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education

Design for Sustainability



Alaya Ecolodge
Bali, Indonesia

'Ecovillage Design
Education'

November 2024



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Gaia Education
Ecovillage
Design Education
Programme



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Course Overview

Course Overview:

Brief explanation of the background of the organisation, host site. Diversity of participants and facilitators. Main highlights, key success factors and other relevant information that would describe what happened during the EDE.

A Gaia Education 'Ecovillage Design Education', was held in Bali, Indonesia in November 2024. It was hosted at the Alaya Ecolodge, in Pemuteran town, not far from the Bali Bharat National Park.

The EDE's main course coordinators were Kavitha Urvasie Selavraj & Michael Marco Manger coming from Auroville, where they had originally run regular Gaia EDEs and worked with the Global Ecovillage Network. Now they run the Alaya Ecolodge in Bali and plan to develop projects under the "Conscious Collective" umbrella - including starting bioregional projects such as Aum Eco-market and Aura-Ecovillage.

The team of facilitators included Ketut Sarka from the local area, Sarah Queblatin from the Philippines, Dhanushka Jayanetti from Sri Lanka, and Michael Stevens & Priyamvada Bhatt from Auroville, India. Local experts were also invited to share their knowledge during the program, including Chris Brown, Nono Gilimanuk, Ode Wayan, Tharuna Kadek, Joe Ketut, Femke Monita, and Rósa Björk Halldórsdóttir.

This EDE provided an opportunity to learn from the Alaya Ecolodge model, and also participate in applied design for the future projects of Conscious Collective within the North-West Bali region. The aim of this program was to engage local participants from Bali and Indonesia in the design and follow-up of these projects, while simultaneously engaging international participants to learn from and support the process.

This EDE marked the end of the 1st year of Alaya Ecolodge's reopening post-covid 4 year closure. Thus it played a key role in evaluating the 2024 year and planning for the next 2025 and onward. We plan to conduct an EDE annually in order to continue to engage participants in the design of Alaya Ecolodge and its bioregional projects under the umbrella of "Conscious Collective." We hope that by 2026 we can host Gaia Teacher Trainings as well.



Participants:

Basic stats including numbers of participants, age range, gender ratio, countries, ethnicities and backgrounds.

We had 17 participants in this program, with 16 certified. Out of the total; 11 were Female, and 6 Male. We had 4 Indonesians, 2 from the local area and 2 from other parts of Indonesia. The rest of the nationalities included German, Albanian, Danish, American, British, Australian, Indian and Canadian. The age range varied from early 20s - to those in their early 50s.

The main facilitators came from India, France, SriLanka, Philippines, Netherlands, Belgium and Indonesia. The main facilitator team has had significant background experience conducting not only EDEs, but also having worked extensively with Gaia Education, GEN/OA and having lived in prominent various Ecovillages worldwide. We are happy to share that 10 of the participants have requested to be part of the followup initiatives after the EDE - such as joining the next EDE team, or working together for follow up programs/projects relating to the Conscious Collective umbrella and Alaya Ecolodge.

Course Rhythms:

A description of the times of daily activities, sessions, free time, social time, interaction with hosts, rest; how many hours in lectures & practical sessions, etc.

The program was conducted over 4 weeks, Monday-Fridays, with weekends off. It was a residential program, designed to help participants experience what living in a community feels like - while learning through the Head-Heart-Hands about regenerative project design.

The program included early morning sessions, followed by a breakfast break. Then, we had late morning sessions, followed by a lunch break, and afternoon sessions. We also included a variety of evening sessions. As we provided more sessions than the required number, it was ensured that there was flexibility in attendance according to each one's interests and personal needs.



Highlights & Challenges of Each Dimension

Highlights:

Social - Engaging international & local participants in feeling a sense of community during only 4 weeks.

Ecology - Discovering the unique Subak heritage of Bali and being inspired by how ecological this system of watershed governance functions.

Economy - Identifying key factors for “progressive economy” project design, and exploring sustainable livelihood options relevant to the North-West Bali context.

Worldview - Celebrating that even amongst our differences of opinion, even through conflict (vegan/meat menu), we can emerge to a truer sense of community, and create a beautiful closing celebration together.

Design - Receiving requests from more than half the participants to continue to work with us on followup projects.

