

## Healing the City of Solo by the Javanese-3R: Resik-Rejo-Rejeken

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### ABSTRACT

*Entering to the third millennium, the cities in Indonesia are generally plagued by many serious problems, either from the natural environment, built environment or social environment. Sooner or later, these serious problems will finally become an urban disaster, either of urban natural disaster, urban built disaster or urban social disaster. To prevent the more severe disasters in the future, these issues must be covered by the healing. This paper describes the author's practical experience in healing the city of Solo, conducted jointly by the stakeholders, either from the government (Mayor, BAPPEDA, DTRK, BBWS, DPU), the NGO (Ngreksa Lepen, SCCN, YUF), the academics (UNS, UMS, ATMI) or the citizens. Based on the previous research, Solo is more vulnerable from urban social disaster than of urban natural disaster (flood, pollution, landslides) or urban built disaster (fires, collapse, squatter). According to the results of the previous research, there were three main factors causes of urban social disaster: (1) leadership crisis; (2) hypocrite culture; and (3) economic disparity. The concentration of this healing is focused on the last aspect (the economic disparity), since the two other aspects have been successfully carried out by Jokowi as the previous Mayor. The treatment of economic disparity is stepping through the creative economy in the region of ancient rivers in the city of Solo. The efforts of the creative economy in the river region, however, are able to provide a great added value. Therefore, the five main rivers in Solo will be managed with a variety of creative economy efforts. Through the participatory development models with the riversides residents, there was built the concept of Javanese-3R: Resik-Rejo-Rejeken. The concept of 'resik' (healthy) is to create the river be clean again in the short term (less than 5 years); the concept of 'rejo' (worthy) is to create the river be beneficial in the moderate term (5-10 years); while the concept of 'rejeken' (wealthy) is to create the river be scene of new jobs for riversides residents in the long term (after 10 years).*

**Keywords:** javanese-3r, solo, urban social disaster, healing the city

### INTRODUCTION

The city of Solo has experienced many urban disasters, either of urban social disaster, urban natural disaster or urban built disaster, in the last few decades (see fig. 1). Considering at the first disaster phenomena (such as: riots, looting, mass amuck, bombing, terrorism) is more prominent than the second or the third as mentioned above, then the focal point of this healing is on the urban social disaster. The city would be quickly perished, if the shredder is precisely from its social environment. The science of Urban Design at the 21st century has reached

the term of 'sustainable city' (Watson, 2003). The city is not only being able to achieve the sustainability of the natural environment (ecological) and the built environment (technological), but must also being able to cover the sustainability of humanity (socio-economic). Currently, the term of 'sustainable city' has become a strategic object to the various fields of science, such as: Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning, Sociology, Ecology, Economics and Geography (Leitmann, 1999; Srinivas, 2008; Moughtin, 2005; Oswald, 2003). The city problems, however, have grown in many aspects of field and been developed to an uncontrollable situation.

