COMPLETION   REPORT

The Role of Local Community in Managing The Urban Forest: Case of Japan and Indonesia

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RESEARCH REPORT for SUMITOMO PROJECT 2013-2014
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Background

This research emphasizes on how the local communities in Japan and Indonesia manage the urban forests in their countries. Japan was represented by Kyoto city and Indonesia was represented by Jakarta. Experience from Jakarta shows that the awareness of local communities to manage urban forests is still lack and far from ideal. The head of sub department of forestry at ministry of fishery and agricultural of DKI Jakarta, Desmon, stated that garbage is still the main problem in one of the urban forests located in Srengseng Sawah, West Jakarta. In addition of the bad habit of sightseers who like to throw their waste plastic garbage carelessly, the nearby community is also made the problem worsened by throwing their garbage at the border area between forest and settlement area. Moreover, the Pesanggrahan River which is expected to decorate the forest more beautiful is also rotted by garbage (Kompas, July 6, 2011).

Another site of the urban forest of which still on the downstream of the Pesanggrahan River that we visited was The Sangga Buana Forest in Lebak Bulus, South Jakarta. Unlike the urban forest at Srengseng Sawah, the condition of the urban forest in Sangga Buana is relatively in a good shape. The difference in the condition of both forests seemed stem out from the difference in the management of the forest. Srengseng Sawah forest is managed by the province government while Sangga Buana forest is managed by private, Haji Chaerudin (Bang Idin). Interestingly, we also found that the role of the community who live nearby in managing the forest is more prevalent in the Sangga Buana than in Srengseng Sawah.

Research methodology

We interviewed some scholars and expertise from several institutions in Kyoto. They are Masayuki Yanagisawa, Ph.D. (Center for Integrated Area Studies Kyoto University/CIAS), Motoko Fujita,PH.D, Andrea Hiroshima, Ph.D Noboru Ishikawa, Ph.D. (Center for Southeast Asian Studies Kyoto University/CISEAS) and Prof. Shin Muramatsu (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature/RIHN). We observed the urban forest accompanied by two forestry expert, Watanabe Ph.D and Prof. Yamada. We also interviewed the Kyoto City hall and prefecture officer. And to enrich the data we visited and interviewed the forest management officer of Umenokozi Park.

In Jakarta, we interviewed Ismayadi from Forestry Minister, Endang Prihatin the headman of Srengseng

District, and Haji Chaerudin (the founder of Sangga Buana Urban Forest). We visited some urban forest areas in Kyoto, such as Kiyomizu – Dera, Imperial Palace, Tadasu-no – Mori, Maruyama Park, Umenokozi – park, Ginkakuji, Kinkakuji, Tenryuji, Ashiu, Kyoto Botanical Garden.

Research findings

The Kyoto City has a total area of 82,790 ha of which 61,025 ha is forestry area. From 61,025 ha of forest area, the urban forest is amounted to 171 ha. There are two concepts of forest known there, first, *Satoyama* means managed by human and it is an artificial forest. Second, *Okuyama* means deep forest. In addition, the Kyoto people have also a basic idea of forest of which is termed as *shakei*—borrowing scenery. Nowadays, the function of urban forest in Kyoto has been altered, from the origin purpose for preservation into a recreation-area since Kyoto has also become one of tourism destinations in Japan.

Based on information from Kyoto City Hall Officer, there is an association with the purpose of managing the urban forests in Kyoto. The association is divided into 45 committees, ranging from Culture Association, JR Railway, Keihan Railway, Architect, Temples, Small Shop Union, TV Company, Art, Archeology, Artist, University, Economy, Forest, Education and more. The committees meet in a routine basis but the meeting can be arranged sooner in a special circumstance. The purpose of the meeting is to make decision concerning the urban forest management in Kyoto, such as organizing the cultivation activities and devising plan for forest education for the Kyoto people.

In Umekozi Park, there are several programs to introduce the function of urban forest for the community. One of the program aims to build the awareness of children on the importance and function of the forest. This program is socialized through brochures and website targeting school-age children. Another program is devised for old people by teaching them how to gardening and planting. There is also a consultation about gardening scheduled two days in a week.

According to our finding, the city of Kyoto condition in 1960 was about the same with what happened in Jakarta now. There was a huge urbanization coming into Kyoto that jeopardized the environmental condition in Kyoto. But, Kyoto has been succeeded in changing the environmental degradation trend and made her environment better with the suitable policies and support from the community. Several lessons can be learned from Kyoto's experience in transforming their forests condition. One, several functions can be integrated into the urban forest management, like conservation, preservation, and recreation. Second, the success of the urban forest program cannot bear solely into the government responsibility but it requires an active support from the community as well. Thus in accordance with the condition of Jakarta's urban forest, the pressing issue is the need to build the awareness to the people that open green area in their city is not only necessary but important for their life.

Research findings from Jakarta

There are around 18 urban forests in Jakarta and most of them are managed by the government. But according to our visit to one of the forests managed by government, Srengseng, and strengthened also by interviewing government officer on the related ministry, the condition of the forests is mostly not good. The forests are damaged by garbage and vandalism. The surrounding community awareness on the importance of the urban forests is also low. In addition of the bad condition of the forests, the management of urban forests in Jakarta is not placed under

one roof. Several urban forests are managed by different institutions. This practice creates problem in term of policy consideration and coordination.

However not all of our observations showed a grim picture about the condition of the urban forests in Jakarta. We found a good sample of urban forest, Sangga Buana located in Lebak Bulus South Jakarta. This forest is run by private. What made this forest is different with other forests is the management is able to flourish the community awareness on the forest by conducting activity in the forest each week. Through these activities, the local nearby learns that the forest is not just economically profitable but socially importance to them.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

On November 12th, 2010, team researcher from LIPI (Kurnia Novianti and Angga Sisca Rahadian) were invited by Prof. Shin Muramatsu, The head of Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) to present the research result in title "The Role of Community in Managing Urban Forest: Lesson Learned from Kyoto". Team visited RIHN building at 457-4 Motoyama, Kamigamo, Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8047, Japan, and the presentation was presented by Angga Sisca Rahadian. It was not only important, but also gaining our knowledge about management of urban forest' issue in Kyoto.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

The team (Kurnia Novianti and Angga Sisca Rahadian as authors) also submitted an article in title "**Hutan Kota sebagai Alternatif Upaya Adaptasi terhadap Perubahan Iklim dan Peran Akademisi dalam Pengelolaan Hutan Kota di DKI Jakarta**" (Bahasa Indonesia version) to a national academic journal in Bogor, West Java, and it is still in reviewing process.