

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE CITY
Global Challenges and Local Responses in Africa and Asia
55 Years after 1955 Bandung Asian-African Conference
Book Project / Special Issue of a Journal
Proposed by Darwis Khudori

PROBLEMATICS

Globalisation poses two challenges for the cities. The first one, at macro level, is the global ecological crisis (the decreasing sources of fossil energy, the pollution, the climate changes...). The second one, at micro level, is the acceleration of urbanisation and urban growth. The actors of urban planning and development are supposed therefore to “act locally, think globally”.

At local level, the urbanisation and urban growth are accompanied by the increasing volume of material supports related to the survival and the comfort of the inhabitants (food, infrastructure, building, energy, means of transport, equipments, gadgets...but also rubbish, garbage, trash, waste...) and the increasing diversity of non-material elements related to the meanings of their life (ethnicity, religion, way of life, ideological affiliation, artistic creation, cultural expression...).

The problem is that all those phenomena of growth are confronted with the limited resources of support (space, ecosystem, energy, fund, technology...). If there is no appropriate measure related to this reality, the foreseeable consequences would be twofold: the degradation of urban ecology at one side, the increasing social tension at the other side. At the end, if there is no solution, the city will become a hell for the majority of its inhabitants where deceases, chaos, pollution, crimes, violence, mafia... will be the norms.

In this situation, two main actors of urban development appear often to be in the opposing position, especially in the developing world of Africa, Asia and Latin America. At one side, the government is often confronted with the lack of knowledge, technology and fund for bringing the city into a favourable place of development for its inhabitants. The government tends also to apply theoretical approaches, norms and standards imported from Western-industrialised-developed countries in urban planning and design, which often do not correspond to the local context. At the other side, the people are obliged to struggle with their own means for their survival and/or the improvement of their living condition. Their activities and actions often do not correspond to the norms, rules and standards adopted by the government.

This general phenomenon raises several questions. How do the actors of urban development (government, people, civil society, private sector, university...) in the developing world (Africa, Asia, Latin America) deal with the aforementioned double challenge? Is there any coordinated role sharing between actors? Or, does every actor acts independently according to its own capacity? What is the role of the government in this situation? Does it have any concept, plan and action related to the challenges? How about people? How do they perceive the challenge? Do they get organised to take care of the challenge?

SPECIAL ATTENTION

In accordance with the theme of 55 BANDUNG 55, which is “DIVERSITY IN GLOBALISED SOCIETY: The Role of Africa and Asia for a Sustainable World”, special attention will be paid to diversity issues, especially cultural, economical, political and religious ones, which can be sources of well-being, but also sources of conflicts.

GENERAL RULE OF PRESENTATION

Paper is to be sent by e-mail to secretariat@bandungspirit.org by respecting the following rule of presentation.

Paper size: A4 (kwarto)

Margins: 3 cm from all the borders (top, bottom, left, right)

Interline: double space

Typography: Times New Roman, 12 points

Article size: around 2500 words

Language: English, British style, article to be checked by a competent person in language editing before submission

For the paragraph, alignment, heading, sub-heading, and other details, see the CODESRIA Guide for Authors in the attached file.

AGENDA

Date of publication: end of April 2012

Deadline of submission of the final manuscript: January 31, 2012

Deadline of submission of the abstract: December 31, 2011