

# How to Make the Most of Rubbish

By Geoffrey Lean



The green economy at work: 400 jobs have been created via the recycling scheme on Bali, which has been extended to Java

**(1)** It's known as the 'Island of the Gods', but it's sinking under a rising sea of rubbish. You see garbage almost everywhere in Bali: on the beaches, dumped by roadsides, clogging rivers and streams and blocking drainage channels. This has got so bad that it is threatening not only people's health, but also that of the economy: two thirds of tourists surveyed said that it would prevent them from coming back. But, still, little is collected, and rubbish tips are overflowing.

**(2)** And yet, on a disused pig farm not far from the main tourist beaches, a rubbish revolution is under way; it is spreading throughout Indonesia, and could have a bearing all over the Third World. I discovered it in between meetings of the world's environment ministers on the island last week. I visited Bali to find out more about how to tackle environmental problems and watch the green economy at work. So I decided to trace what happened to the contents of my hotel room wastepaper basket.

**(3)** Beneath the corrugated iron roof of an open-ended old pig shed – amid hundreds of hungry birds – workers were painstakingly hand-separating paper, plastics, glass, aluminium, food scraps, vegetable matter and other material that can be used again, leaving only the leftovers to go into the island's elementary waste disposal system. Every week, 140 lorryloads of waste arrive. Only 10 leave carrying real rubbish.

**(4)** I was shown the operation by Yuyun Ismawati, who started it 12 years ago, then in her early thirties. An environmental engineer, designing water supply systems for wealthier areas, she decided to switch to working with the poor and picked garbage 'because no one else wanted to touch it'. She found the pig farmer was paying hotels for their waste – five-star food scraps for his animals – and persuaded him that recycling it would be more profitable. Now 25 hotels – including mine – pay him to take their garbage away. Almost all is recycled: food scraps are bought by pig farmers and grass clippings and other vegetation is composted, and mostly returned to the hotels for flowerbeds.

**(5)** This is the green economy in action, providing new employment for those that need it. It is very basic but it succeeds. If you want a hi-tech solution in a developing country, you will wait and wait and wait until you get the money, or big donors to fund it. And even then it may not work.

**(6)** A big blue machine, provided by the local government to process the waste, stands idle in a corner, proving the point. The electricity needed to power it costs too much: human energy is cheaper, and employs more people.

**(7)** The scheme was the first of its kind in Indonesia. Ms Ismawati has since established six more. No wonder she won the world's biggest prize for grassroots green activists, the Goldman Award, last year.

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## Tekst 8

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- 1p 16 Which of the following is said in paragraph 1?  
The present garbage situation in Bali  
A is causing major traffic problems on the island.  
B is putting people's well-being and income at risk.  
C is the result of floods and unforeseen high tides.  
D will improve only if local people take action.
- 1p 17 What becomes clear from paragraph 2?  
A Many tourists do not realise how much garbage they leave behind on the island.  
B Other countries in the region have better ways of disposing of their waste.  
C The local inhabitants are fed up with the present political situation.  
D The writer went to Bali with the purpose of learning more about green issues.
- 1p 18 Which of the following characterises the work described in paragraph 3?  
A It is dirty but challenging.  
B It is inefficient but cheap.  
C It is simple but risky.  
D It is tough but effective.
- 2p 19 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met de inhoud van alinea 4.  
*Omcirkel achter elk nummer 'wel' of 'niet' in de uitwerkbijlage.*  
1 Yuyun Ismawati begon een afvalverwerkingsbedrijf, omdat ze geen ander werk kon vinden.  
2 De boer die eerst betaalde voor afval, krijgt er nu geld voor.  
3 Het project van Yuyun Ismawati is erop gericht om toeristen bewuster te maken van het milieu.  
4 De hotels moeten afval dat niet hergebruikt kan worden, zelf verwerken.
- 1p 20 'proving the point.' (alinea 6)  
Waarnaar verwijst deze uitspraak?  
A 'This is the green economy in action' (alinea 5)  
B 'It is very basic but it succeeds.' (alinea 5)  
C 'And even then it may not work.' (alinea 5)

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.