

## **Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Padang Area Flood Control Project**

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### **Sustainability**

In general the Padang Area Flood Control project is very much effective in containing the external overflow due to over-topping from the rivers, so that it can be considered that the long term objectives particularly the socio-economic and environment impacts have been sufficiently realized. Land areas that previously hardly can be used for economic activities are now free from flood and the many people who settled in the areas concerned can have a better life.

The problem of sand sedimentation at the mouth of the Air Dingin river according to the Deputy Head of the Project has been solved and there is no more sand blocking the flow of the Air Dingin River into the sea by constructing jetties along the end banks of the rivers using such technique that made it possible the sand be swept to sea by the downturn of the tide. Subsequently no more flood occurred in the surrounding settlements.

The flood that occurred during the rainy season of 2003 and 2004 are not due to the over-topping of the rivers but due to urban drainage channels that are not effective enough in channeling the surface water caused by the heavy rainfall at certain times only and hardly bring much damage to the city of Padang since the flood subsides within practically short time.

This brings to attention the Operation and Maintenance System of the River Improvement and the Urban Drainage Channels. Up to now the operation and maintenance of the river banks and other infrastructures that was constructed during Phase I and Phase II for flood control and prevention of abrasion of the seashores fell under the Directorate General of Water Resources (Western Region) of the Ministry of Settlement and Regional Infrastructures. Thereby the cost for O&M is born by the Central Government. On the other hand the operation and maintenance of the Urban Drainage Channels fell under the Division of Space Planning and Settlement (Tata Ruang dan Pemukiman) of the Padang Municipal Authority. The Padang Flood Control Management (Badan Proyek Pengendalian Banjir) do made the effort to control the outlet of the city drainage that are connected to the flood control canals but it is limited at the most up to 100 meters inward.

As for the funds available for operation and maintenance are very much limited, be it that being borne by the central government as well as the municipal authority. Consequently the management of the Padang Flood Control Project is having difficulties in employing permanent staff and workers. Even though there is no difficulty in finding technically suitable and capable and well qualified persons, it is being impaired by not enough funds available. The management is forced to employ a number of temporary staff and workers with no right for remuneration and other amenities as received by permanent staff and workers. As expected the temporary workers are not very dedicated and whenever there are lack of technical skills it is rather doubtful that it will be useful to train them knowing that they will leave at the first better opportunity that comes by.

Despite the shortage of funds available for operation and maintenance the management of the Padang Flood Control Project does their utmost to maintain and keep the project in good condition and their effort resulted that no more flood caused by overflow due to over-topping of the many rivers that run through the city of Padang. Aside of several bridges, canals, construction of rivers' embankment, dams, jetties and other structures along the seashores as well as road enlargements as part of the projects are added social, economic and environment benefits, some offers places for recreation for the people of Padang and its surrounding.

In our opinion the project is beneficial, while lesson learned is that funds for operation and maintenance should be taken into consideration in the future as well as how to integrate one project with the existing related structures, the synchronization of the O&M management system if it has to be under different authorities.