

Reflection

From our Indonesia trip till this point, our group has adapted several iterations of our case study themes based on our reflections from visiting key river areas and communities. The key areas include Kali Code and Kali Ciliwung, which we will further expound on below.



Kali Code: Downstream water quality and health problems

Observation:

- *Visiting slums at the downstream area and looking at the waste in the river*
- *Interview with communities near the river and learn about waste management*

insight into the lives of the community living along the river and their community-led initiatives.

The community Waste Bank initiative was particularly memorable and was what mainly inspired our case study for the first workshop. Founders of the waste bank explained that it was fully community managed, where household waste could be brought to be sorted and, like a bank, the waste is accounted for and can be traded for money. The financial incentive greatly boosts this initiative, and the spirit of the community allows it to be sustained as there is a 90% participation rate. However, the scale of such projects is often limited due to the lack of government support making it not economical to run as it costs 500,000 rupiah annually, as well as the fact that other villages simply do not have the same motivations of managing waste to keep the river clean.

The idea of 'perspectives' first came up after we realised that there were such varying points of view when it came to the management of the river. Amongst the locals, there were those that were concerned and wanted to take action to clean up the river, while others did not care. Some locals believed that it was the governments' duty to implement proper waste management, while it was clear to see that the government was preoccupied with other seemingly more pressing issues, pushing the burden of waste management onto locals themselves. Therefore, as we noted the serious inaction when it comes to maintaining cleanliness of the river, our first workshop was structured around analysing how the conflicting perspectives and the lack of communication and collaboration between communities resulted in rampant water pollution.

Kali Ciliwung: Exploring the roles of stakeholders in water management

provincial leaders and community. Our first stop was near the midstream of Kali Ciliwung. We got the opportunity to interact with the Ciliwung Depok Community, a community led organisation that engages in social and environmental issues related to Kali Ciliwung. We were impressed by their dedication and initiatives to clean up Kali Ciliwung through periodic community clean up sessions, repurposing of plastic waste to eco bricks, and producing their own natural fertilisers, eco-enzyme, using food waste.



During the interview with the leaders of this community, we were told that despite the positive impact of these activities, they only have control over 30km of the river, and were unable to secure funding from the government to expand the scale of the project. They were also disgruntled by the current state of the river as despite their clean up efforts, the river is consistently filled with trash again from the upstream community's continued improper waste disposal.

Flood infrastructure Issues

Observations

- *Normalisation and naturalisation infrastructure messily spread across the downstream Kali Ciliwung*
- *Learnt about how the policy changes periodically leading to short term implementation*

we managed to view the condition of the river in such close proximity, observing the land erosion, residents using the water, the mounds of trash built up and the plantations around the river banks.

Along the river, we observed stretches of river with normalisation and naturalisation infrastructure. This includes concrete walls along the river banks, and areas of natural vegetation planted. However, the infrastructure is not consistent and very messy. We learnt from the villagers afterwards that this was due to the ever-changing policies of the government as a result of conflicting beliefs of each governing party. Other notable things included the eco-terracing which was a hybrid form of naturalisation and normalisation, built by the downstream Ciliwung community which can reduce flood risk while preserving the natural state of the river, and we learnt about the importance of the bamboo trees for water collection and slope stabilisation.

After reaching our destination, we were warmly welcomed into the home of an active member of the community there, for an interview. We got a better understanding of the situation there and learnt that one of the biggest challenges the community faces was getting their voices heard by the government so that real action can be taken to improve the state of the river. The government system there is very complicated. There is so much bureaucratic red tape and corruption within the different levels of governance that makes it almost impossible for any change to be made regarding the policies to manage the river. Based on the above items mentioned, we could get the sense that there were locals who were concerned about the water pollution and wanted to do something about it, but there is an air of helplessness brought about by the inefficient government's inability and unwillingness to take action.

With the many things we learnt about the issues in Kali Ciliwung, for the next workshop, we decided to look deeper into the roles that each stakeholder - community, government and private companies - played and how their perspectives affect the way the river is managed. We touched on issues of flooding and water pollution.

Overall reflections and framing for Project 1 Case Study

By the end of the trip, it was clear to us that water pollution was a prominent issue in both Jogja and Jakarta, and it was a highly complex issue. In spite of this, the environmental budget makes up only 5% of the municipal government's budget in Jakarta and this is unfortunately because there is a general lack of priority regarding waste management amongst policymakers. The waste problem is actually further complicated by issues like housing shortage and informal settlement, exacerbated by the rapid urbanisation, especially so in Jakarta.

Additionally, it was briefly mentioned during the interview with (the guy in downstream Ciliwung after raft) that urban society, largely made up of rural migrants coming to the city and living in the slums, has lack of sense of belonging so they don't really care about or value the river so it's easier for them to simply pollute. As such, we want to explore further into how the phenomenon of urbanisation contributes to the worsening waste problem, its consequences and how different stakeholders are interconnected in this web of issues.

Thank you!

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