Challenges:

Social - Distinguishing between our individual or collective traumas, and how to take personal responsibility, while engaging in collective processes of healing.

Ecology - Shifting from a notion of separation, to an inherent understanding of oneness. Understanding that to heal collapse, one must heal one’s own internal and collective ecosystems.

Economy - How to redefine one’s own relationship to the local and global markets, and create sustainable livelihood that can shift systems in a less intimidating/complex way.

Worldview - Struggling with the concept of “intentional community” embodying postcolonial attributes. How do we truly honour the local culture & wisdom?

Design - Receiving requests from more than half the participants to continue to work with us on followup projects - i.e. ensuring enough seed funding and coordination followup to ensure everyone is included and ensure something will manifest before the next EDE.



Social Dimension

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What subjects were covered?

The Social dimension was facilitated primarily by Sarah Queblatin & Michael Marco, supported by Kavitha Selvaraj. This week was also the week in which we engaged the most of our team as it was the opening week.

The social dimension focused on the theme of 'Air' as a space for opening of the program, where participants got to share about who they were through their "Life Stories" and sharing their "Sacred Objects". The first half of the week they came in as "individuals" and then moved into learning how to work in "pairs."

During the opening day, specific guidelines of Alaya Ecolodge were introduced and community agreements were formed together with the group as well. We also had a walk-about to orient ourselves to the campus, and a presentation to introduce the "Conscious Collective" umbrella, which includes the Alaya Ecolodge project, and two new projects: Aum Ecomarket & Aura Ecovillage.

The week included theory on Governance & Decision Making, Conflict Resolution, Ayurveda as a Team Building Tool, and introductions to Ecovillage Development & Inclusive Ecovillage Development. We also included an Introduction to Nonviolent Communication theory, and Self-Defence class to feel it in our bodies. During this week we also introduced the idea of Bioregionalism - and Water Management Subak briefly - as it would relate to the following weeks of design work.

The social week also introduced and carried on throughout the program "Seva" or "Work as Love in Action" - space for the participants to engage in collective work to take care of the community in which they reside. This includes cleaning, and helping cooking, maintaining gardens and taking care of material and decorating the circle center.

It is also important to note that in order to create "social glue" and a sense of community, it is important to include and acknowledge moments of fun, and moments of "nothing-ness" for spontaneity to emerge. The facilitators included small Ice Breakers, Mindfulness Practices, or Energizers throughout the program, as and when it was felt needed. Some examples of including games or exercises in the group, according to the unique collective need of the moment, include - Dance, Stretches, Diversity Circle, Fish Bowl, Secret Whispers, Crazy Handshake, Collective Stick Lifting, Simon Says, Systems Walk, Animal Family, Pass the Clap, Pass the Energy Ball, Human Knot and many more.



What was unique about this EDE is that we also harvested “Needs & Offerings” in this first week, and adapted the program to include additional optional sessions (offered by the team or participants themselves) to ensure everyone's learning needs were met - and to create a “unconference” feeling to the learning process. We also went on an excursion - a walk through Pemuteran central town to orient the group to the bioregion from the mountain foothills, down to the beach front. Through experts such as Chris Brown we learnt about Pemuteran’s Coral Restoration work, and engaged in a Turtle Release and Snorkeling activity. Later we also learnt from Ode about Pemuteran’s Ecotourism efforts and awards.

Tool for Introspection - JoHari Window

- Sharing more deeply about oneself - eg. Life Stories & Deep Sharing & Grief Circle
- Receiving feedback from others - eg. Individual Feedback Circle & Gratitude Circle



Ecological Dimension

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed?

The Ecological dimension was facilitated primarily by Dhanushka Jayenetti, Sarah Queblatin, and by Kavitha Selvaraj. The ecology dimension focused on the theme of ‘Earth’ as a space for grounding of the program, where participants got to learn about their sense of place during their course, and in their life journey. The week included growing teamwork to include working in groups of three or groups of four. Permaculture was introduced as a design tool for the week.

We continued our project presentation and design case study this week on this “Conscious Collective” umbrella, which includes the Alaya Ecolodge project, and two new projects Aum Ecomarket & Aura Ecovillage. The ecology week looked at how to ecologically retrofit the Alaya Ecolodge campus. This included looking at the existing campus through the elements of Air (transport), Fire (energy), Water (growing) and Earth (furnishing) - which produced a very interesting and useful harvest of “collective intelligence”.



