

Revitalization of Green Open Space (GOS) in Kota Malang as the Government Response to Urban Social Sustainability

Dyah Estu Kurniawati¹, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Jalan Socio Justicia 2,

Yogyakarta – Indonesia 65144, dyahestu@gmail.com

Demeiati Nur Kusumaningrum², University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Jalan Raya

Tlogomas 246, Malang – Indonesia 65144, dn.kusumaningrum@yahoo.com

Peggy Puspa Haffsari³, University of Indonesia, Jalan Raya Tlogomas 246, Malang –

Indonesia 65144, peggy.puspa@gmail.com

Abstract

Social sustainability means a policy to create a long-term environment well-being to accommodate communication, interaction, social integration, and public health as the further improvements on quality of life for all segments of the society. The revitalization of Green Open Space (GOS) in Malang City represents the internalization of global ideas toward sustainable urban development paradigm through green city concept. The government-corporate partnerships by CSR program successfully promote several thematic innovations and increase the social merits of Green Open Space of Malang City. It results the achievement of the best practice of East Asian green city model in 2015

Keywords: social sustainability, green city, green open space, revitalization, local government

1. Introduction

The case study concerned on the revitalization of the three of the Green Open Space (GOS) named Taman Merbabu, Taman Trunojoyo, and Alun-Alun Merdeka. The government of Malang City gains cooperation with private sector regarding the project of revitalization on three of those locations. It is very interesting phenomenon because the project of revitalization supported by CSR program and the opening of the new transformation of the three Green Open Space locations happened in the same year of 2014. Moreover, the city mayor of Malang acknowledged by United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) as the “Best Practice Green City in South East Asia” in 2nd ASEAN Mayors Forum

in 2015.

Firstly, we discuss about Taman Trunojoyo which is located in front of the Railway Station of Malang City. After the project of revitalization, it opened on June 1, 2014. It released by the name 'Taman Cerdas Trunojoyo'. It has library room and WiFi connection that available for free. Play ground is provided for children's time. They are not only can playing swing but also showering under the fountain. There are benches surrounded by beautiful garden which the people can sit together and enjoy the breeze of wind. The maternity room and toilet also exist for public. Therefore, the children, parents, and the common people wish to enjoy Taman Cerdas Trunojo. The revitalization of Taman Trunojoyo is supported by PT. Bentoel Prima, Tbk through the CSR program of *Bentoel Group*. The government aimed Taman Trunojoyo does not only become vacation area because of its strategic location, but also to strengthen the education for the whole society (Afandi 2014a).

Secondly, the government of Malang City upgrades the performance of Taman Merbabu. It is settled near the Ijen Boulevard as the prominent icon of Malang City. It opened for public on the June 14, 2015 by the name of 'Merbabu Family Park'. It was supported by CSR project of PT. Beiersdorf through the program of *Nivea Cares for Family*. There are play ground, *futsal* field, and gym equipments that accommodate the outdoor family activities. Therefore, the government perceives the concept of Merbabu Family Park proposed by the company in line with the government's goals to provide area for family gathering and sport exercises (Afandi 2014b).

Thirdly, the Alun-Alun Merdeka Malang is being advanced performance through the CSR program of PT. BRI Prima, Tbk. There are some innovation surrounding the location such as the existence of dancing fountain, maternity room, amphitheater, playground, skateboard track, and garden with the dove caves. The government of Malang

City also provides the Muslim's prayer '*shaf*' in order to give chance for anybody who cannot pray in Masjid Jami' because of not enough space. The project spends around 5, 9 billion Rupiahs. The revitalization of Alun-Alun Merdeka is aimed to maintain the location as a centre of attention and the symbol of Malang City by considering the philosophical values of the history. Now, the people recognize it as Alun-Alun Kota Malang (Sukarelawati 2015).

This paper would like to discuss about the progress of the government of Kota Malang in practicing sustainable development model. The government of Malang City has improved the condition of several locations of Green Open Space as the action called revitalization. The project of revitalization is perceived as the effort to expand the function of Green Open Space that they called as the transformation condition from passive to active. The existence of Green Open Space is providing not only as the ecological preservation but also open freely for public access. By then, people enjoy it as the location of family gathering, the centre of community interaction, outdoor activities, and vacation.

