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## Edu - religious tourism based on Islamic architecture approach, a preliminary research in Majasto Cemetery – Sukoharjo Regency Central Java

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### Abstract

Religious tourist activity in Majasto Cemetery (Sukoharjo Regency – Central Java) have no significant increase. The limited and mythical attraction cause this problem. Therefore, this research focus to identify the uniqueness of cemetery Majasto for recommendation the expand of attraction, especially for support the smart people development. After analysis used the descriptive method, derivate 4 recommendation to expand the attraction, that are: (1) History education; (2) Education for shrine or cemetery pilgrimage, both based on the Islamic teaching and the Islamic of Javanese tradition; (3) Javanese and Islamic architecture education; and (4) Green architecture education.

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## 1. Introduction

The cemetery of Majasto is known as a religious tourist place located at the peak of hill at Majasto Village, District of Tawang Sari, and Sukoharjo Regency – Central Java. Religious tourism is a way to gain experience and lessons/ spiritual wisdom (Shihab Q., 2007). As a category of traditional tourism, religious tourism visitors usually do not understand the special message from the central figure or thing has been visited. They are more focused on the hope of blessing (*tabarruk*) without a rational appreciation of the history and culture (Hariyanto, 2008). It so happens in Majasto.

Many pilgrims was visiting the cemetery, especially on tomb of Ki Ageng Majasto (KAM) at several special day. At the night of Tuesday and Friday (*Selasa Kliwon* and *Jum'at Kliwon*), in mid month of *Ruwah/ Sha'ban* month (at *Nyadran* ceremony) or at 1<sup>st</sup> *Suro (Muharram)*. The society give high tribute to the KAM because he is a historical figure in Islamic religion development. Some pilgrimage comes for various purpose. They are coming for the peace of souls, seeking the intercession, protection from disaster, seeking the tranquility of life, facilitated fortune and so forth. Average of pilgrims come in small groups (2-10 people). See figure 1.



Fig. 1. Religious tourism activity in Majasto cemetery

The pilgrimage activity has been formalized become tourism development in Sukoharjo regency. In the Tourism Masterplan (2007) and the Regional Spatial Planning (Regulation No. 14/2011), the hill of Majasto assigned as a Area of Religious Tourism. Although was supported by policy, tourism visit still low, only visited by the elder, community of Javanese or Islamic of Javanese). Tourism in Majasto not well developed. Therefore, need the effort to developing the alternative of tourist attraction. Very important to develop the strategic planning to educate the people through the smart tourism.

## 2. The Research Methods

### 2.1. Descriptive – Explorative

In urban planning and design, the cemetery has several functions: (a) The entrusted place for transformation of the bodies by safe; (b) The visit for people who want to remember the dead, and become a symbol of memory or history; and (c) As an ecological reserve land should be conserved (Uslu, Bari, & Erdo, 2009). On other hand, cemetery is the beginning of the architecture development. If for any reason, the settlement was destroyed and then rebuilt, the grave is often extended as the founder of the new site. The grave became one of the continuity of the landscape and human culture (Colvin1991 in Francis & Worpole, 2003).

Islamic architecture approach can be used to expand the tourism attraction in Cemetery of Majasto. This statement based on previous research, if grave, palace and mosque have many important information about the Islamic architecture (Fanani, 2009). The facts had been collected through observation and in-depth interviews. Qualitative descriptive method was used in analysis.

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