

A LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF *KAMPUNG* AND ITS POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY
FUNCTION: A CASE STUDY OF JAKARTA

Muhammad Azka Gulsyan, GPSS, ID 47-176806
Advisor: Professor Makoto Yokohari
Co-Advisor: Lecturer Toru Terada

ABSTRACT

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognized that upgrading of the urban slums or informal settlements as one of the targets that should be attained in order to achieve global sustainability. In Indonesia and other Southeast Asian cities, the urban slums and informal settlements could be found in the vernacular areas of the cities called kampung. Many negative attributes which embedded to the kampung as slums and informal settlements, and thereof, as a source of problems to the cities, are well recognized in existing literature. However, the historical exploration of the kampung evidently indicated that kampungs potentially conceive sustainability functions for the cities. In a period of time in the past, kampungs were functioned as urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA). While the UPA is has been recognized to have considerable functions in supporting sustainability and resiliency of the cities. Therefore, restoring the UPA function of the kampung could make it functionates for supporting urban sustainability and resiliency. The problem is, currently it is still unknown how the UPA was gone from the kampung in the past. Therefore, this research aims to understand the process of change and continuity of UPA of the kampung.

The attempt to reveal the process was done by utilizing the research approach of landscape history. Jakarta Metropolitan Area was the case study in this research. The landscape history approach was implemented in two spatial levels, the regional level (the whole Jakarta region in

general) and the local level (on the specifically selected kampungs). The materials collected for the regional level were historical literature and historical maps, which collected through library surveys. The historical literature was collected from library surveys in various public and private libraries in Indonesia, while the historical maps were collected from the digital collection of Leiden University and cartography collection National Archive of Indonesia. Those collected materials were analyzed by the historical land-use analyses to reconstruct the past landscape. For the local level, the data collection was through oral history interviews. In total, 50 respondents, mostly the local elders, from five selected case studies kampungs were interviewed. The collected information from the oral history interviews was analyzed by the retrospective analysis to comprehend the lifespan of landscape elements of selected kampungs.

Based on the evidence from historical literature and maps, together with the oral history, the result showed that the relationship between the kampung and agriculture is developed in four stages. In the first stage which we named it the stage 1- rural kampung, the kampung was a rural settlement which located in the vicinity of the city. The kampung in this stage is dominated by agriculture and rural way of life. Afterward, as the city keeps expanding and reach the immediate space from kampung and even takes some part of the surrounding landscape of the kampung, the kampung and the city is stand side by side. Thus, economically and socially, the urban domain starts to infiltrate the kampung and the kampung become socio-economically mixed between rural and urban domains. The agriculture which exists in this stage then functioning as peri-urban agriculture. This stage is labeled as stage 2 – first desakota kampung. In the next stage, which is labeled as stage 3 – second desakota kampung, the kampung lose its surrounding rural landscape for urban development and is enclosed by urban built-up. However, inside the settlement area of the kampung, between the houses, there are still some vegetable gardens, home gardens, and many fruit trees, and people run livestock or poultry farm. Practically, the agriculture in the

kampung at this stage functioning as urban agriculture. But finally, in the last stage which is labeled as stage 4 – urban kampung, the kampung lose all of its agricultural domain, losing its desakota character, and totally urbanized. As the result, the environment is deteriorated and the kampung transformed to be slums.

The understanding of the four stages of kampung reveals that if we do not do any intervention and let the kampung transformed as urbanization is occurring, then the kampung would be transformed to be slums, which as mentioned in the target and indicator of Goal 11 SDGs, a form of unsustainable situation. However, the result also reveals that before the kampung transformed to be slums, they were in the stages of an urban-rural mixture (desakota). Those stages are more sustainable alternative forms of the kampung, stages where there is co-existence of urbanization with agriculture presence. Therefore, by knowing the four stages of kampung, we could argue that planning regulation should protect kampungs to stay in stage 2 or 3 even though the urban areas keep expanding. Yet, for the kampung which already deteriorated in stage 4, the upgrading effort should be based on agrarian urbanism, as historically agricultural-urban mixture was the main feature of the kampung. By that historically rooted upgrading, perhaps we could create new agrarian urbanism in the kampung of future which could functionate as the UPA of the city and could play important role in supporting sustainability and resiliency of the city. Therefore, even though presently the kampung is part of the problem as slums and informal settlements in Jakarta and some other Southeast Asian cities, by this landscape history exploration, we revealed that kampung conceals the potentiality to perform sustainability functions.

Key words: Kampung, Landscape history, Urban and peri-urban agriculture, Urban-rural mixture