This research would like to answer the question, "What do the factors influence the policy of government of Malang City to revitalize the Green Open Space?". We are going to explain the paper by intermestic approach. As a part of International Relations studies, we believe the domestic policy of Indonesia is affected by world affairs. The political decision of local government is the one of the phenomenon that describes the relations between actor and international structure.

We argue the actions of government of Malang City in running the project of revitalization of Green Open Space is influenced by the global ideas of Sustainable Urban Development and the role of the City Mayor as the norm entrepreneur. The revitalization of Green Open Space in Kota Malang is a kind of local government consideration to climate change issues. We suggest this policy accommodate the urban community need in the term of social sustainability.

We use qualitative method and build the argumentations by analyzing data and information through library research and *depth* interview. We will manage our explanation in some parts; *first*, the essence of social sustainability as the element of sustainable development model. The national mandate on the existence of GOS is the local government concern on the evaluation of good government performance. *Second*, the internalization of Urban Sustainable Development paradigm in Indonesia as the need of modern and harmonizes life of society. Bali Forum 2010 becomes the core of the discourse. *Third*, the roles of city mayor to gain stake-holder partnership to implement green city concept.

2. Polarization of Sustainable Development: Social Sustainability as Priority

The conceptual framework of this paper appreciated the idea of Alexander Wendt, Nicholas G. Onuf, and Robert O. Keohane about constructivist-reflectivist approach. It suggested the understanding of the world and intellectual tools used for viewing the world are influenced by the assumptions of the actor that socially constructed. The main argument is about how such changes come and how they are embedded or reflected in institutional change, both at the national and international levels. There is an interactive process in which people constituting a group or a unit continuously construct in their individual and collective mind the reality that forms the basis for and is shaped by the decision made. The institutions emerge as a result of deliberative process that, in turn, shapes the social milieu (Dougherty & Pfaltzgraff, Jr.: 2001).

The paradigm of sustainable development has been internalized in Indonesia since the released on the late 80s. The term sustainable development was introduced in World Conservation Strategy published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in 1980. In 1982, UNEP organized a special session

commemorating the 10 years the world environmental movement (1972-1982) in Nairobi, Kenya, as a reaction to dissatisfaction over the handling of the environment over the years. In the special session agreed on the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). The UN chose Norwegian Prime Minister Mrs. Harlem Brundtland and former Sudanese Foreign Minister Khaled Mansour, respectively the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the WCED. The concept of Sustainable Development was then popularized through WCED report entitled "Our Common Future" (Day of Our Common Future), published in 1987. This report defined Sustainable Development as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

There are the cognitive evolution that make the implementation of development strategies differ from the one administration to the others one. The Old Order and the New Order much concern of the economic growth. The international pressure at that time influenced the regime to strengthen the state capacity to eradicate poverty. It realized from the policy of green revolution (agriculture) and blue revolution (maritime) to foster the wealth of the population. The great leadership of the state able to develop energy security which fortunate the people by government fuel subsidy. The era of decentralization evaluate the condition of Indonesia's environment which suffering much impact of biodiversity loss and natural resources scarcity. Therefore, the sustainable development model becomes the consideration of the next administrations. The polarization of sustainable development model in Indonesia experiences the changing policy in order to face and response the challenge of globalization.

The national government as a regime that institutionalized the essence of development model through a set of policies regarding spatial planning. On the national level, the existence of Green Open Space in urban area is a part of the urban management that has

been mandate on UU No. 26 Tahun 2007. Moreover, Permendagri Nomor 1 Tahun 2007 involved the encouragement for local government to provide at least 30% GOS from the total area of the city. The Green Open Space must be 20% accessible for public.

Based on Permendagri Nomor 1 Tahun 2007, there are three functions of Green Open Space, such as a place for plants to grow, as water reserve, and preserve existing biodiversity. Moreover, Green Open Space is a location for social activities, such as accommodating community interaction, recreation area, and public relaxing space. Somehow, the existence of Green Open Space in every city in Indonesia aims to be city landmark. It is able to attract tourists from other cities and countries. By considering that policies, we argue the Indonesian government mandates to provide Green Open Space are not only as the environment preservation but also contained economic benefits and social dimension.