The week included theory on Climate Change Crisis & Response, Alternative Methods of Food Production and How to Leverage Ecological Cycles. During this week we also expanded on the idea of Bioregionalism - looking deeper into maps of the area, visiting an example of the Subak Watershed Management, while discussing how the Conscious Collective projects could be designed for the future in regards to permaculture and ecological considerations.

Our regional expats of the week helped deepen our understanding of the bioregional context. Nono expanded on the unique biodiversity and policies of the Bali Bharat National Park, through which our neighbouring Eco-projects can engage through a special status of “Production Forest” related policies. We also learnt about the issues and successful efforts of Waste Management in the local villages from Rosa & Dwi.

The ecological week also introduced reflection on the “Deep Ecology” of our being - exploring how our Mind, Nutrition and Energy are in Motion, and offering morning practice sessions around Connection to Nature within ourselves, and creating Environmental Site Specific Ephemeral Art.

We introduced a large floor Eco-game “Filantropoli” which was developed in Bali, using recycled materials, exploring the different aspects of Ecovillage development relating to topics relevant in the Bali context. The game really helped orient to the regional topics of relevance such as coral reefs, foresters, agricultural practices, and local livelihoods.

In this week, participants also got to engage in hands-on activities such as planting Vetiver to help for watershed management. They also engaged in kitchen garden planting and nursery seedling preparation. We also had time for some organic composting theory and applied practice.

We went on an excursion - a trip to the Pejarakan village overlapping the Bali Bharat National park. This is the area in which the future Aura Ecovillage is planned, so we blessed the land through a Banyan Tree planting, while engaging in Permaculture principle 0 “Honoring Traditional Wisdom” and principle 1 “Listening to the Land: Observation”.





Economic Dimension

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? what practical activities were performed?

The economic dimension was facilitated primarily by Michael Marco, Dhanushka Jayenetti, supported by Kavitha Selvaraj. The economy dimension focused on the theme of 'Water' as a space for looking at "systems" during the program, where participants got to learn about the root causes of collapse and how to create livelihood and system shifts for regeneration.

The week included growing teamwork to include working in groups of eight. The two teams got to look at the Aum Ecomarket or Aura Ecovillage project in depth. The team building and decision making process itself was a moment of collective learning.

The previous ecology week had looked at how to ecologically retrofit the Alaya Ecodoge campus. Based on the collective intelligence harvest, the economy week took this a step further by exploring what factors must be considered in order to Financially and Legally implement any "retrofitting".

The week included theory on the Limits to Classic Economy, Different Forms of Capital, Changing Perspectives around "Wealth", Introduction to Community Banks and Alternative Currencies and Exploring the Co-op model as a basis for grassroots systems shift. The week also included theory, and examples from various projects worldwide, of how to create projects that embody "Progressive Economy" - to allow for a smoother transition from linear to more circular.

During this week we also expanded on the idea of Bioregionalism - looking deeper into maps of the area, visiting an example of the LPD Local Bank, which is very unique to Bali, offering a local option for legal and financial autonomy regarding village-led development.

Our regional expats of the week helped deepen our understanding of the regional economical context: Tharuna and Femke.

The economy week also introduced reflection on the "Deep Economy" - exploring how our attitudes towards wealth and abundance can shift, in order to "magnetise" a new way of being and relating. In order to truly understand the source of collapse, we all have to explore the causes of such misalignment within ourselves, and begin to feel how to heal and move beyond.

We introduced a large floor Eco-game "Circles Game" which was developed in Bali, using recycled materials, exploring the different aspects of Ecovillage development relating to topics relevant in the Bali context. The game really helped orient to the regional topics of relevance such as Local Livelihoods and how one can relate to new forms of Local Alternative Economy.



In this week, participants got to engage in hands-on activities such as making Bio-Enzyme Solution, Coconut Leaf Basket Weaving, Seed Ball for Hiking Ecotourism Activity, and Soap Nut Multipurpose Cleaner. These were some of the easier DIY product examples which could be made locally, and incorporated in the future Aum Ecomarket Co-op, which was the topic discussed in the design sessions.

