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# The Concept of Sustainable Temporary Public Open Space

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**Abstract.** High level of urbanization has increased population density and land price in city-kampong, which in the end has neglected the existence of public open space. Population development and growth have triggered the need on public space. Unfortunately, the existence of public open space is increasingly neglected. Limited land also triggers the use of public open space for various activities depending on the need of the users who use the open space interchangeably. This type of open space is called temporary public open space. The presence of temporary public open space in Paseban City-kampong in Jakarta has created negative impact which is bigger than the positive impact. In the end, the negative impact resulted in environmental damage in the form of imbalances in ecological, social and economic aspects.

The purpose of this research is to understand the positive and negative impacts as a result of the presence of temporary public open space. Then, a conceptual framework is developed to implement a sustainable temporary public open space that will not disturb the balance of ecological, social and economic aspects. The method used in this research is qualitative method, i.e. to understand the phenomenon in the field comprehensively by conducting observation and interview with local people about the presence of temporary public open space.

The result of this research is that city and city-kampong are parts of a city. The presence of a temporary public open space is essential and it is influenced by people time and behavior. To implement a sustainable temporary open public space, community empowerment is needed so that the space can accommodate the needs of the people now and in the future.

**Keywords:** concept of temporary public open space, city-kampong, urbanization.

## Introduction

Urban growth and development should be followed by the need on open space, since open space is an integral part of urban area. Public open space is an open space that is accessible to general public. Public space possesses three characteristics, i.e. responsive, democratic, and meaningful. Responsive means the space can be used for various activities and broad interests. Democratic means public space can be used by general public from various social, economic, and cultural backgrounds and is accessible to various human physical conditions. Whereas, meaningful means the public space should have links between man, space and the world within the social context.

The presence of urban public space in Indonesia has been more and more neglected by decision maker and practitioners of regional spatial planning, so that this vital space is decreasing. Public space that has become a place of public interactions, such as sporting field, urban park, recreational area and art area, has been disappearing and replaced by shopping mall, shopping centers, and shops (*Buletin Tata Ruang* ISSN 1978-1571, July-August 2010). A lot of public spaces tend to be used as parking space, and tourism and trade activities. Furthermore, various places in urban area have been opened for public and have been perceived as public property, such as restaurant, museum, library, and movie theatre. These places hold important and significant roles. In a similar way as shopping

center which focuses on trade, restaurant has its own certain function and operation hours limited by its own regulation.

Public open space is a public space where community performs routine and functional activities which binds a community, whether it is a normal routine from daily lives or a periodic ceremony (Carr, 1992). Along with the development of times, public open space then has a function as a place for meeting, gathering and social interaction, for religious, trade, or governmental purposes. The presence of a public open space in an area of the city center is vital since it is capable of improving the quality of urban life from the point of view of environment, community or city through spatial utilization that provides benefits such as sport, recreation and green open space. In developing public open space in urban context, influential factors within it should be taken into consideration. As a public open space, its spatial utilization characteristics should be known in order to create an outer space responsive to the need of the society.

Perceived from its function, public open space can be categorized into vehicle circulation space (freeway, artery road, etc.), public open space in commercial center (parking area, plaza and mall), open public space of industrial area, and commemorative open public space (Carr, 1992). Public open space is a space intended for public interests and it is a way for the society to rediscover their humanitarian space. However, in certain cases, public open space tends to be neglected as a result of the complexity in urban spatial planning. However, not in all cases where strategies and facts can be disentangled to find their causes. This might occur as a result of the incorrect selection of the approximation method.

High number of population growth as a result of urbanization has created problems for major urban areas in Indonesia. High number of urban population and its ever growing number have had high impact on the pressure on urban spatial utilization which resulted in the limitation of open spaces. This phenomenon occurs in the Jakarta city-kampong. Jakarta as the nation capital with the highest population in Indonesia has public open spaces approximately 10% of the total area or more or less 6,874.06 ha which means that Jakarta is experiencing a 20% deficit of public open space. Law Number 26 year 2007 on Spatial Planning states that each city in its regional spatial plan should allocate at least 30% of its area for public open space. This minimum condition is reflected in the social activities in some major cities in Indonesia such as Jakarta. Public space deficit in the form of playing park and sporting field can be perceived from children playing soccer, cycling or playing kites on road median, under the flyover or on the river bank. This is the result of the lack of playing field in their neighborhood. The shift of land function or the disappearance of the function of public open space, will cause more serious problems in the future.

A lot of public spaces have been utilized for private purposes with a reason that public space is a common space that can be utilized by anybody free of charge, so that many public spaces are no longer accessible to general public. The shift in this function of public space has reduced the presence of public space. This also happens in the city-kampong, so that the city-kampong community utilizes the existing open space for various activities to fulfill their daily needs. This has damaged the environment from economic, ecology, and social point of views.

