra travel agents and Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) have been trying to increase awareness of the important in green lifestyle during and after the pilgrimage. The actions conducted a touring road show with an exhibition on Greening the Hajj to explain the steps how the pilgrims can take toward greening their pilgrimage which start from minimizing the use of plastics to planting trees.

The first road show, started in North Sumatra in early September 2013, was shown to pilgrims and Hajj and Umra travel agents during the Hajj season departure. In Jakarta, it was shown to over 5,000 Hajj participants before they left for Makkah. In October, it moved to Majelis Zikr Azzikra in Bogor where 10,000 people saw the exhibition in a 24-hour period.



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Azzikra Travel has been a Pilot model for the Green Hajj and Umra Travel and has begun to send thousands of umra participant with the understanding as a green umra and hajj started in 2014. Together with the Centre for Islamic Studies (PPI) Universitas Nasional, Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) and professional partner we start to develop Green Hajj Apps, that can guide the hajj and umra participants in their green lifestyle as well accommodating their contribution to act for conservation of nature such as planting trees and reduction of their carbon footprint.

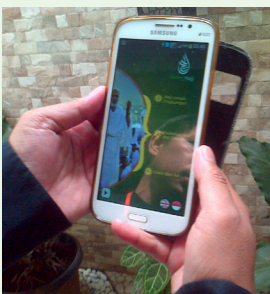
GREENING THE HAJJ WHAT CAN YOU DO:

Following aspects will help the pilgrims in making their Hajj greener and help in conservation of resources:

- Green purchasing, buy what is required and only environmentally–friendly products
- Using minimum quantity of water for ablution, bath and personal use. Opening water gadgets and tap to allow limited flow. Washing clothes with minimum water.
- Reporting any water leakages to the Authority.
- Re-filling and reusing water bottles.
- Buying food only what you can eat, surplus food should be avoided.
- Avoiding food packaging.
- Avoiding disposable cutlery, plates, glasses etc.
- Avoiding littering, collecting all waste and disposing it at designated locations.
- Avoiding using plastic shopping bags.
- Moving and using group transport facilities.
- Minimize electricity usage.
- Avoiding let lights on in empty rooms.
- Switching off the chargers, once used.
- Purchase energy efficient appliances, if required.
- Avoiding use electrical appliances on standby.



WHY HAJJ PLANTING TREES?



- Planting trees is a way of the carbon offsetting and reduce your carbon footprint
- Carbon emission is increasing as impact of pilgrimage.
- Planting trees are more easy and cheaper than technology for sustainable energy.
- Emission per individual is 2.83 metric ton.
- 1 hectare can sink carbon as much as 150 metric ton.
- If there are 230.000 pilgrims, it equals with 650.900 metric ton of carbon produced.
- In one year, the pilgrims should plant 4.340 hectares forest or 1 hectare per 50 pilgrims.

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