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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT PELABUHAN RATU SITE AND CILETUH SITE, SUKABUMI, WEST JAVA: REVEALING THE POSSIBILITY OF MARITIME CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND THE GOLDEN PATH ON PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Ali Akbar  
*Universitas Indonesia*, ali.akbar@ui.ac.id

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## Cover Page Footnote

The author expresses his gratitude to many parties, including: Admiral Ade Supandi the Chief of the Indonesian Navy, researchers in the Indonesian Archaeological Society, Mr. Taqyuddin, Mr. Wahyu Sugianto, Mr. Juniawan Dahlan, Mr. Yoki Rendra Priyantoko, Mr. Akhmad Riyadi; Mr. Ivan, Mr. Agus Miyarso, other parties including residents of Onclang Village and Mr. Ade and Mr. Sunarya in Panenjoan. Hopefully the citizens can help preserve the site through community participation programs. Hopefully further research can reveal the past culture that can increase the interest of today's society to visit Pelabuhan Ratu and Ciletuh.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT PELABUHAN RATU SITE AND  
CILETUH SITE, SUKABUMI, WEST JAVA:  
REVEALING THE POSSIBILITY OF MARITIME CULTURAL  
LANDSCAPE AND THE GOLDEN PATH ON PREHISTORIC PERIOD**

Ali Akbar

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia  
[ali.akbar@ui.edu](mailto:ali.akbar@ui.edu)

**ABSTRACT**

Research on Prehistoric Era, especially megalithic culture, has been conducted many times in Indonesia. Generally, the results of the study show that megalithic culture produces structures and buildings of large stones. These remains are often found in mountains or hills. However, the results of the research that the author did in Sukabumi, West Java show different outcome. The author conducted a survey at Pelabuhan Ratu Site and Ciletuh Site. These two sites can be said as newly discovered sites. The method used was an archaeological survey by visiting the site and carefully observing the structure and megalithic buildings on both sites. The results of the study found statues and stepped pyramid in the coastal area. The two sites are located near the sea, so it is more appropriate if we consider that the community developed maritime cultural landscape. Then, the two sites are close to the source of gold. The factor of proximity to valuable mineral resources seems to be a consideration of this site selection. Easy access to interact with the community from other sites, even from other islands, may also be a consideration of location selection.

**KEYWORDS:** prehistory, megalithic, maritime, gold, archaeology

**INTRODUCTION**

Archaeological research on Prehistoric Era especially megalithic culture has been carried out many times in various regions in Indonesia. Generally, the results of the study show that megalithic culture produces structures and buildings of large stones. One form of megalithic inheritance is stepped pyramid (*punden berundak*), a building that was made by stacking rocks in stages which are generally getting smaller. Megalithic culture has significant relationship with religion or ritual activities (Soejono, 1984: 205). Ritual activities generally take special places, especially those relating to landscapes, such as caves, trees, springs, or mountain peaks (Prasetyo, 1995: 18). Meanwhile, some megalithic sites found in Indonesia are generally located in highlands that are oriented to certain mountains or hills, such as Pageralam in South Sumatera (Hoop, 1932), Pasemah in South Sumatera (Triwurjani, 2018), Lebak Sipedug in Banten (Soejono, 1984), Gunung Padang in West Java (Akbar, 2013), and Batu Naga in West Java (Akbar, 2017). Quaritch Wales, as quoted by Prasetyo, stated that the mountain is a mystery environment where activities of supernatural forces are detected (Prasetyo, 1995: 11).

According to Soejono, stepped pyramid is a megalithic structure that is popular in Indonesia (Soejono, 1982). Megalithic originating from the word "mega" means large or big and "lithos" means stone is based on the belief that there is a connection between humans who live and who have died. Humans or people who are still alive make structures or buildings of large stones to be able to communicate, for example in the form of worship to the dead. The tradition of making megalithic buildings began in the prehistoric period; there were also those that were developed during the historical period or when letters were first known (Soejono, 1984: 205). Thus, megalithic culture has a basic concept of the existence of a relationship between the Creator or the Living and human, the ones who will die. Humans who died in the natural world will return to live again in another world and interact with the Living. During his life, humans also interact with the Living by making buildings or structures made of large stones as a medium of interaction.