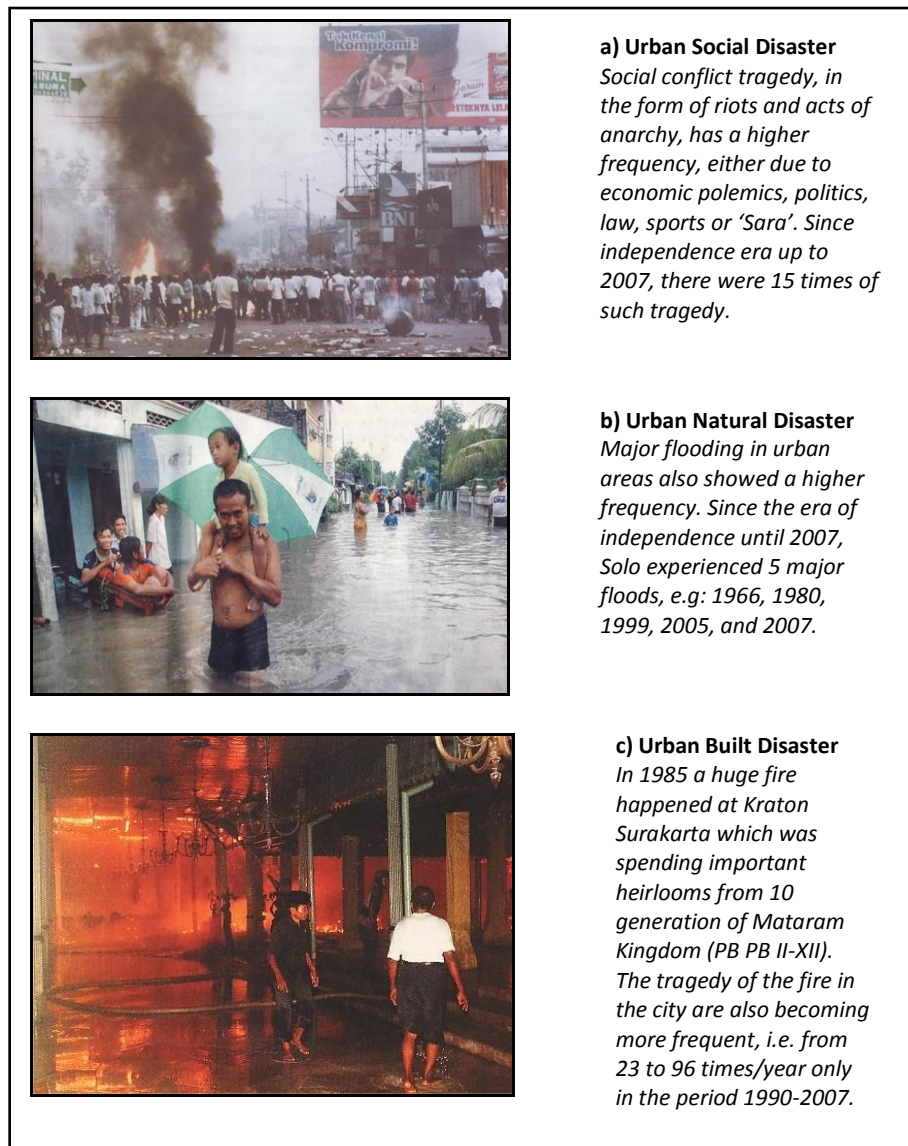


Figure 1. The Phenomena of Urban Disasters in the City of Solo in the Last Few Decades  
Source: Qomarun, 2013

Urban space is always related not only by the physical elements, but also by the psychical elements (Bressi, 2001). Physical elements are related to the impact of our health, such as: noise, pollution, exercise, workplaces, housing, healthcare and mobility; while the psychical elements are related to the social and spiritual aspects, such as: our sense of home in our neighborhoods, our level of stress, spiritual refuge, and our opportunities to connect to each other and other living things (HCI, 2010). Urban disaster is the main issue in the cities in the latest decades. Accordingly, urban disaster has destroyed both of the physical and psychical elements. Afterwards, how to avoid or to cover the urban disaster are the most important thing to do in nowadays and the future time. In other words, healing the city is an emergency action in this decade and the next. It explores how to plan and to design of our living environments to keep us sustainable.

## **THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

### ***HEALING THE CITY***

The term of healing city has developed by the Healing Cities Institute (HCI) in 2010. The institute was founded by Mark Holland, Nicole Moen, Lindsay Clark, Keltie Craig and Joaquin Karakas. Healing city is defined as an integrated approach to planning and design for the natural and built environment that values holistic health and wellness of people and ecosystems ([www.healingcities.org](http://www.healingcities.org), 2014). According to HCI, there are 8 dimensions of healing city: (1) whole communities; (2) conscious mobility; (3) restorative architecture; (4) thriving landscapes; (5) integrated infrastructure; (6) nourishing food systems; (7) supportive society; and (8) healthy prosperity.

The first dimension (whole communities) refers to the awareness that the treatment always involves all of the stakeholders, can not be done alone. The second dimension (conscious mobility) refers to the awareness that the treatment should be able to accelerate the mobility of citizen everyday. The third dimension (restorative architecture) refers to the awareness that the treatment should be addressed to create a comfortable place. The fourth dimension (thriving landscapes) is refers to the awareness that the treatment should be addressed to create a harmonious place (the balance of natural environment and built environment).

The fifth dimension (integrated infrastructure) refers to the awareness that the treatment should be able to integrate the systems of community's inputs and outputs (e.g. water, waste, sewage, energy). The sixth dimension (nourishing food systems) refers to awareness that the treatment should be addressed to secure the resources of food. The seventh dimension (supportive society) refers to awareness that the treatment should be able to build the social interactions; while the last dimension (healthy prosperity) refers to awareness that the treatment should be addressed to balance the social economic. Therefore, in a conclusion (Gesler, 2003), the healing city will always impact in 4 aspects: (1) physically; (2) emotionally; (3) socially; and (4) spiritually.

