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Two Towns in Indonesia, One on the Coast, the Other "A City of One Thousand Rivers"

Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Quick Scan Method Workshops and Publication of Handbook for Indonesian University Lecturers

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The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Quick Scan Method is a methodology that can be used in workshops to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and a holistic understanding of a context and its challenges. The HUL Quick Scan Method was conducted in three phases in Muntok and Banjarmasin, Indonesia, and demonstrated its efficacy in promoting heritage and socio-cultural practices as catalysts for sustainable development. The features of the workshops run in the two cities stimulated discussion among the local communities and including private and public sectors, establishing a basis for applying the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape approach.

KEY THEMES

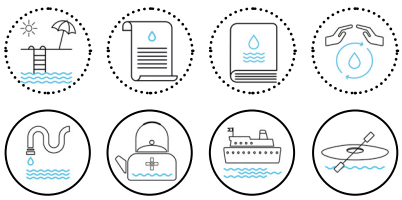


Fig. 1 Riverine settlement along the Kuin River Banjarmasin. In the river city of Banjarmasin people to some extend still rely on the river today (Source: Peter Timmer).

Introduction

Cities in Indonesia grow and develop in part based on their natural potential. The history of the city can be presented as a narrative of how the city creates and maintains relationships between humans and nature. But local knowledge and wisdom, nurtured over the years, is often forgotten. An important natural feature of the city is water, which appears in various forms, such as the sea, rivers and lakes. In general, each city must have a water element and it constitutes a distinctive marker. The shape and design of water-based cities like those in Indonesia are often seen as monuments that must be protected, but the designation as heritage often means that the logic of the relationship between cities and nature is broken. An example is the historic canals, developed for shipping and swamp drainage, that are designated as cultural heritage and no longer function the way they were intended.

Efforts to manage water are driven by the frequency of hydrological disasters, such as floods. Awareness of sustainable urban development practices has encouraged a responsive approach to water governance. This article describes an attempt to identify and influence nature-based responsive urban design, including that involving water, by applying the HUL Quick Scan Method. Workshops held in the cities of Muntok and Banjarmasin revealed water to be central to each city's identity, indicating that heritage conservation and water management are complementary and can be implemented together.

HUL Quick Scan Method

The Recommendation on the HUL was adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 2011. It promotes a holistic approach that "focuses on the entire human environment with all of its tangible and intangible qualities. It seeks to increase the sustainability of planning and design interventions by taking into account the existing built environment, intangible heritage, and cultural diversity, socio-economic and environmental factors along with local community values" (UNESCO 2013). The HUL Recommendation is in line with UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its approach can be an impetus to achieving the latter.

In 2018, a quick scan method was developed by Indonesian and Dutch parties to implement the HUL Recommendation as a tool to study and develop ideas regarding the conservation of historic cities in Indonesia. It is called the HUL Quick Scan Method. The HUL Quick Scan Method is applicable through workshops that should involve all stakeholders in a conservation effort (government institutions, non-government organizations, universities, private sector, and community groups). The method considers all integrated elements of conservation, including built environment, intangible heritage and cultural diversity, as well as socio-economic and environmental factors and local community values. The HUL Quick Scan Method emphasizes:

1. Exploration — understanding the place, challenges and opportunities, and the wishes and needs of the local community.
2. Translation — creating a vision in which heritage is a starting point and asset for sustainable development.
3. Inspiration — presenting ideas in an attractive way, and creating awareness, local enthusiasm and commitment.

The HUL Quick Scan Method is generating ideas regarding the conservation and sustainable

development of historic urban areas, and it inspires people to become engaged with it. The method does not replace UNESCO's HUL approach. The HUL Quick Scan Method aims to create proposals for an attractive "horizon" for historic urban sites, and by doing so, it can pave the way for implementing the HUL approach. It is a workshop model and practical tool based on HUL recommendations (tangible and intangible) and the idea that cities change and will always change as living landscapes.

The coastal town of Muntok, also known as Mentok, and the river city of Banjarmasin feature an urban landscape that is closely intertwined with water. Both cities face many challenges when it comes to environmental and socio-economic issues, and they are seeking ways to integrate water and heritage management and sustainable development. Proposals were developed by applying the HUL Quick Scan Method. This article provides an overview of the method, the outcomes for each city and the recently developed Handbook HUL Quick Scan, for which both cities served as an experimental garden.

In 2018, an HUL Quick Scan Method workshop was organized in Muntok, and Banjarmasin was the topic of a second workshop involving the method in 2019.