Based on research at the Gunung Padang Site in Cianjur, West Java, the stones used to compose the megalithic site are columnar joints (Akbar, 2013). The columnar joint is not found at Gunung Padang Site, but it is located around the site. Based on the results of the Artifact Track (*Lacak Artefak*) activity carried out by the Indonesian Archaeological Society (*Masyarakat Arkeologi Indonesia*), it is known that Gunung Padang Site is not independent but surrounded by other sites and some of them are located at the southern Gunung Padang Site (Akbar, 2013). However, it is not certain where the prehistoric sites are. People in prehistoric time had their cognitive geography or have their own landscape (Bewley, 2013: 12). Therefore, it is considered important to conduct research in the southern Gunung Padang Site to find other prehistoric sites.

Based on these indications, further research was made by exploring the possibility of archeology around the Gunung Padang Site using two strategies. The first strategy is to explore the possibility of an archaeological site by directly going to the South Coast or Samudera Hindia assuming the needs of the prehistoric people for food in the form of seafood and the needs to interact with outside parties on the coast. The second strategy is going along Cimandiri River heading to the estuary which is Pelabuhan Ratu in Sukabumi, assuming that the community needed clean water for various purposes such as drinking and agriculture and they needed to interact with outsiders on the coast.

In addition, the author actively monitored mass media and social media which sometimes contain initial information about a discovery found by the community. It should be recognized that the majority of archaeological remains in Indonesia are carried out by the community through unintentional processes, for example land surfaces exposed due to floods and earthquakes, farmers hoeing in their fields, fishermen catching fish while accidentally got ceramics, or tourists accidentally discovered a unique phenomenon which, after being investigated by archaeologists, turned out to be an archaeological remains.

The author uses archaeological methods in the form of explorations and surveys (Sharer and Ashmore, 2003). In addition, the author also added an interview to the local community. Scoping is carried out to see various possible locations and parties to be contacted, while the survey is conducted by observing the surface of the land (Pusat Penelitian dan Pengembangan Arkeologi Nasional, 2008). The survey team is comprised not only of archeologists but also geographers, observers of the natural environment, and

photographers. The survey is carried out by slowly tracing the land with random techniques or going along the land filled with trees and large rocks. This technique was chosen because the landforms tend to be irregular, and the survey personnels are limited it was an initial survey. Photos and videos documentation was done using drone and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR). The initial identification of the findings is mainly carried out by observing the shape of the findings. Age analysis is done using relative dating. Relative dating, among others, is done by comparing the findings. Furthermore, the initial interpretation is carried out to provide an overview of the findings so that further research can be carried out more deeply.

## **RESULTS OF SURVEY IN PELABUHAN RATU**

Based on the results of the reconnaissance on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015, it turns out there is a columnar joint on the beach at Samudra Beach Hotel in Pelabuhan Ratu, Sukabumi. In addition, there is a cliff of Samudra Beach Hotel that leads to the highway. Based on an assessment across the highway which is on a hill called Gunung Tangkil, there are stairs that indicate indications of ancient stairs arranged from columnar joint rocks.

Based on the assessment, a land surface survey was conducted on June 14, 2015. Previously, a research permit was arranged for the West Java Center for Natural Resources Conservation (*Balai Besar Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam*) considering that Gunung Tangkil is a Nature Reservation Area. The survey team invited local residents named Ivan (40 years) to get an initial picture of the local situation and conditions, especially for the past 30 years. The survey team was also accompanied by the Head of Resort of Sukabumi Nature Reservation Area, Mr. Agus Miyarso who had served in the survey location since 1986. The survey conducted in the west of the Samudra Beach Hotel found rocks with a shape like a small hill composed of rocks which look like splitting up. The rock is called Batu Karut by the local community. Based on the results of the survey, the stone can be called a columnar joint.

According to Dr. Andri Subandrio, geologist from Bandung Institute of Technology as published in Akbar (2013), columnar joints are structures made of freezing lava or very shallow intrusion. Therefore, the columnar joints are always associated with volcanic eruptions. When it freezes, it suddenly causes contractions and produces a prismatic column or pole structure with cross sections that can be 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7. The position of the set can be upright, tilted, even collapsed, but the set is very tight.

Columnar joints found on the shore are 4 and 5 facets. The position of the set is tilted to the north. This columnar joint set in some parts is still quite tightly assembled, but most have collapsed. This condition may be due to its location which is right on the edge of the beach so it has been very long exposed to direct sun, rain, and waves. This columnar joint set based on the initial survey is a natural formation, or there has been no human intervention both in terms of moving and changing its shape.