## **Literature Review**

**Public Open Space.** According to Simonds (1983), Shirvani (1985), Carr (1992), Hakim (2002), and Dharmawan (2005), public open space is an open space that can be in the form of green or non-green area, and can be used by anybody free of charge, regardless of time, and is located outside of a building. The function of an open space is for social interaction, relaxing, and leisure. It is strategically located and can be in the form of park, plaza, road, and open area on the side of the road.

**Sustainable.** Environmental problems occur as a result of a holistic and complex gap between phenomenon in the field and what is expected based on the existing theory. Environmental problems occur here is the presence of temporary public open space that has caused environmental damage in ecology, social and economic aspects that in the end causes subsystem disharmony and

imbalance. As a consequence, the presence of a sustainable temporary public open space is needed. In the present time and in the future, the presence of this temporary public open space will not disturb the balance of environment.

As stated in Miller (2004), 3 Pro (Gondokusumo, 2005), Law No. 32 year 2009, Rogers (2008) and Brunckhorst, et.al. (2006), sustainability deals with three aspects, i.e. economy: increase income and treat poor people as subject and not object, social: job opportunities, ecology: healthy neighborhood.

**Theory of the third space (Soja) and space reproduction (Lefebvre).** Space and time are inseparable. Changes in time will form a new spatial architecture. Author argues that place is a space that has a meaning for someone. Space is unlimited, place is limited and the formation of a place needs time. Time and human behavior affect the function of a place. Human needs on place varies, depend on social, cultural, economical, political, demographical, and geographical aspects, etc. (Theory of space and time from Tuan, 1977; Heidegger, 1985; Einstein, 1998, Scott, 2011). According to Soja (1996), the third space is a space formed as a product of space reproduction (lived space), i.e. a product of a combination process between perceived and conceived space (concept of space as a place).

**Temporary public open space.** According to Soja (1996) and Carmono, et al (2006), temporary public open space is an open space that occurs as a product of social interaction and community needs along with the passing of time.

**Human behavior.** Haryadi (2010), Halim (2005) and Marcella (2004) stated that the community of city-kampong tends to make the function of public and private spaces unclear. Then, the space territory is divided into three groups, i.e. primary, secondary, and tertiary.

**Community empowerment.** Empowerment means to make something empowered or havepower (Merriam Webster in Oxford Dictionary). Community empowerment is expected to guarantee the sustainability of the utilization of temporary public open space. The main approximation in the empowerment concept is that community will not become the object of various development projects, but rather they will be the subject of the development process itself. Gunawan Sumodiningrat (2002) dalam tulisannya '*Pemberdayaan Masyarakat dalam Kerjasama antara Pemerintah, Swasta dan Masyarakat* (Public Private Partnership)' stated tha the cooperation between the government and private sector and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are two schemes of financing with different characteristics but with the same objectives i.e. to improve community welfare. Cooperation between government and private sector is one of the financing schemes mostly relied on by developed as well as developing countries.

From various definitions mentioned above, a conclusion can be made that community empowerment is an effort to enable and to make the community self-sufficient, or in other words how to enable the community to help themselves.

## **Methodology**

Assessment of journals and theories related to the science of environment and the topic of temporary public open space has produced a conceptual framework of sustainable temporary public open space. Variables used in this concept are human being, time, temporary public open space, sustainable temporary public open space, and community empowerment.

## **Result and Discussion**

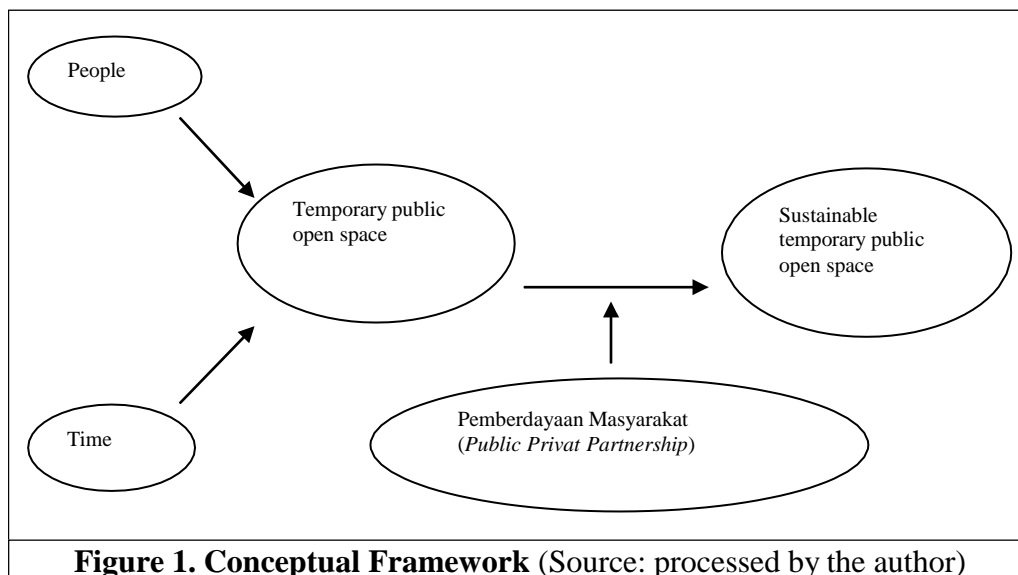
Based on the understanding on the theory of environmental science and other theories supporting the research topic, the conceptual framework can be formulated. The background concept of this research is the presence of neglected public open space as a result of the growing city-kampong population density. The growing population density of city-kampong is also a result of the increase in urbanization. High level of urbanization has caused environmental problems, so the challenge is to overcome the environmental problems from ecological, social, and economical aspects. Population increases, while land area remains the same, so the presence of public open space is

