

IMPROVING URBAN PUBLIC SPACE IN HISTORIC URBAN AREA TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND TOURISM ACTIVITIES INVOLVING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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ABSTRACT

¹
Kampong Arab and Kampong Kapiten as an historic urban area are attractive for tourism related of many heritage buildings and unique neighborhood pattern also their traditional activities such as making traditional food, river transportation, making handicraft, etc. All of these can be linkage by open public spaces. According this condition, there are a need to support tourism activities and providing spaces for community activities.

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The proposed plan should be adopted the community¹ participation approach as strategies in improves and form the public space inside the area. It also considered involvement of other different actors from public, private sector, non-government organizations, university and local association in the process of planning and implementing. This approach is effective to reduce the cost of the project, strengthen the community and enhance the capacity of local government.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After Sriwijaya Kingdom fell down, there was no authority region even though Majapahit Kingdom claimed this region as its region. Chinese people from Southern region of China established their leader and they received legality from China Emperor (Ming Dynasty). Palembang became prosperous region for Chinese migrants from Fukien and Kanton.

In Palembang Kingdom period, Chinese had to live in floating house (raft house). They were forbidden to live in dry land area thus the legend of raft house in Palembang said that Chinese inhabited the raft house. Actually, the legend due to a rule that at that time comers/foreigners only could live in raft houses. The sultan thought, if the comers did dangerous activities to country, they easily would be flowed away the river (Jalaludin, 1991).

When Dutch come in Palembang about 1800, in order to take benefit from Chinese trade activity, Dutch gave land-owning right to Chinese. Since that period, Chinese who lived in raft house started to live in land house. Then majority of inhabitants in raft house also changed from Chinese to Malay who came from other areas. As new inhabitants (not member of Kesultanan group), they did not have land-owning right.

Wallace (1962) figured the style of Palembang people in the 19 century is as follows. The citizen was Malay, they did not want to build a house on the dry land as long as they could build a house on the water and they not want to go everywhere on foot as long as the destination can be reached by canoe.

In order to strengthen the authority, the Dutch pointed a leader that called Kapiten. Kapiten must pay tax to the Dutch Government. The first Kapiten was Major Coa Kie Cuan (1830) and the second was Kapiten Coa Han. In addition, nowadays, the houses (several houses) where the Kapiten lived called Kampong Kapiten.

In during the period of Kesultanan Palembang (1550-1823) many people came from Chine, Yemen and some other country. The people who came from Yemen were merchant and live d in several places among Musi River. Kampong Arab located in 10 Ulu is one of the Yemen settlements.

PUBLIC SPACES IN KAMPONG ARAB AND KAMPONG KAPITEN

According to public space condition, in Kampong Arab and Kampong Kapiten there are many kind of public spaces, they are square (plaza), pedestrian ways, water front, play ground and some same unidentified spaces (lost spaces).

The square s in both Kampong Arab and Kampong Kapiten are wide spaces that surrounded by a group of traditional houses. These places have a high meaning for the community. Many activities are done in these spaces such as daily activities, playing for children, social activities (talking each other) and ceremonial activities (wedding party, etc).



Kampong Arab



Kampong Kapiten

Pedestrian ways are another kind of public spaces. These spaces are important things to people mobility. Unfortunately, these spaces are in a very bad condition and decaying.

Related to house arrangement typology and open space, there are two types namely cluster and linear pattern. In cluster pattern, each house faces in common space (square) and in linear pattern each house faces alleys or pedestrian ways.



Kampong Kapiten

COMMUNITY

The community who live in Kampong Arab and Kampong Kapiten are the original people who live there from generation to generation and have had their house from parent's heir. However, the young people tend to move out because of this area not attractive anymore for them.

The other community is migrant people from rural. They moved to Palembang and lived in riverside in order to be near from workplace. Some of them rent houses, and they did not feel sense of belonging and lack of awareness to their neighborhood.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND TOURISM ACTIVITIES

Community activities can divide into three types: necessary activities, optional activities and social activities.

Type of activities	Activities	Type of space	Existing condition
Necessary activities	Going to school or to work	Streets, pedestrian ways	Bad, decaying
	Shopping or buying daily needs	Pedestrian ways, square	Bad, decaying
	Collecting garbage	Streets, pedestrian ways	Bad, decaying
Optional activities	Taking walk to get breath or fresh air	Pedestrian ways, square	Bad, decaying
	Standing around enjoying life	Pedestrian ways, square	Bad, decaying
	Sitting	Terrace	
Social activities	Children at play	Pedestrian ways, square	Bad
	Greeting and conversations	Pedestrian ways, square	Bad
	Communal activities	Square	Bad, decaying
	Talking to others	Pedestrian ways, square	Bad, decaying
	Celebration	Square	Bad, decaying

Source: Field study

Tourism activities include:

- Access and moving around the area
- Outdoor activities such as sitting, walking, etc
- Outdoor café/restaurant

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The public space in Kampong Arab and Kampong Kapiten is most like the forgettable spaces, because of the bad condition and the usage of these spaces. The main problem is decaying of public space that caused of many factor such as poor infra structure, lack of maintenance, lack of implementation of existing guidelines or plan and lack of awareness from the community.