Columnar joint in a natural formation on the beach



*(Photograph by the author, 2015)*

Behind or the southern part of the Samudra Beach Hotel are hills or cliffs filled with trees and many wild monkeys. Based on the results of the survey, it turns out that there are quite a number of columnar joint sets in an upright position or as if they are stuck perpendicular to the ground surface. This columnar joint set based on the initial survey is a natural formation. In the northern part of the cliff near the highway, there are two tombs. Based on the tomb building material which is made of cement and its inscriptions that use Latin letters in Indonesian, the tombs have been recently created. Based on the narrative of local resident, namely Ivan, the tombs did not exist in the place 10 years ago.

In the north of the cliff, there is a highway that connects Sukabumi Regency, West Java and Lebak Banten Regency. In the north of the highway, there is a hill called Gunung Tangkil. This Gunung Tangkil field is a Nature Reservation area. In the front which is like an entrance, there are arrangements of stone stairs which, according to Ivan, are new arrangements made about 5 years ago. During the survey, walking to the north around 50 meters, there was found an arrangement of stairs made of stone. Based on observations, the arrangement of the stone stairs is an arrangement of old stairs or ancient stairs. This was reinforced by the narrative of Mr. Agus and Mr. Ivan who stated that the stone structure had already existed when Bapak Agus first served there. Mr. Ivan also mentioned that since his childhood the structure of the stone already existed. Based on the narrative of his parents, it had existed since for a long time, but they are not certain when it was created. The arrangement of the ancient stairs tends to be straight and leads to the top of the hill. With the arrangement of stone steps like that, people who want to climb upwards feel like following a multi-tiered path to get to a higher place.

The arrangement of ancient stairs made of columnar joint



(Photograph by the author, 2015)

At the top of the hill, at the end of the arrangement of stone steps, there are stone structures like terraced terraces or terraces of which arrangement are getting smaller to the top. The terrace or steps are 3 (three). On the top of the hill, there is a white tiled floor and in the centre there is no ceramic but the ground filled with round stones at the size of a hand. In the east, there are remnants of building foundations made of brick and cement. The tile floor and the rest of the building according to Mr. Agus did not exist when in 1986 he first served in this place. According to Mr. Ivan, the place was trusted by the local community as a place of meditation for Bung Karno, as the first President of the Republic of Indonesia or famously known as Ir. Soekarno. Still according to Mr. Ivan, about the last 10 years, this place was used by various parties to seek *pesugihan* (seek wealth and blessing).

One of the terraces on *punden berundak*



(Photograph by the author, 2015)

At the top which is called the Bung Karno meditation has a unique topographic form. In general, from the highway to the hill which is located at north of the highway, the land is getting higher and higher. However, specifically for this retreat - after climbing up to the peak - it is lower or there is a kind of valley that surrounds. With this form of height and slope, this ascetic place can be called a small hill. If the eye view is directed to the north, after the valley, there is a higher hill filled with thick trees. If the eyes are directed to the east and west, there is a valley filled with trees. If the eye view is directed to the south, then you can see Samudra Beach Hotel and the sea beside the hotel.

While going down the arrangement of stone steps and then heading west, there are other stone steps. This arrangement leads to a higher north compared to the first hill which is said to be the place of asceticism of Bung Karno. This arrangement of stone steps, when observed, consists of two types of arrangement. At the edges, there are large stone structures arranged like stone steps. Meanwhile in the centre, the arrangement is like a road because of its sloping shape. The arrangement of stone stairs is made from broken columnar joint as seen from the surface of the stone which still looks square. Meanwhile, the road-like arrangement is made of chunks of rock with an irregular shape. According to Mr. Ivan, the arrangement of stones which looks like the road is a new arrangement made about 5 years ago. There are some parties who add chunks of such rock to facilitate mobility that is used for road of motorbike.

During the survey towards the north of the hill, a ladder was found. It had a slightly different shape compared to the arrangement of stairs leading to the ascetic place of Bung Karno. If the stairs to Bung Karno's place of ascension tend to be straight and sloping, then the arrangement of the stone steps leading north is meandering and steep. This arrangement of stairs seems to be deliberately used considering the slope is not sloping. This ladder is made from broken columnar joint stones. It can be seen from the stone surface that tends to be flat and the cross section is generally quadrangular or five. Around the arrangement of stairs there are chunks of rock which based on the initial survey appear to be irregular. In general, the location around the stairs was filled with thick trees and dozens of monkeys hang between the trees.



Chunks of stone arranged like a path



*(Photograph by the author, 2015)*

During the survey, on the ridge, there was a fairly flat land. On the land, there is a bluish-white tile floor. In the centre, there are stone structures arranged like tombstones so that they resemble tombs. According to Mr. Ivan, the arrangement was recently made, which was around 5 years ago. Meanwhile, according to Mr Agus, the tiled floor and the tomb are also new structures. On a fairly flat land there are not too many trees.