neglected. As a result the city-kampong inhabitants use the existing public open space for various purposes and the space is used interchangeably according to the needs that in the end produce temporary public open space. Temporary public open space is public open space used for various activities and is used interchangeably according to the needs and it is temporary. The presence of this temporary open public space has some positive and negative impacts. The positive impact of this temporary public open space is its capability to accommodate all activities of the inhabitants according to the needs regardless of the limited land area.

On the other hand, the negative impacts are traffic congestion, pollution, flood, dirty facilities, inter residents conflicts, unhealthy environment, etc. Apparently, the negative impacts are bigger than the positive impacts since negative impacts will trigger environmental damage. To prevent the presence of this temporary public open space from damaging the environment, it should be managed to make it sustainable.

Based on theoretical review, the state of the art of this research are:

- a. Observation on the presence of temporary public open space in the city-kampong
- b. Identify the presence of temporary public open space based on the perspective of environmental science, i.e. ecology, social, and economy
- c. Analysis to implement a sustainable temporary public open space



**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework** (Source: processed by the author)

Temporary public open space is the product of social interactions (human being) through perceived space and conceived space processes.

Space is created as a result of the needed activities which ended at additional function of open space that attracts many visitors. Here we can find the meaning of space, the production of space and its correlation between man and space. Time and human behavior - human as inhabitants or public space users - are very influential in the presence of temporary public open space. The spaces created in the public space in city-kampong or temporary public open space is a space to fulfill the needs of the inhabitants to increase their income, to gather with their communities, and to relax. This temporary public open space is also called the third space like in the Soja theory (1997).

An increase in income is the primary necessity so that the kampong inhabitants opened up their business activities in front of their houses. These business activities will trigger the presence of other spaces such as social interaction with the neighbors, space for child playing and space for food vendors from outside the city-kampong area. Space is produced socially and formatted by the human mind ("The Production of Space" from Lefebvre). 'Produced' here means that it is a process from variety of works and forms. In this case, production is a social interaction that creates space with human as the actors. Space production is begun when human being has a social interaction in a

similar space which then will be used by other human being. The present space is not only things of the past or present, but it is also a future imagination.

Along with population growth and development, the need on space for human activities is becoming more complex, while the presence of public open space is becoming more limited. The phenomenon of temporary public open space in Paseban city-kampong and other city-kampongs can be perceived as a deviation from the real function of residential spatial plan in urban space. However, this can become a critique and input for users and planners to give meaning to public open space as a place essential for us and people surround us.

Observation in Paseban city-kampong discovered that the community of city-kampong is a marginal community who still need public open space for sport, recreation, gathering and interaction without any social, economy and gender constraints. The marginal community in this city-kampong always increases their daily activities related to business to increase income. This gives new understanding in the city-kampong problems which is part of the city.

As time goes on, the need on space increases too, so that the presence of temporary public open space often occurs. The third space or temporary public open space appears in public space in accordance with the community perception that public space belongs to everybody and can be used according to community needs. Field observation shows that the presence of temporary public open space has produced more negative impacts than the positive ones, so that control is needed to prevent the negative impact from spreading even wider.

Then, by taking into consideration the following aspects:

1. Understand the process of the formation of practice space of Lefebvre theory or the third space of Soja theory in the research area.
2. Sustainability and partnership among the development actors, i.e. public sector, private sector, and community, are the right mechanism to achieve the goal of sustainable development.
3. Partnership pattern among government, private sector and community is a concept of community empowerment in implementing sustainable temporary public open space as applied in Bandar Lampung in waste management integrally and holistic.

As shown on figure 1, variables used in the concept are human being, time, temporary public open space, sustainable temporary public open space, and community empowerment. To implement sustainable temporary public open space, community empowerment is needed using cooperation between government, private sector and community.

## **Conclusion**

Time and human behavior affect the presence of temporary public open space. To implement sustainable temporary public space, community empowerment is needed so that the space can accommodate community activities for present time and in the future as well.

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