

JTP engages locals to draw up Indonesian resort masterplan

By Elizabeth Hopkirk

John Thompson & Partners is developing a sustainable masterplan for a 250ha eco-tourism resort on the Indonesian island of Lombok. The authorities want the island to become the region's next major tourist destination and a new airport is being built to bring in up to 1.5 million visitors a year.

But the government is also determined not to repeat the mistakes of other “paradise” destinations, like Bali, which have been damaged by mass tourism.

An international multi-disciplinary team has been brought in, led by Stockholm-based, British-born social entrepreneur John Higson.

The plan is to design and develop a resort in Tanjung Ringgitt, the most easterly part of east Lombok's Pemongkong peninsula, as well as write development codes for the whole 1,500ha area.



Charles Campion consults on the Lombok plans.

JTP is working with German eco-architect Joachim Eble on the codes and the conceptual masterplan for the resort.

The team, which is based on a yacht since there were no suitable local buildings, also includes specialists in sustainability, health, education, and permaculture. It spent early January engaged in a community consultation exercise.

Team members toured the area, met local planners and held a char-

rette with around 100 mostly illiterate fishermen and farmers from the three villages in the area.

“It enabled everyone to articulate what they value, their concerns and aspirations for the future,” said JTP partner Charles Campion.

“I was impressed by how aware the communities were about the issues and opportunities that this eco resort will bring.

“Working in 40°C of heat in an army tent, the charrette process began with a workshop and then moved on to hands-on planning groups to develop design concepts and strategies for the eco-resort and the development of the wider community.”

The aspiration is that the resort — and a soon-to-be-established community fund — will lift the area out of extreme poverty sustainably.

If the equivalent of outline planning is won, construction work could begin this summer.