The survey continued to the north following the hill ridge. The condition of the ridge is quite gentle and continues to rise to the north. The vegetation is in the form of large, dense trees and many hanging monkeys. There are quite a lot of big stones with irregular shapes, and there is some distance between one stone and another. Going more to the north, we do not find the arrangement of stairs or arrangement of stones made by humans.

Based on the results of the survey there are ancient remains in the form of ancient stairs and terraces. The arrangement of stairs and terraces is made of columnar joint rock fragments. Based on macroscopic studies, namely by eye observation, the columnar joint located on the beach and close to Samudra Beach Hotel has similar shapes and mineral compositions as the columnar joint used to construct stairs and terraces. The initial conclusion that can be conveyed is that there are archaeological findings in the form of stone stairs and terraces which as a whole in the archeological repertoire are called stepped pyramid or building terraces. This study found two stepped pyramids (*punden berundak*) at the survey site.

Stepped pyramids on this hill, in certain parts such as next to the stone steps and on the highest terrace, have been altered by today's society. Meanwhile, the age of stepped pyramid is still unknown given the absence of an absolute dating analysis. Relative date analysis can be done using the theory delivered by Robert von Heine Geldern (1945). According to Robert von Heine Geldern as quoted by Soejono (1984) and Prasetyo and Yuniawati (2004), pyramid or terraced pyramids are a legacy of Old Megaliths from the period around 2500-1500 BC.

Based on the results of the initial survey, it can be concluded that there are remnants of the past community that might have taken the raw material in the form of a columnar joint from the beach to make a stepped pyramid with terraces on the hill north of the coast. The entire location can be referred to as an archaeological site which in this study can be called the Pelabuhan Ratu Site.

## **RESULTS OF SURVEY IN CILETUH**

Around the beginning of June 2016, residents of Onclang Village, Girimukti Village, Ciemas Subdistrict, Sukabumi, West Java, reported the discovery of unique pieces like pawns or chess pieces in their location. Furthermore, Sukabumi Regency Sports Youth Cultural Tourism Office secured the area so that it was not damaged and could be further investigated. Some photos of the discovery were then conveyed by the head of the office, Mr. Akhmad Riyadi to the author. Based on these photographs it can be ensured that these unique stones are ancient remains or artifacts or man-made.

At first, the author assumed that the stones were remains of the Historical Period, especially the Hindu and Buddhist periods or even younger, the Islamic period. The period of history in Indonesia in general began around the 5th century AD with the use of Pallawa letters on a number of inscriptions in Indonesia, one of which was in the Kingdom of Tarumanegara in West Java. However, identification through the photo needs to be verified through a field survey because the photo has a number of limitations.

The survey was conducted on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. To get to the location, from the City of Sukabumi, we went to Simpenan then Waluran then headed to Ciletuh which has now been designated as the National Geopark. The road to Ciletuh is a paved road that is in very good condition, so it is easy to use four-wheeled vehicles or two wheels. After arriving in Panenjoan, Taman Jaya, which is now a tourist spot to see the sights of Ciletuh, the author decided to change vehicles using motorbikes driven by local residents. Based on information from Mr. Ade, who is also one of the managers of tourist attractions, the road to Kampung Onclang is quite difficult to pass with ordinary cars, and there are no public transportation. The distance traveled from Panenjoan to Onclang Village is about 20 kilometers, most of which are rocky, unpaved roads, uphill and downhill, sometimes winding, making it difficult to reach. However, after arriving in Kampung Onclang, it turned out that the location of the discovery of strange rocks was on the ridge of the hill and only about 20 meters from the rocky road.

Based on a brief interview with several local residents, there are myths related to the discovery of these strange stones. One night, a carpenter dreamed and heard a loud voice.

Then, the next day he walked to a plot of land and found that strange stones were strewn on the ground. This event was then told to other residents. When the carpenter returned to the location, it turned out that the strange stones were not found anymore. The next day, the strange stones in question could finally be recovered.

Residents also said that around the location of the discovery of strange stones, it used to be land owned by Mr Blewer (it was more or less what the residents said). Mr. Blewer was a Dutch plantation owner who also built a building or some kind of building around 1884. Mr. Blewer often rode to his land using a large horse. That is the oldest memory of the local people regarding the activities that have occurred in the past at that location. Despite not knowing the connection, some residents say whether these strange stones are the legacy of Mr. Blewer. Some residents claimed that they still kept Mr. Blewer's remains like machetes and horseshoes or horseshoes.

