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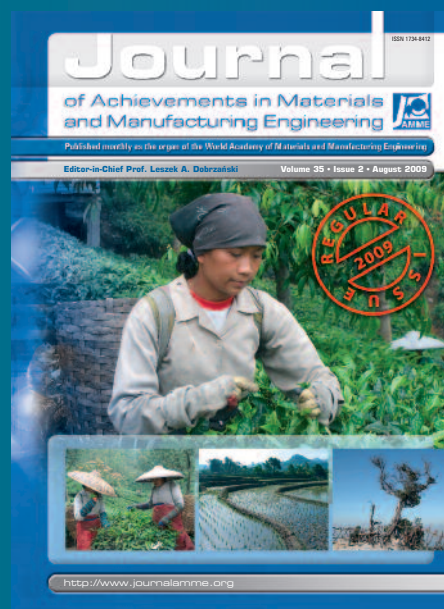
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Cover story



Java is the fifth largest island in Indonesia and the 13th largest island in the world. Java now plays a dominant role in the economic and political life of Indonesia. It is the most populous island in the world and a population was 130 million in 2006. Java is formed mostly as the result of volcanic events. A chain of volcanic mountains forms an east-west spine along the island. Java contains no fewer than thirty-eight mountains forming an east-west spine which have at one time or another been active volcanoes. The highest volcano in Java is Mount Semeru (3,676 m). The most active volcano in Java and also in Indonesia is Mount Merapi (2,968 m). The mount and crater of Tangkuban Parahu is located in Bandung, West Java. A solitary and heavily deformed tree over the crater of this volcano can be seen in the last small picture on the cover. Agriculture on Java has been the country's largest employer for centuries. Agriculture employs more people than other sectors. Major agricultural products include palm oil, rice, tea, coffee, spices, and rubber. Over a mountain saddle between Bandung and Jakarta, women pick tea leaves, which can be seen on the cover in the first small picture. In the next small picture rise plantation can be seen in its initial vegetative stage with terraces, typical for Java.