## **URBAN DYNAMICS**

Urban dynamics is defined as the growth and development pattern of urban environments during a specific period of time. Urban dynamics refers to the land use change in urban environments in order to provide a historical perspective and an assessment of the spatial patterns, rates, correlation, trends, and impacts of that change. Impulsive model is found in the dynamics of urban development in Solo during 1746-2011 (Qomarun, 2013). This pattern resembles like a random wave rather than a type of arch or curve. This pattern is absolutely different from many models that have been discovered by the experts before, such as: systemic model (Forrester, 1969); evolutionary model (Wilson, 1982), and self-organizing model (Allen, 2005). The main element of urban dynamics in Solo is found in 10 factors, which are nine factors related to decrease quality and one factor related to increase quality. The nine factors are derived from three different aspects.

The first three aspects are the elements from the social environment which then led to the urban social disasters, that is: (1) leadership crisis; (2) economic disparity, and (3) cultural hypocrite. The second three aspects are the elements from the built environment which then led to urban built disaster, that is: (4) invasion, (5) occupancy and (6) expansion. Furthermore, the next three aspects are the elements from the natural environment which then led to the urban natural disaster, that is: (7) pollution; (8) exploitation, and (9) extinction. The nine factors above are the root of the urban disaster, causing the quality of the city has always declined, while the factor that increasing the quality of the city is consciousness collective. So, a nine decreasing factors versus the one increasing factor are the ten factors that lead to the urban dynamics in Solo over the years. Urban Social Disaster (USD) is defined as the intentional event to reduce or even eliminate the city resources, either in the form of human resources, natural resources or man-made resources, due to the natural process of the gap toward equilibrium social environment.

USD ultimately results in the destruction of the built environment, which is named as a 'mechanism transform'. So, 'mechanism transform' is defined as a process of destruction of symbols, objects or buildings which may represent a specific target of people, institutions or government. USD is essentially the process of energy release due to social stress to achieve social balance. USD can be seen as a battle, burning, killing, robbery, looting, communal clashes, mass rioting, amuck, bombings or terrorism. Solo has experienced 28 times of USD during the 265-year (1746-2011), so that there is a space in the city of Solo often ups and downs. Its typical urban space, which is critical as it is referred above to as a 'vulnerable space of USD'. Such space above in Solo was detected in the cultural triangle: Kasunan-Mangkunegaran-Pasar Gede. This region is factually as a symbol of economic-political-cultural activities.

## **HEALING THE CITY OF SOLO**

The more frequency of urban disasters is the worse the condition of the urban quality. As the mention above (see introduction), the background of healing city of Solo is about the critical condition of urban quality. In the year 2011, the city of

Solo had a fragile status. The fact showed that the critical condition happen on overall environment, either social environment, natural environment or built environment (see fig. 2).

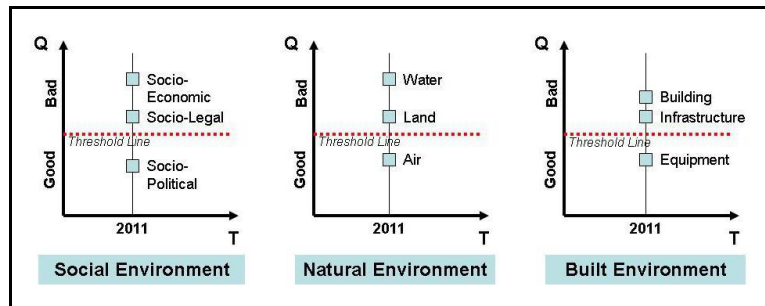


Figure 2. The Scheme of Urban Quality Status in Solo in 2011  
Source: Qomarun, 2013

Based on that scheme, it is seen that the potential urban social disaster (USD) at that time can still be held by only one factor, namely socio-political (leadership). In other words, socio-political status (note: at that time, Jokowi as the Mayor of Solo) can reduce the bad condition of socio-economic and socio-legal. So, the probability of the next communal riot is dependent upon the speed of improvement of socio-economic and socio-legal. The faster the treatment of economic disparity (socio-economic) and cultural hypocrite (socio-legal), the more secure the city of Solo from communal riots. In other words, how to change the socio-economic status and socio-legal status to get a good level is the essence of healing city of Solo. The following are the processes of healing city of Solo as a creative engagement through design praxis during 2012-2014.