We went on an excursion - a hike up the nearby hill to Batu Kursi Temple, and down the other side of the hill to Pemuteran's Hot Spring temple. This was followed by visiting the nearby land designated for the future Aum Eco Market Co-op grocery shop & cafe. Participants had the chance to engage in contributing to the design process.



Worldview Dimension

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed?

The worldview dimension was facilitated primarily by Kavitha Selvaraj and supported by Michael Marco and the rest of the team as part of the closing week. The Worldview dimension focused on the theme of 'Fire' as a space for looking at "igniting the fire within" where participants got to summarise and integrate their learning, getting ready to move back into the 'real world'. The week included growing teamwork to function as a "full community". This was done by offering the closing celebration as an event-design and implementation challenge for the group to work on collectively.

The worldview week took place as the last week of the EDE. However "Worldview" or "Culture" exploration, carried on throughout the EDE, as a supporting fundamental backbone to deepening the experience and connecting to the heritage of the place we were in.

We had morning practice sessions - including a wide variety of Inner work, and Body Work - including sessions on Deep Ecology (Environmental Art, and Connecting to Self-Us-Nature) , Deep Economy (Intricacies of the Mind and Creating with Intention) and Yoga Practice, Awareness Through the Body Games, Introduction to Massage. We also had evening sessions that carried a "Cultural"



and/or “Social” function - such as Gratitude Circle, Ecstatic Dance, Acu-Detox, Kinesiology, Collective Musical Improv, and Sound Healing.

During this week, we also went on an early morning Excursion - to the Pejarakan Hot Spring Public Bath, where participants got to soak in the natural hot water coming from the old sleeping volcano, while integrating and relaxing at the end of the program. Following the Hot Spring soak, we were offered a local breakfast at one of the facilitator’s home in the village, where everyone dressed up in Traditional Balinese clothing, and went to a final Banyan Tree Temple, natural well flower-water blessing.

We also included talks on Ecovillages and Ecovillage Project Development experiences from founders and members of different initiatives - such as Rudiger from Glarisegg, Dhanushka from Gaia Ashram & Sri Lankan Permaculture Project, Sarah from Philippines Projects, and Kavitha & Michael from Auroville. These discussions really offered students a deeper understanding of how Ecovillages are formed, and what it means to be engaged with networks such as GEN/GENOA, Gaia Education, and working with regional Governments and the UN.

As the worldview was the last week, it also included a presentation of “What to do after this EDE” - explaining more about Gaia Education opportunities and how to connect to GEN. We also included time for participants to engage in a “Networking World Cafe” where they got to express their offerings for followup. The EDE team also offered followup project opportunities for participants to sign up for.

The course was concluded by two evaluation forms, one for Gaia Education, and one for the EDE Team. After which, the Certificates were handed out, and a co-creative celebration took place at the beach front - with music, games, food, and closing rituals - all designed by the participants themselves.



Design Studio & Case Studies

What happened in the Design Studio? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? what practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant. Brief description of the case studies developed during the programme if applicable.

GEN & Gaia Mapping & Cards: This EDE included a couple of floor mapping exercises, to demonstrate how the GEN/Gaia cards can be utilized to harvest feedback from groups and communities. Using



various markers and asking different questions, we explored the first impressions, and later the deeper reflections around the Alaya Ecolodge case study. Participants learnt how to map Needs, Assets and Leverage Points.

Personal Project: Before the EDE began, we invited participants to bring their own “project” with them. In the first weeks, time was allocated to help define and share with the group what their intention and project may be - however big or small - once they completed the EDE. Based on this awareness, it was more clear to facilitators and participants regarding what each student wanted to take away with them from the EDE. A Regenerative Project Canvas & Bioregional Design Canvas was introduced as a template for personal project planning.

Co-Creative Design: Dragon Dreaming “Dreaming-Planning-Doing-Celebrating” for our ‘Co-Creative Closing Celebration Event’: In the last week of Culture-Worldview, we offered the group a co-creative design experience to create together their own unique celebration. This included dreaming, planning, implementing and enjoying the actual event together. Together we created our own rituals, menu, decorations, games, and activities.

Permaculture 3 Ethics and 12 Principles were introduced as a tool for Design.

- We also provided additional Permaculture considerations of “Principle 0: Honoring Traditional Wisdom” and “Principle 13: In Times of Climate Crisis” - to help deepening the discussion.
- We explored the differences between a “Sustainability Approach” and a “Regenerative Approach”.

