

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Surabaya Urban Development Project (1)

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Relevance

As a rapidly developing metropolis with an actual population of more than three million people, Indonesia's second largest city and the center of urban services for Eastern part of the country, Surabaya indeed needed a clear direction as to where the city is going to be developed and real investment in major urban infrastructures that provide the backbones for the growth. It was in this regard that the Surabaya Urban Development Project (SUDP) funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) had been implemented. At the time of the execution, SUDP was in accordance with the Fifth Five Year Development Plan of East Java Province, which has designated Surabaya as one of the development center in the province. Within the more recent contexts of decentralization policy as well as urbanization trend, SUDP has also helped — directly and indirectly — strengthening the capacities of the local government particularly in managing urban development, more especially with Surabaya as one of the main urban centers in Indonesia. Furthermore, in relation to the current urban development policy as stated in the Policy and Strategy for National Urban Development (KSNPP — Kebijakan dan Strategi Nasional Pengembangan Perkotaan), which among others indicates the need to clarify and strengthen the roles and functions of cities in national development and which consequently some cities are designated as regional centers — SUDP had provided the physical infrastructure for the implementation of the concept of Greater Surabaya (Gerbang Kertasusila), which covers Surabaya and the surrounding municipalities. Surabaya is not only the capital city of East Java Province but also the urban service center of Eastern part of Indonesia (along with Makassar in South Sulawesi). In this context, SUDP has a greater relevance not only at the city level but also at the regional level.

Impacts

Like most big and rapidly growing cities in Indonesia, Surabaya had experienced a lack of basic infrastructure not only to provide the direction for future growth but also to deal with the needs of the existing population. As a result, the city had been physically dominated by informal structure that were inefficient and inadequate. Existing urban roads were congested and in poor conditions. Lack of proper drainage had created regular floods, while inadequate solid waste management and water supply system had affected the overall welfare of the city's population. Although spatial plans as well as development plans — at the national, provincial as well as at the city-level — had been formulated since the 1970s and somewhat regularly updated afterwards, the inadequacy in actual urban infrastructure investment had made those plans less effective. With its four main sectors, namely urban roads, drainage, solid waste and water supply, SUDP along with a few other major projects have helped ease the above urban pressures. Recent interviews with current Surabaya city officials (BAPPEKO and Dinas Tata Kota) indicates that SUDP sub-projects have in fact helped spread the physical development in a more balanced way, regional-wise. Urban service centers were no longer concentrated in the Tunjungan area but also in a number of peripheral areas, made possible by the roads constructed or improved within the SUDP framework. Improvement of river banks and drainage have also helped the city in coping with annual flooding. Solid waste management is still a challenge, although has been significantly improving. Similarly in the water supply sector. Most uncompleted construction works had been due to existing land status or land acquisition problems — something that has also constrained physical development in most big cities in Indonesia.