Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Bili-Bili Multipurpose Dam Project (1), (2), and (3)

Dr. Bambang Permadi Soemantri Brodjonegoro Head of Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics University of Indonesia

Relevance

The background part of the report introduced the problem and situation of Makassar city at the time of project formulation as well as its prospect in the future. The objective of the project was, as predicted, to solve the associated problem as well as to anticipate the existing situation, future prospect and demand. Evaluator agrees that the proposed solution was logically appropriate to address the problem and anticipate the future development, and that the relevance of the project to the problem was crystal clear. In addition to that, legally speaking, the project was also in accordance with the Water Resource Development and Management program of the National Development Plan (2000-2004). In fact, the project may claim that not only did it comply with the water national development program, but also was in line with the domestic economic development of Makassar city.

Priority-wise, the project was intended to solve an endemic, seasonal problem that arises almost every year. Taking into account project beneficiary of 1.2 million population of Makassar city, role of Makassar city as an important hub for the eastern part of Indonesia, as well as the prospect of the project to provide many more important contributions to the development of Makassar city and surroundings, the project might acquire high priority and importance among other development program planned back then. Water resource management program was also among government priority during 2000-2004, after years of illegal logging and settlement, environment ignorance, as well as excessive garbage disposal had caused many cities endemic flood damage problem and unhealthy sanitary for years. Therefore, we are convinced that the project confirm to the priority of the Indonesia's government policy to improve people's quality of life as well as national Human Development Index (HDI) rating among other nations.

At present time, the relevance and importance of the project remains high. Not only does it solve the targeted problem, but it also enables significant foundation for more economic opportunities for the Makassar city and surroundings, such as clean (drinkable) water and wastewater treatment for household sanitary needs, irrigation for agriculture, and electricity for industrial / commercial needs.

Impact

The project seems successful to provide direct impact on reinforcing control over seasonal flood damage to Makassar city as well as to promote indirect impact on stable economic growth for 1.2 million of population. Negative impact of dam construction project on environmental and social issues has always raised concern among environmentalists. Among other environmental concerns are water quality, deforestation, sedimentation and erosion, and downstream hydrology. Among other social issues are those relate to project-affected people, such as failed benefit-sharing, unsatisfactory resettlement, disrupted riverian activities, etc. As far as the report described, we begin to believe that those issues have been addressed carefully and the majority of people were satisfied. To dramatically increase the positive impact, further service infrastructure needs to be introduced as soon as possible.