For that area, actually there is a detailed plan and guidelines that consist of public space plan. However, since the plan made until now the plan did not realize. It caused of many factors such as limited budget, lack of involving the community and the plan is too complicated to implement.

FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS

Force field analysis divides into two factors that are driving factors and restraining factors. The driving factors are the factors that could support the implantation process of an action plan. The restraining forces for action planning are defined factors and issues, which can work against and hamper the implantation process of the action plan.

Driving Forces	1 Restraining Forces	Potential Action
Many cultural communities that make various activities in public space	Lack of community participation in planning and implementing the plan and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the community and forming the representative CBO (Community Based Organization)
Supporting from the local government	Lack of community awareness and sense of belonging in maintaining and managing public space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the training program for the community to improve the community capacity on how the can participate and what task the can involve
Strategically location, near the civic center and CBD	Limited budget for upgrading infra structure and public space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the priority program for improve the public space • Involving the private sector
Financial and technical support from the central government	Planning approach is not action oriented and lack of public policy for improving public space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the plan and guidelines • Make a propos plan by involving community participation

STRATEGIC FOR THE ACTION PLAN

1. Community Participation

There is different form, models determine the level, and type of community participation depends on the community situation, the type of development and so on. Some ways for community participation could be as follows:

- Consultation, community could involve through provide information and data required to implement the project.
- Financial contribution
- Self-help by group of beneficiaries who can do physical works on the site of the project. Members of the community can participate in construction their streets, pedestrian ways, etc.
- Community specialized worker who are skilled or vocationally trained and carry out specific task and responsibilities.

2. Participatory Planning

Participatory planning means that community should be involved and participate in the whole planning process. The community participation in planning process and decision-making would be an essential element for this approach. In planning process, many considerations to the community need to be addressed. The need, aspiration and available resources of the community are very important element that needs to be carefully thought about.

3. Participatory Planning: actions

Action of participatory planning includes:

- Selecting the actors and forming a joint committee among the actors.
- Defining the potential funds and supporting from different sources.
- Set a budget for the project implementation.
- Carry out detailed survey from the area
- Visit the area by the planner, local government, local community and the potential private sector. This visit is important to give the actors a clear idea about how are the environmental conditions, in which this group of people lives and use the public space. Beside, this would encourage and increase the level of commitment of these actors and return will have a positive impact on the project implementation.

- Interview the community and hear their ideas and opinion about the project.
- Set an agreement with the community.
- Discuss with the community the development physical plans to consider the priorities and preferences and to make decision about the location of public spaces.
- Prepare the proposal by the planer with the members of community.
- Discuss the proposed plans with the community and approve the plans.
- Implement the plans.

4. Community Participation : actions

- Form the representative CBO for the community with the help of NGO.
- Organize the workshops or seminars to raise the awareness of the community.
- Defining the responsibilities and tasks, which members of the community would carry out within the project.
- Setting a training program for the community on how they can participate and what tasks they can involve.
- Inform the community of the right for financial resources available.

THE ACTION PLAN

Action plan address to very well defined locality problem where the solution is sought by and thought the involvement of large number of actors from public sector, private sector, NGOs, community, etc

The action plan should be:

- Implementation oriented
- Action to tackle problems in limited frame
- Refer to define area
- Innovative
- Owned by those involved
- Legitimate
- Relate to realistically available resources
- These involved can learn from the process

The potential action in improving the public space can divide into three parts, which are social aspect, physical aspect and economic aspect.

CONCLUSION

The proposed plan should be adopted the community participation approach as strategies in improves and form the public space inside the area. It also considered involvement of other different actors from public, private sector, non-government organizations, university and local association in the process of planning and implementing. This approach is effective to reduce the cost of the project, strengthen the community and enhance the capacity of local government.

The action plan divides into two parts. The first is formulation the policy and program using the community participation approach. And the second is implementation pf the policy and program that involving the community, NGO, university and private sector.

The community participation in formulation the policy and plan means that community is able to determine the outcome. These activities include prepare the community and forming the representative CBO, setting the training program for the community

to improve the community capacity, discuss the proposed plan and make agreement for the proposed plan before it is implemented.

In order to implement, not only this action plan but also the future urban project, it is very important for the local government and public establishments to start looking for ways to adjust and modify its organizational and structural framework. Beside the new approach can practice effectively and sufficiently also with the public and governmental sector. To achieve that, a lot of work and commitment are needed.

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