This EDE program introduced the formation of a regional ‘Collective Consciousness’ group, under which 3 projects are currently being incubated - Alaya Ecolodge (at stage of upgrading), and Aum Ecomarket and Aura Ecovillage (at stage of planning).

Conscious Collective - Umbrella Group for Bioregional Regenerative Projects		
Alaya Ecolodge - ‘conscious comfort’ Highlighting Permaculture Ethic ‘People Care’, as the ecolodge hopes to transition	Aura Ecovillage - ‘conscious community’ Highlighting Permaculture Ethic ‘Earth Care’, as this project hopes to embody more	Aum Ecomarket - ‘conscious commerce’ Highlighting Permaculture Ethic ‘Fair Share’, as this project hopes to embody more



<p>towards embodying more solutions for how 'living comfortably can also mean living ecologically'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retrofitting was included in the design process, particularly to look at the design improvement potential for the host site "Alaya Ecolodge" - this was mapped on several levels: Ecological Retrofitting, Social Resource Networking, and Legal/Financial Considerations. - EcoTourism Bali was included in the design process briefly. In order for Alaya Ecolodge to qualify for a Bali EcoTourism Accommodation, it will have to meet certain SDG criteria. It was presented as a Case Study to understand how Retrofitting could be related to regional, national, and international standards for sustainability. 	<p>solutions for how 'learning together can benefit the whole community and the Earth'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team 1: Dreaming & Planning Case Study - The current vision of a future Aura Ecovillage land based project was presented to the group. - The Team was given time to explore the Ideation and Problem Tree Analysis process. - The participants presented their designs to the founders, which will be taken into consideration for the project development over the next year(s). 	<p>solutions for how 'sharing our resources can create a reality of abundance'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team 2: Dreaming & Planning Case Study - The current vision of a future Aum Eco Market & Cafe project was presented to the group. - The Team was given time to explore the Ideation and Problem Tree Analysis process. - The participants presented their designs to the founders, which will be taken into consideration for the project development over the next year(s).
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The program also included several aspects that were not considered as part of the official certified counted hours. This provided participants the opportunity to explore more of the bioregion during weekends, and offer their unique activities as well. As this played a big part in creating a sense of



connection and understanding of the region we were in. We felt it was worth mentioning in this report. Some participants also presented their own work/projects from back home.

Optional Weekend Excursions	Optional Participant Offerings
Mixed Martial Arts Classes 3x Week	Juggling (Aaron)
Hiking & Tree Planting in Sumberkima Village	Grief Circle (Vix)
Pulaki Monkey Temple & Melanting Prosperity Temple	Film: Living in a time of Dying (Vix)
Local 3 Month Balinese Baby Ceremony	Film: Reading the Landscape (Morgana & Ashwin)
Menjangan Island Boat Trip & Snorkeling	Authentic Relating (Vix)
Home Lunch Invite from Sarka Local Family	Sustainable Tourism in Lombok (Trisna)
Aling Aling Waterfall Trip	Be Your Own Doctor (Morgana)
Silent Saturday Mindfulness Practice	Dance Games (Anna)
	Yoga Practice (Megi)
	Playing in Nature (Isabel)
	Intro to Bahasa Indonesia (Trisna)
	Water Harvesting for Prosperity in Challenging Times (Ashwin)
	Journaling (Nanna & Asta)
	Ancient Farming & Lifestyle (Hasan)

Lessons Learned

What could help future EDE's from your experience? What were your biggest learnings? If a recertified EDE, also list & respond to lessons learnt from your previous EDE.

Describe your EDE in terms of the know-how and learning obtained, the stories and inspiration that happen to the participants and the organisers during the EDE or a good summary of a project or activity carried out during the program. Take into consideration that this will be circulated among the Gaia Education community, so they wish to learn, get inspired and be empowered by your program and your participant's experiences.



Managing Expectations: It is always a challenge when receiving a diverse group of various ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience related to the topic. We attempted to ensure the Gaia Curriculum criteria was met, while adding additional time for a more 'unconference style' inclusion of Needs & Offerings from the participants. It is good to describe to both older (or more experienced) participants, and likewise to younger (or less experienced) participants that the course will offer a basic level of theory / activities on the topics, within what is realistically possible within the scope of a one month framework. It may be interesting to consider offering different types of EDE in the future - separately as "Beginners" or "Advanced."