The Old Tin Mining City of Muntok

Exploration
Muntok is the capital city of the West Bangka Regency, which is part of the Bangka Belitung Province. The area of sub-district Muntok is approximately 505.94 km^2, with 53,306 inhabitants in 2021. It consists of tropical sandy beaches, tropical forests, the 400-meter-high Menumbing Hill, tin mining pits and smelter facilities, white pepper plantations, palm oil plantations, multicultural traditions, a built environment and a rich cultural heritage. Water is an important feature of Muntok because the city is located on the west coast of Bangka Island and is traversed by several rivers (Kurniawan et al. 2020).

Since the city's tin mining activities have slowed down, the condition of the town and the livelihood of the inhabitants are not what they used to be (Dipowijoyo et al. 2019). How can Muntok face its challenges and find a way to improve the overall environment and bring "new life" to the town? Is it possible to use heritage as an asset for future development?

Translation
Including everything learned in the workshop, the final proposal for the town of Muntok embraces heritage as a catalyst of development. As such, it is necessary to develop a "new map of Muntok" that can be used to start discussions with owners and the local community. The main objective of this initiative is to find new functions for historical buildings through public-private cooperation or partnerships. The new functions should be in line with or closely connected to existing vital economic functions or preferably narratives of the specific district involved, for example harbor-related use in the harbor area.

Inspiration
Conservation and development of Muntok's urban character can be achieved by integrating tangible and related intangible heritage and cultural features in urban planning regulations. For example, design principles could be established for new developments that follow these distinctive features and urban and landscape planning could focus on restoration and enhancing historical character. Among the proposed ideas,

some are concerned with water:

1. Developing the seafront – An integrated approach to achieve a more developed seafront will make the seafront an asset to the city again and help the town cope with climate change. This means reviving historical-functional relations, kampong (urban village) improvement, adding recreation facilities and creating an attractive and sustainable living environment.
2. Giving the river back to the city – To do so, stakeholders and members of the local community need to work on an integrated plan that includes water management, a clean water program, functional use along the river and landscaping of public and private spaces, and that reduces concrete and adds suitable vegetation to reduce the urban heat islands effect.

The River City of Banjarmasin

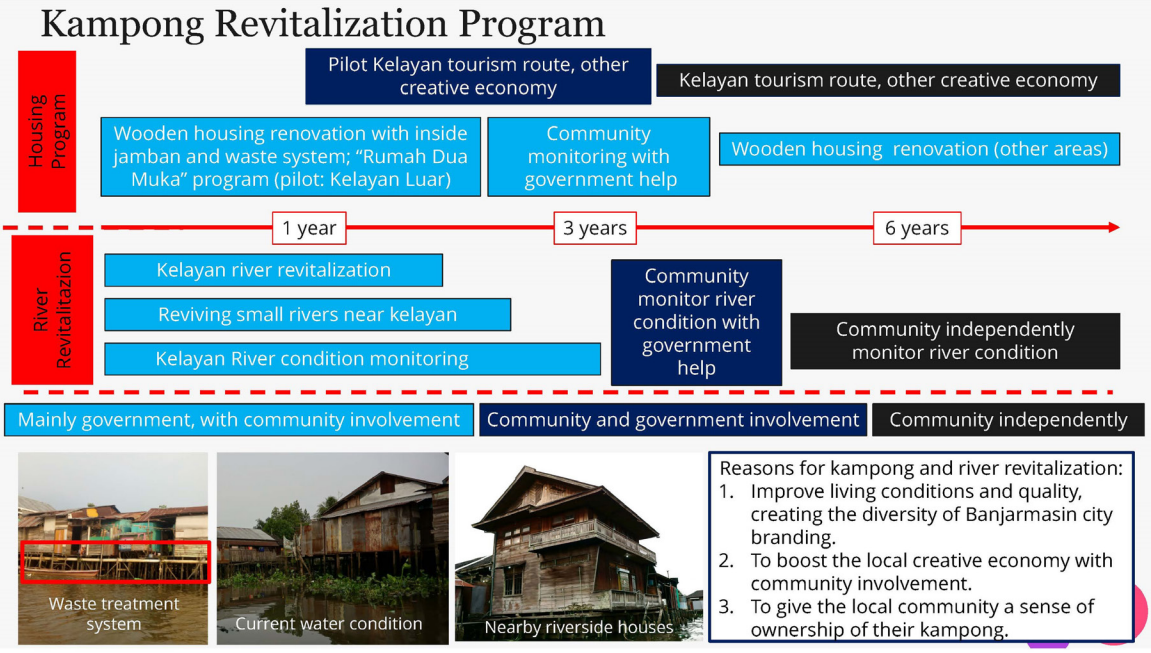
Banjarmasin was established in 1526 and is located in South Kalimantan Province. The area of the city is 98 km^2 with 662,320 inhabitants in 2021. The landscape character of Banjarmasin is influenced by the fluvial environment and swampy terrain (Damayanti 2019). Rivers and canals of all sizes crisscross the city; thus, Banjarmasin is known as "a city of thousand rivers." This port city is a significant economic center of the South Kalimantan region. In the old days, Banjarmasin's population was highly dependent on the river that led to the growth of settlements along the rivers and canals (fig. 1).