The discovery of events according to citizens may be understood by the author as follows. The location of unique stones is in the hills where once in the past was buried by the land. A few weeks ago, there was a landslide which resulted in the strange rocks being exposed at the surface. Based on the narrative of Ade Mulyono, local resident, to online media, they were indeed discoveries caused by landslides that occurred in that location. During the review, the author did not meet Ade Mulyono (37 years old), but met Dedi Nuryadi (about 55 years old) who confirmed the occurrence of the landslide. After a landslide, strange rocks were revealed and seen by local residents, but there appeared to be a landslide again so the rocks moved. Whatever the case, surely the stretch of unique shaped stones can now be witnessed on the ground. The stones are similar to the shape of a pawn or chess piece. Some are still hidden on the hillside, and some are in a sloping position, and some are still standing upright.

Based on surveys and brief observations, a brief description can be made as follows. The stones used are stones which are most likely not from the ridge and hillside. On the ridge of the hill, there are no natural stones. Landslides on the hillside have resulted in part of the soil being exposed, and no natural stones in the soil can be seen. Some unique stones are clearly man-made because some stones look quite symmetrical between one side and the other, some have rectangular shapes, some are round, and some have a variety of shapes that cannot be done by natural events.

Landslide causes most unique stones to be revealed, most are still buried



*(Photograph by the author, 2016)*

It should be emphasized that not all stones can be identified as man-made or natural. On the slopes and top of the hill, there are no rock sources. The placement of the stones on the hillside which does not have the source of the stones shows the existence of human intervention or cultural processes to lay and arrange it in such a way on the hillside. This new site based on location can be referred to as Ciemas Sites or Ciletuh Sites, and based on the form of their findings can be referred to as Batu Bidak Site or Chess Pieces Site.

There are more than 100 stones which part of the surface is still buried in the ground. Unique stone sizes vary between 20-100 centimeters. Although they have different shapes and sizes, but based on the initial analysis, there are at least 3 basic or type shapes.

1. Type 1. This type is to facilitate a description called the Chess Piece Type because it is similar to a chess piece which consists of three parts namely bottom, middle and top that are identical to the legs, body, and head. The lower part is larger than the top, or the size gets smaller to the top. Another variation is that the centre is larger than the bottom, but the bottom is larger than the top. However, unlike the case with chess pieces, some unique stones have four parts because there is one more part underneath. So, the unique stone has four parts namely the bottom, the bottom, the middle, the top. Based on the difference in color of the surface of the rock and the remnants of the soil that is still attached to the surface of the rock, the bottom is the part to plug the rock into the soil. The bottom part makes this unique stone can be upheld or positioned like a tombstone if it is installed on the ground. With this position, then above the ground surface, there will be three parts of rock, namely the bottom, middle and top.

Type 1 at upright position



*(Photograph by the author, 2016)*

2. Type 2. This type is to facilitate the description called Square Board Type because it resembles a board field of which upper and lower parts have relatively equal size. Some unique stones are also formed in such a way that they consist of three parts but have a relatively large width. Some other unique stones have four parts, such as Type 1, the bottom part is functioned as a part of plugging stones into the ground.

Type 2 collapse position



*(Photograph by the author, 2016)*

3. Type 3. This type has various forms but the number is limited. The forms include round, oval, shapes such as poultry bodies and heads, and others. Further research will certainly add to the existing types and produce a more detailed description.

Type 3 has many various shapes



*(Photograph by the author, 2016)*

Unique stones can be temporarily interpreted as follows. Type 1 in the archaeological repertoire is reminiscent of the Venus artifact which generally consists of three parts namely from the bottom up are the legs, body parts, and head parts (Bray and Trump, 1976: 248). Venus is a Roman goddess of fertility and love (Finley, 1977: 33; Wolfson: 2012: 45). Type 1 is also reminiscent of the Mother Goddess concept, which is related to fertility, human beginnings (Finley, 1977: 168), which in Indonesian culture might be like the concept of Mother Earth (*Ibu Pertiwi*).

The number of unique stones in Ciemas Subdistrict is relatively large, while Venus or Mother Goddess are limited in number, for example, only one as a symbol, so the unique stones in Ciemas may be interpreted differently. The stones in Ciemas appear to function more as markers of deceased individuals. One thing that is unique with the findings of the stones in Ciemas, which may not be found in other regions, is that the unique stones in Ciemas seem to be markers of each individual who has died and is made to be able to interact with the Creator.