Accommodation & Food: Alaya Ecolodge may be one of the more "comfortable" sites hosting EDE, as it is in a hotel setting, normally charging a lot higher rates for tourist bookings. Nonetheless, some participants (often foreigners), did face some challenges with adjusting to the climate, facilities, and menu. We need to ensure that we declare clearly during the application process what will be available during the program - so that participants are well informed and prepared for living more ecologically and simply in what we refer to as "conscious comfort".

Head, Heart & Hands: Ensure a good balance between types of sessions; theory, hands on, introspective, mindfulness, excursions etc. Some participants requested more time for in depth knowledge, while others were hardly able to focus and needed more time for play, reflection, and integration. Some had lots of energy for hands on, while others got tired more quickly. Catering to different learning types, while providing a space for collective learning, is very challenging. It is good to ensure that participants are actively involved in finding solutions to support their own learning needs; by declaring their needs clearly before they come, and by ensuring they are heard during the program.

Summary of projects/activities participants intend to engage in, inspired by their attendance in the course:

- New Caretaker Residents joining Alaya Ecolodge: We have 2 participants who have requested to join the community building process for Alaya Ecolodge extension to include a Caretaker Community behind the Ecolodge campus.
- Authentic Relating Training: One participant would like to host an Authentic Relating program at Alaya Ecolodge within the following year. This training will also enrich the existing Alaya team's communication skills.
- Menstrual Cycle Awareness: One participant would like to help bring more awareness and events relating to Menstrual Cycle Awareness over the next years. This was also one aspect that the Alaya Team had really been hoping for.



- Mushroom & Sorghum Cultivation: Two participants, expat & local, have agreed to collaborate on growing Sorghum and Mushrooms as a sustainable livelihood initiative as a followup to the EDE.
- Miyawaki Forest Program: We hope to host a 5 day Miyawaki Forestry Training and pilot plot plantation within the next year.
- Ecovillage Tours: We are developing an 8 day Bali Ecovillage Tour in collaboration with EcoVillage Tours.com and potentially some Indonesian participants from the EDE group.
- Eco-Tourism- EDE Capacity Trainings: It was expressed interest to develop a curriculum for capacity training for various districts in Bali - relating to EDE.
- Permaculture PDC: We plan to conduct a PDC at Alaya Ecolodge as many EDE graduates have already been PDC certified and plan to come back to collaborate on this project, likely in 2026.
- EDE 2025: About 6-8 participants have expressed interest in joining the next Gaia EDE team.
- TOT 2026: About 8-10 participants have expressed interest in joining a Gaia TOT, if available at Alaya Ecolodge.
- Climate Change Leaders Retreat: One facilitator of the EDE, is exploring a collaboration with a participant to develop a retreat at Alaya Ecolodge for Climate Change leaders.
- Alternative Economy Online Think Tank Group: A think tank online group has been initiated following monthly calls over the next year.
- Thanks to the EDE income, we will support 3 project followups from the EDE design process. Namely Alaya Ecolodge Retrofitting - Aum Ecomarket initial product production testing, and Aura Ecovillage sorghum and tree plantation.

Participant Quotes

Send 3-4 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources, please include names and photos.



"The 2024 Bali EDE was a transformative experience for me. It demonstrated how we could create interdependent, regenerative systems as a response to the multiple crises that we face today. As the program was set in a rural setting, it facilitated access to local and traditional knowledge systems including examples of cost effective, nature-based, community-led initiatives and solutions. Also, the month-long program, close to nature, allowed me to do some deep inner reflection which supported my journey of inner development."

Ashwin Varghese



"Spending my November at Alaya Ecolodge for the Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) program has been an enriching experience. During this program, we learn and work collectively to design an ecovillage through four key dimensions: ecology, economy, social, and culture. Collaborating with a diverse community has broadened my perspective, teaching me to view things not only through my own values but also from the viewpoints of others. Designing an ecovillage goes beyond following a single set of guidelines or manuals. It involves integrating local culture, wisdom, and traditional knowledge specific to the area where the ecovillage is being developed. This approach fosters innovation, sustainability, and the harmonious blending of tradition and progress to create a better future for our planet. This journey has been an inspiring and transformative chapter, and I am excited to carry forward the knowledge and connections gained here into future endeavors."