The workshop focused on four riverside kampongs which have been designated as urban heritage sites by the municipality: Seberang Masjid, Muara Kampung Kelayan, Sungai Jingah and Pasar Lama-Kampung Arab (Damayanti et al. 2020). The workshop pivoted on two questions:

1. River-based urban development. How could the city's river-related cultural heritage and identity be a source of inspiration for integrated urban development in Banjarmasin?
2. Riverside urban revitalization. How could the city deal with the challenges for these areas, and how could they become assets for the future development of Banjarmasin?

The future development proposals produced by the participants in general were concerned with the preservation of the kampongs as heritage and tackled the environmental issues related to the river as follows:

1. Kampong of Seberang Masjid – the intangible heritage of *sasirangan* (traditional cloth) and traditional culinary culture became the source of inspiration in the design which focused on the development of existing tourism activities and community empowerment. The environmental issue of river pollution was resolved by using an aqua biofilter – a floating vegetated wetland/island system that removes pollutants in water- to manage the sasirangan's industrial waste, and the domestic waste management system.
2. Muara Kampung Kelayan — the participants proposed riverside kampong revitalization as their strategy by integrating the reinforcement of Kampong Kelayan's identity related to traditional ways of building and living, the local history of the riverside rice market and preserving the river transport system,



^ *Fig. 2 The revitalization and future development plan for the Kelayan riverside kampong puts the river at the center of the program (Source: Imara, Indriyani, Karina, Luthfiana, Maulana and Saraswati in Damayanti et al. 2019).*

in addition to developing river cruises for tourists centered on the kampong's potentially attractive features (fig. 2).

3. Kampong Sungai Jingah – the participants identified "river identity and riverside kampong as a key point for development" in their vision, which would be achieved through a heritage tourism program using the kampong narrative of *kampung saudagar* (the kampong of wealthy merchants) as the main source of inspiration, along with the religious sites, and sasirangan industrial heritage. Furthermore, the toponym of the kampong (Jingah, the tree species *Gluta Renghas*) was used to enhance the kampong's identity while improving the riverside greenery space and reduce riverbank abrasion.
4. Pasar Lama – as one of important historical economic hubs in Banjarmasin this market was accessible by river and land, but now it has lost its river connection. The market's condition has degraded, mainly because of river pollution and the community's lack of environmental awareness. The proposal emphasized the market's existence as a riverside economic center in the context of conservation and identity formation, and incorporated a program to reduce pollution by involving the community and visitors.

Epilogue

The HUL Quick Scan Method is not focused on water-related urban heritage specifically. Nevertheless, it features a holistic and integrated

approach that fully includes water-related narratives if applicable. The outcomes of the workshops in Muntok and Banjarmasin underline this conclusion and offer many leads for water- and heritage-inclusive sustainable development. The method also offers possibilities in the field of participatory revitalization of water-related urban sites. Community participation led to a better understanding of tangible and intangible heritage related to water, and above all residents' socio-cultural and socio-economic needs. The workshops encouraged the local government and the local community in both cities to undertake follow-up actions in line with UNESCO's HUL approach.

To ensure that the HUL Quick Scan Method could be disseminated in Indonesia, a handbook was published in November 2021 for university lecturers. With guidance from the handbook, the lecturers can organize their own workshops with students and other stakeholders. Hopefully, this will help to raise awareness about the HUL approach of UNESCO as quickly and widely as possible at a time of vast development of urban and rural areas in Indonesia. The handbook is available in English and Indonesian, with free access through the website of Universitas Indonesia.[1]

Acknowledgment

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1. For more information refer to the link https://architecture.ui.ac.id/home/publications

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