In this research, social sustainability is understood by development (and/or growth) that is compatible with harmonious evolution of civil society, fostering an environment conducive to the compatible cohabitation of culturally and socially diverse groups while at the same time encouraging social integration, with improvements in the quality of life for all segments of the population". The vision of city government to present Malang as "Green City", reflected "the continuing ability of a city to function as a long-term, viable setting for human interaction, communication and cultural development".

The sub-national government practices it not only as the mandate but also the necessity in the era of decentralization -'Otonomi Daerah'. According to Ikatan Ahli Perencana (IAP) Indonesia, the existence of Green Open Space is the one of indicator in the urban planning appropriateness of green city model (Anton, 2015). Then, each of local administration is able to develop the innovation and creation in order to realize the vision and adjust to society need.

The city government institutionalized the idea of sustainable urban development

by presenting the image of Malang as 'Green City'. The revitalization of Green Open Space perform social sustainability as a priority. It hopes the people interested to visit the locations of Green Open Space as family gathering, vacation, community interaction, relaxing and sport area. The transformation of physical performance of Green Open Space thematically is able to attract people to come and increasing the number of visitors to the areas. Several esthetic innovation on the location of Green Open Space provide for the whole elements of the society involve family, children, older, disable, and common people.

4. The Sustainable Urban Development: Malang as the Green City

In Indonesia, the national government has a roadmap to create the future city plan which considers the wealth of the people by respecting the character of culture, local wisdom, and economic prospect. According to BAPPENAS, the characters of green and comfortable city model are the prominent one. This notion is the realization of sustainable urban development – city could afford the need of the whole society without neglecting the need of future generation in the term of economy, ecology, and social well-being (Anton, 2015). It is in line with the global discourse about sustainable urban development as the response to climate change issue.

The climate change and high-speed urban are the most important of urban problem. Those challenge the city governments to make best planning and practice to pace of recent urban development in order to respond effectively those urban problem. Through Bali declaration in 2010, sustainable urban development has been a new paradigm for city government to emphasizes on the balance between economy, social, and environmental aspects, and attempts to transform knowledge into concrete and systematic steps. One of the emerging response is by bringing the concept of green city to take place because green city has all potentials to decrease carbon emission.

There are 8 green elements to be implemented by city government to realize sustainability urban development through green city, such as: green planning and design, green open space, green waste, green transportation, green water, green energy, green building, and green community. Based on this concept, cities are challenged to transform environmental problems into new innovations and appropriate solutions. Therefore city government has to implement good governance principals involving collaboration among the local government, civil society, and private sector in order to actualize green city concept (Wikantiyoso, 2015).

In Indonesia, the Bali declaration realized through the Green City Development Program (P2KH) which started in 2011. The local government that committed to implement the green city model is required to draw up the Green City Action Plan (Rencana Aksi Kota Hijau-RAKH). It consists of: *software* -in the form of preparation Green Open Space master plan and green map, the *hardware* – the local government provide the city park that environmentally friendly, and the *organware* -the form of the establishment of green communities and green city campaign. The national government has several roles in deals with the assistance and technical guidance, training and support program. Whereas, the local government responsible for the implementation of programs such as physical implementation, dissemination, public aspirations and replication of the program together with the community and the business sectors. By the case in Malang City, the local government gains corporate partnerships through CSR program that successfully promote several thematic innovations and increase the social merits of GOS.

On the former administration, the development of Malang City has directed to present the green city model with by the slogan "Malang Ijo Royo-Royo (MIRR)". The government gain cooperation with private sector – PT Sampoerna to encourage the environmental well-being through the competition between villages. However, the increasing

of business investment in Malang City triggers the changing of the concept of green city. There are massive building developments of the centre of exchange –malls, shops (*ruko*), and housing- to expand the opportunity for creating job field. Unfortunately, the innovation of the 34 Green Open Space's in Malang City are not fully for public accessed. As a result, many people replace the slogan to "Malang Ijo Ruko-Ruko (MIRR)." It is wondering that the city is crowd by building as much as the grass field.