Sri Trisnawati



"The moment I entered into the Alaya I felt the sense of calmness and an aura of love and freedom...In a scenic beauty of mountains and sea, with a lot of green covers and Livestock Nearby which is literally a visual bon appetite for nature lovers.

I probably had one of the best ever times of my life in Alaya, in a community of like minded peoples i deeply felt touched & rooted with human emotions which truly inspired me from within to always share my capital without expecting gains in return. Inclusiveness of Mother Nature is well preserved and nourished by all the Facilitators and Participants during the Course through community games, seva, nursery plants, sowing, composting these kind of Activities build Emotional Relationships, which i think is very important in a community, staffs are very gentle and lovely.

We had Music,Singing,Dancing, Swimming, Martial Arts,Deep Listening, Authentic Relating,Movie Nights,Massage,Acupuncture, Sea Life & Wildlife Conservation,Food Allergy Test, Dragon Dreaming, Hiking, Snorkelling,Island Parties, Feasts and Chit Chats Etc.

Love to visit this wonderful place again soon. Awesome Experience Through Alaya Eco Community with the Essence of Diverse Culture and Mutli Colours of Life and Love."

Hasan Ravichandran

Additional Participant Quotes for each Dimension Highlights:

Social: Exposure to alternative governance models and experiencing conflict resolution in practice.

Ecological: Introduction to permaculture design principles and getting hands on.

Economical: Discussions about collapsology and alternative economic models.

Worldview: Deeper self-knowledge and awareness.

Social: Team building exercises using Ayurveda.



Ecology: Hands on permaculture stations of composting, grass planting, nursery seed planting, kitchen garden planting.

Economy: Alternative economies, forms of capital, Auroville economy example and proposed PIE for Auroville.

Worldview: Conscious Collective: Indonesian Harvest of Values & Beliefs: Limiting or Leveraging.

Social: Governance and decision making.

Ecology: Organic composting.

Economic: intro to co-ops and alternative systems.

World View: Art body and culture worldview mapping.

Social: Non-violent conversation.

Ecological: Hands-on experience at stations (compost, seeding, planting).

Economy: introduction to wealth, currencies, balance sheet.

Worldview: Mapping Personality Awareness.

Social: sharing life stories.

Ecological: listening to land.

Economy: deep economy.

Worldview: connections with locals.

Social: I loved the social community building games that we played as part of coming back from the breaks (playfulness, true bonding), and the community founder talk and sound healing with Rudiger, Ayurveda, giving and receiving, Deep listening and NVC, Reef Seen with turtles and Chris, Ecstatic Dance, all of it really.

Ecology: Permaculture sessions, the seed and garden stations, nutrition, mind and energy in motion, again I really loved all of it.

Economy: Richer overnight, Auroville economy, classic economy, alternative economy, ecoenzyme, again all of it.

Culture: Co-creating in groups, GEN & Gaia Education, mapping personality awareness, kinesiology, all of it. I loved how the facilitators really cultivated space for the participants to share their offerings - making it feel like a TRUE community of Energy Exchange. The facilitators really LISTENED in with their hearts to the needs of participants and did a great job curating offerings to meet those needs.

Social: Receiving practical tools that would help me facilitate community discussions and design

Ecology: Openness to invite participants to co-facilitate some activities

Economy: Learning more about Auroville's economy as a case study

World View: space for personal reflection

Design Studio: The intention to integrate with existing local community, economy and systems

Social: Engagement, diversity and inclusivity.

Ecology: Reviving & reconnecting to nature.

Economy: Local currency and flow optimization.

Culture: Preserving and respecting culture and local wisdom.



Social: The intricacies of creating cohesion, shared decision making and conflict resolution

Ecological: Permaculture/ecological design for abundance in challenging times

Economy: Alternative economic models and mindsets

Worldview: What is my (multi-layered) world view

Social: the Nonviolent exercise with cards.

Ecological: Practical exercise, planting speeds and the principles of permaculture.

Economic: Different forms of wealth.

Worldview: Event planning.

Social: The multiple tools and modalities available for building social cohesion, decision making, conflict resolution.

Ecological: Permaculture and ecological design as a way to obtain abundance in changing times

Economy: Exposure to multiple, alternative economic models

Worldview: Asking the question What is my worldview?