In short, it can be stated as the initial interpretation, these unique stones function as gravestones for dead human's markers and as a medium of interactions between the death and the Living One. Based on the differences between female and male gravestones which was common in the archeology of Islam, it is possible that unique stones were created to distinguish the sexes. Type 1 can be interpreted temporarily as female, and Type 2 marker can be interpreted as a male marker.

The location of unique rocks located on the southern slope of the hill and in the south is the high seas, namely the southern sea or the Indian Ocean can also be given a temporary

interpretation. It seems that there is a virtual relationship with the concept of maritime culture between ancestors and the sea which is transcendental. Beliefs of the Creator and natural forces such as mountains, sun, and the sea have been known since prehistoric times or when humans did not know letters. In short, the unique stones of the Ciemas Site are from the prehistoric period and are placed in such a way on the hillside as they are lined up facing or oriented to the sea.

Unique stones are located on the slope of hill and Indian Ocean can be seen



*(Photograph by the author, 2016)*

While heading to the location, around the site which is in Pasir Manggu, gold mining is found. Gold mining which is partially owned by the company and partly carried out by the community is about 8 kilometers from the site. Near the site, there is also Ciemas River which might have been named in the past because there was an element of water or river and gold. “Ci” in Sundanese is water or river and “emas” is gold minerals that were shiny yellow. The mine has been operating for several decades. So far, there has not been any gold mining activity during the Dutch colonial period, so perhaps the Dutch occupation at this location only occurred in the 19th century in the form of plantations as found in the oral narratives of local residents.

Ciemas River and its surrounding have contained gold since a long time ago



*(Photograph by the author, 2016)*

Based on the author's research, megalithic sites during the prehistoric period in Banten, Sukabumi and Cianjur, especially in the southern part of Java, are related to the existence of gold resources. Gunung Padang site in Cianjur, for example, is only about 4 kilometers from the Cikondang gold mine. The location around the Lemah Duhur Site and the Sukanagara Site in southern Cianjur are also currently being explored for gold. Sites in the southern part of Sukabumi such as Pelabuhan Ratu Site, Tugu Gede Site and other sites on the border with Banten also have the potential for gold which has been partially mined. The exploration and mining of gold by the people at this time in the location has actually been preceded by prehistoric people or long before the arrival of Europeans to Indonesia. Prehistoric people have had a pretty good ability to identify the golden path and take gold so that it produced prosperity. As an expression of gratitude, the prehistoric people made buildings or structures of large stones as a medium of interaction with the Creator who had provided livelihood and prosperity, as well as the Ruler in the next world.

People today have difficulty reaching locations that are now referred to as prehistoric sites because people access them from north to south. The geographical conditions from north to south are hills that must be traversed uphill and down and winding. Prehistoric people seem to use access from the south or by sea. This is what seems to explain the existence of prehistoric sites that are in height, but it was placed that way so they can see the sea in the south without any obstacles.

## **CONCLUSION**

The discovery at the Pelabuhan Ratu and Ciletuh sites became very important from the point of view of science considering that they had several characteristics that were not found in other megalithic remains in Indonesia. Pelabuhan Ratu site is temporarily the only



site where the source of raw material, namely the columnar joint, is located near or on the site itself. Pelabuhan Ratu site is quite rare because generally megalithic sites are located on mountains or mountains which are quite far from the coast. Megalithic culture is identical to the culture associated with the mountain because there is a belief that ancestors or the death or ancestors reside in the highest place. Meanwhile, Pelabuhan Ratu site is right on the beach where we can easily see the sea. In-depth research at Pelabuhan Ratu site is expected to reconstruct culture related to the sea or maritime culture of Indonesian society in the past.

Then, the unique stones in Ciletuh are ancient remains that have the potential to be further investigated to produce ancient knowledge. The types of findings at the Ciletuh site are unique and have not been found in other areas or in the archeological literature. Therefore, the author recommends that this archaeological site can be given immediate security and intensive research.

In-depth and intensive research in this context is archeological research in the form of surveys, excavations, laboratory analysis, and involves many fields of science or across disciplines. The conclusions above can be changed if in-depth research is conducted. Although the research carried out is still an initial survey, the author tries to make analysis and initial interpretation in order to open up the horizons of possibilities for the next researcher. Next research is also expected to be able to examine the cultural maritime landscape and golden path or golden route or golden road during prehistoric times more deeply.

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