

East Asia Summit Conference on Liveable Cities

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BACKGROUND

Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, covers an area of approximately 650 square kilometer. It is inhabited by over nine million people with an annual population growth of 2%. Like other big cities in the world, Jakarta is facing various urban problems, worsened by growing pressures from climate change. Related issues include high carbon dioxide emissions produced mainly from transportation; an unprecedented increase in extreme weather events (such as floods due to longer rainy seasons and droughts due to lack of water resources); scarcity of water resources in terms of quality and quantity; and sea water intrusion due to overuse of artesian wells creating land subsidence.

FACTORS INFLUENCING EFFORTS TOWARD ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE JAKARTA

1. Size of population

The greater the city's population, the more complicated the steps needed to be taken to establish a sustainable city.

Jakarta's high population. Despite population growth within Jakarta itself decreasing as a result of successful family planning programs, numbers of newcomers arriving from the provinces are on the rise. Another contributing factor is the large number of commuters who live in surrounding areas (Bogor-Depok-Tangerang-Bekasi or Bodetabek) but work in Jakarta. Pressure from this high population and their economic activities threatens Jakarta's sustainability.

2. Income per capita

The lower the average income per capita, the more difficult it is to work towards a sustainable city.

Jakarta's income limitations. As the main economic center of Indonesia, Jakarta has not only the highest Gross Regional Domestic Product (GDRP) among Indonesia's provinces, but also the highest level of government revenue. Despite this, to provide a suitable level of public service to its citizens and to develop in a sustainable fashion, Jakarta requires even more funds than it has at present, as there are no subsidy programs from the central government to assist with the capital's unique situation.

3. *Level of Education*

The lower the average level of education, the greater the effort needed to establish sustainability.

While Jakarta's rate of illiteracy is relatively low (0.64% for males and 2.4% for females), only around 10% of Jakartans gain a taste of tertiary education. Even though that figure is higher than those of other regions in Indonesia, it is still low compared to other international cities such as Singapore or Kuala Lumpur. It is easier to promote the concept of sustainability, spread awareness of its importance, and encourage public participation in working towards it when the community is better-educated.

4. *Availability of Space*

The more scarce land or space is, the more complicated it is to establish a sustainable city.

With a high population density and intensive economic activity, land is one of Jakarta's most precious assets. As the result of lack of space, competing land use is widespread, and land prices are very high. For example, green open spaces and river banks which are being used by squatters need to return to their original function to both improve aesthetics and oxygen levels, as well as reduce the risk of flooding.

5. *Administrative Competence*

The lower the competence and authority of the city administration, the more difficult it is to establish a sustainable Jakarta.

Since the inception of decentralization, there has been an increase in authority delegated to provincial level, but in Jakarta's case considerable power still resides at the national level. This includes river management, planning conferences and other strategic areas.

QUESTION

Is it impossible then for any metropolis or megacity like Jakarta to become a sustainable?

The answer is no, it is not impossible. But big cities like Jakarta need to take a variety of actions different to those of smaller cities.

MEANS OF REALISING SUSTAINABILITY

a. Empowering the community

Our best potential assets are our people/our community:

Awareness. Increase awareness and encouraging systems of active participation/monitoring/control/audit system by the people more at the community level will result in more effective community-based mechanisms.

Target groups include neighborhoods, school students and religious associations, where information can be promoted and disseminated via face-to-face dialogue, for example.

Activities. Participation, initiatives and activities that involve the community such as:

- Mobilizing urban inner-city dwellers to clean up their neighborhood.
- Promoting a Save Water movement.
- Developing a flooding mitigation system that involves individual families as well as communities, and is promoted through the means of mosques and other places of worship, as well as the media.
- Weekly mosquito egg fumigation.
- Large-scale construction of biopore wells.
- Construction of ground water wells.
- Planting trees and mangroves.
- Shifting use of kerosene to Liquid Petroleum Gas.
- Introducing *bajajs* (local public transport) powered by natural gas.

b. Role Of City Government

- **Law Enforcement.** Enforcement of regulations for better quality of life has already commenced in certain areas:

- Smoking bans.
- Car and motorcycle emission controls.
- Use of CNG buses on the busway system and for other public transport (*bajajs*, taxis, etc).
- Regulations to construct groundwater wells as a condition of granting building permits.
- Consistent enforcement of spatial planning and regulations.
- Enforcement of water use primarily from deep wells.
- Car-free days.
- **Coordination** among government units :
 - Improving coordination with central government and other regional government in the areas around Jakarta (Jabodetabek).
- **Incentives.** The Jakarta Provincial Government needs to provide its people with incentives, eg. :
 - Operating funds for community grass root organizations (RT/RW).
 - Clean and green competitions among sub-district communities.
- **Restructuring.** To involve other stakeholders in making Jakarta more sustainable, the government of Jakarta needs to restructure itself and change its bureaucratic mindset. Provincial government policies should aim towards encouraging progress rather than simply change for change's sake, and to become more of an enabling force rather than simply a provider. Capacity-building also needs to be done in order to make government officials more responsive, effective, efficient and public service-oriented.
- **A 'Change for the better' mind set.** The most important work to do for the Jakarta Provincial Government now is to change its bureaucratic mindset. It is not an easy task but can be done through time, effort and commitments from all stakeholders in Jakarta.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE CITY DEVELOPMENT

- Development of green areas (creating new green open spaces – both large and small scale – and interactive parks).
- Mass rapid transportation project (MRT, Light Rail Transit, extending the busway network).
- Flood control projects (construction of canals, ponds and dams, and dredging existing rivers, canals and dams).
- Sanitation improvement projects (large- and small-scale solid waste management and treatment, 3R at community level).
- Improvement in water supply and control of the use of artesian wells.

CLOSING REMARKS

A key challenge in making Jakarta more sustainable is change. This does not only mean simply bureaucratic change in the Jakarta Provincial Government itself, but also changing the mindset of all Jakartans. A shift in thinking will result in better cooperation and synergy among stakeholders. The community, government and private sector will then play a significant role in making Jakarta more sustainable.

Purely technical solutions must be combined with social engineering as a developmental approach. With strong commitment and continued support from all stakeholders (community, city government and central government), a sustainable city can be established.

An important issue that everybody should understand is that a city developed on a basis of sustainability will bring prosperity and better socioeconomic conditions to its people.

The more prosperous the community, the better educated they will be, which itself will bring a better understanding of the importance of sustainable development, and thus better participation in realising this goal.

Creating prosperity for all Jakartans is therefore the ultimate goal of our administration. This will mean they will enjoy a better level of education, better

socioeconomic conditions, and can thus more effectively participate in making Jakarta a sustainable city, guaranteeing their own future.

Thank you.