Since the election win Moch. Anton as the city mayor -who people called him Abah Anton-, it becomes the momentum to improve the condition of Malang City in deals with the innovation of Malang as green city. The education background of city mayor as architecture engineer influence his policy to restore the image of Malang as a green city, cool, and beautiful. He designed the city landmark as the model of comfortable place to live. Therefore, the existence of Green Open Space need to be improved by several innovation such as develop important infrastructure that support the need of the whole element of the society –maternity room, sport equipment, children play ground, flower garden, library, internet connection (wifi), rest area, and artificial sites. The thematic landscape of the Green Open Space is supported by the intersubjective understanding of the city mayor to representing Malang as a beautiful city. It aimed the existence of new performance of three locations- Taman Merbabu, Taman Trunojoyo, and Alun-Alun Malang- are able to be the one of centre of attention and increasing the passion of people to come to those places.

Moreover, the project of Green Open Space revitalization is integrated in the CSR programs. The success of city mayor to gain cooperation with private enterprises is influenced by his business network and the negotiation capacity as the leader of the city. The problem of funding on maintenance and preservation of the new performance of the three locations and the strong principle to serve the people well through the city public space becomes the personal motivation as executive board of the administration. The dilemma

between the government responsibility and the intersubjective understanding on social sustainability encouraged the city mayor to release the idea of multi-stakeholder partnership through CSR program.

4. Conclusion

This research present that the revitalization of the three green open space in Malang City in the era of Abah Anton is the existance of the global idea of green city concept and the national mandate in the local government performance. The green open space policy not only had beautify the city but also social and ecological function. The intersubjective understanding of the city mayor resulted innovations that recognized as the best practise green city in South East Asia.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank to Abah Anton the City Mayor and Pak Erik Santoso (Kepala Dinas Kebersihan dan Pertamanan Kota Malang) who give us information “from the first hand”. We also highly appreciate to Center of Intermestic Studies (CIS), Department of International Relations, University of Muhammadiyah Malang for supporting this research.

References

- Afandi, Achmad Syaiful (2014a). “Wali Kota Malang Resmikan Merbabu Family Park”. *Dinas Komunikasi dan Informatika Pemerintah Kota Malang*. Released June 15, 2014. Accessed on April 1, 2017. <<http://mediacenter.malangkota.go.id/2014/06/wali-kota-malang-resmikan-merbabu-family-park/#ixzz3fZ5B4ijj>>
- Afandi, Achmad Syaiful (2014b). “Taman Cerdas Trunojoyo Diresmikan”. *Dinas*

Komunikasi dan Informatika Pemerintah Kota Malang. Released June, 2, 2014. Accessed on April 1, 2017. <<http://mediacenter.malangkota.go.id/2014/06/taman-cerdas-trunojoyo-diresmikan/#ixzz3fZ8u6b2T>>

Anton, H. Moch. (2015). “Kebijakan, Strategi, dan Konsep Pembangunan Kota Berkelanjutan”. Paper Presentation on September 5, 2015 in Seminar Nasional Lustrum VII Program Studi Arsitektur 2015. Fakultas Teknik Sipil & Perencanaan, Institut Teknologi Nasional Malang. p.3

Dougherty, James E. & Pfaltzgraff Jr., Robert L. (2001). “Constructivism and Cognitive Evolution”. *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive Survey*, 5th Edition, United States: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

Polese, Mario & Stren, Richard (2000). *The Social Sustainability of Cities: Diversity and Management of Change*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. p. 15-16.

Sukarelawati, Endang (2015). “Alun-alun Kota Malang dilengkapi shaf untuk shalat”. *Antara News Online*. Released June 17, 2015. Accessed on April 1, 2017. <<http://www.antaraneews.com/berita/502008/alun-alun-kota-malang-dilengkapi-shaf-untuk-shalat>>

Wikantiyoso, Respati (2015). “Perencanaan dan Perancangan Green City: Strategi Kebijakan Pembangunan Kota Berkelanjutan”. Paper of National Seminar. *Seminar Nasional Kebijakan, Strategi, dan Konsep Pembangunan Kota Berkelanjutan*. Lustrum 7 Program Studi Arsitektur, Institut Teknologi Nasional. Malang - Indonesia. p.9

Yiftachel, Oren & Hedgcock, David (1993). “Urban social sustainability: the planning of an Australian City”. *Cities*. Volume 10, Issue 2, May 1993, Pages 139-157. <[https://doi.org/10.1016/0264-2751\(93\)90045-K](https://doi.org/10.1016/0264-2751(93)90045-K)>