

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Wonorejo Multipurpose Dam Construction Project (1) (2)

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Relevance

In any country be it developed, developing or undeveloped, problems of water system management that have impacts on many aspects of human life and how to provide electric energy that already become one of the basic needs for achieving progress in modern life, have to be addressed in any national planning of the country concerned and Indonesia is no exception. The Wonorejo Multipurpose Dam Construction Project is one of the many similar projects been, being or to be constructed throughout Indonesia in line with the national policy of Indonesia.

Three objectives were to be achieved with the construction of the Wonorejo Multipurpose Dam namely the mitigation of flood in the Tulungagung Regency, the hydroelectric generation to meet the demand for electric power in Tulungagung Regency and its surrounding area, and to increase supply of raw water for the Water Treatment Plant that supply drink-water for the city of Surabaya.

The annual flood in the Tulungagung Regency has been for long known for the severe damage and suffering it caused and therefore the acceptance of the people to be resettled in other areas as to facilitate the dam construction could easily be understood. The Wonorejo Dam together with the drainage system that been constructed in effect mitigated the flood damage and provide a better irrigation system for the surrounding arable land and in turn will increase farm-productivity.

How relevant is the hydroelectric generation? Hydroelectric generation is known as the cheapest and the cleanest way to produce electric power. Up to this moment Indonesia has not been able to meet the continuously increasing demand for electric power and even the Java-Bali Grid is still facing shortage. The Law of the Government Number 20 of 2002 concerning Electricity stipulated that the Regional Government should provide funds for the development of electricity supply facilities in order to help the underprivileged groups, development of electricity in remote areas and development of electricity for rural areas. Needless to say that the development of regional electric supply should be based on the Regional Electricity Master Plan with due consideration to the National Electricity General Master Plan.

In developing electric supply, the trend is toward using renewable energy resources with small generation capacity. It seems the long practice of constructing huge-capacity generating plant based on the idea of "economies of scale" will gradually overcome by smaller, cleaner electric generating plant and be interconnected with the national grid. For all those criteria the Wonorejo hydroelectric plant is well in place particularly it already become part of the Java- Bali Grid managed by the PT Pembangkit Jawa-Bali.

The third objective is to increase supply of raw water to the Karang Pilang water treatment Plant that supply Drinking water for the city of Surabaya. To provide adequate supply of fresh palatable water is an acute problem for Indonesia particularly in view of the increasing population. It can be seen that the government is very much concerned about this problem. A Government Law Number 16 of 2005 concerning the Development of Drinking Water Supply System is enacted as a proof that the Government is really concerned about the problem. And as suggested by the Final report the Surabaya Water Treatment Plant should increase its capacity, seems to be taken into consideration by the Government. Included in the list of Water and Sanitation System Development offered to private sector for investment soon after the January 2005 Investment Summit is the Karang Pilang Water Treatment IV.

We can conclude that although the Wonorejo Multipurpose Dam is constructed to serve the Tulungagung Regency in particular and the city of Surabaya, its contribution should be appreciated with grace.