### 1. WHOLE COMMUNITY DIMENSION

According HCI, the first and the most important of healing the city is a whole community involved. It is, however, really hard and difficult how to begin. It actually needs many efforts and ways to involve the stakeholders of the city. The most strategic way is by collecting the tops of strength in Solo, either of bureaucrats, academics, businessmen, artists or community leaders. This effort requires many formal and informal meetings. In addition, this effort should also be done through the model solicitation publications, either in newspapers, internet or journals. After lasting about one year, then began to be formed a community organizations concerned about how to sustain the city of Solo, which is named as SCCN. Solo Creative City Network (SCCN) is a networking forum of creative people in the city of Solo, which aims to create a variety of value-added, either in small, medium or large scale. SCCN was formed since the early of 2012 and comprised academic, practitioners, bureaucracy and public figures of Solo. Spirit to always work together with stakeholders across the city is to be the emphasis in this forum. Officially, on February 16, 2013, SCCN has been widely disseminated to the public through a national seminar entitled: "Menuju Kota Kreatif" (Towards a Creative City) (see fig. 3). This event also involves three ministries, that is: (1) the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy; (2) the Ministry of Education and Culture; and (3) the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Figure 3. Publication of SCCN as a "Whole Community" in Healing City of Solo  
Source: Qomarun, 2014

## **2. SUPPORTIVE SOCIETY DIMENSION**

Having created SCCN as a whole community dimension, the treatment of the city of Solo focused on a specific object. According to the critical status in 2011, the element of economic disparity (socio-economic) is the most vulnerable. To cover this problem, it needs a large scale of economy creative. Regarding to the discussion result of SCCN, the strategic effort is to create added value in the rivers of the city within many tourism activities. The main argument is the city of Solo as a waterfront city before. The passion for creating creative economy with a touch of local culture is the root of the key challenges in entering today's global era and later period. City of Solo as the former ancient city international airport, which has many traces of the past achievements of civilization, deserves raised again in the present, with a touch of 'eco-cultural design'. To gain awareness of the stakeholders, the idea of "Impian Kota Air" (the Dreaming of Waterfront City) has been published to the public through local newspapers (see fig. 4).

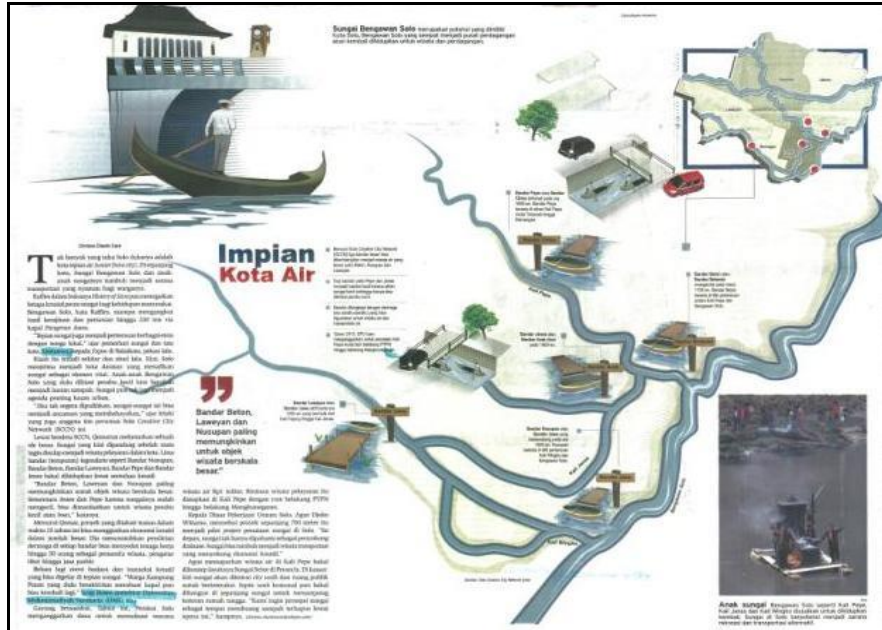


Figure 4. Publication to Solopos to Get a “Supportive Society” in Healing City of Solo  
Source: Solopos, February 16th, 2013

### 3. HEALTHY PROSPERITY DIMENSION

Furthermore, in the end of 2013, the acceleration to implement of "Impian Kota Air" (the Dreaming of Waterfront City) turns more quickly, along with togetherness and awareness among city stakeholders, i.e.: government, employers, community leaders, academics and the general public. To reach that dream, it needs a pilot project. The ancient rivers in Solo are including Bengawan Solo, Kali Anyar, Kali Laweyan and Kali Pepe. According to discussion result of SCCN, the pilot project "Impian Kota Air" is Kali Pepe River (see fig. 5). Learning from experience, government projects usually fail to meet the needs of the community. The project is more than spending budget rather than serving the real needs of the community. Therefore, the development model of Community Action Planning (CAP) (UN-Habitat, 2010) is more appropriately applied than the top-down models in the city of Solo.



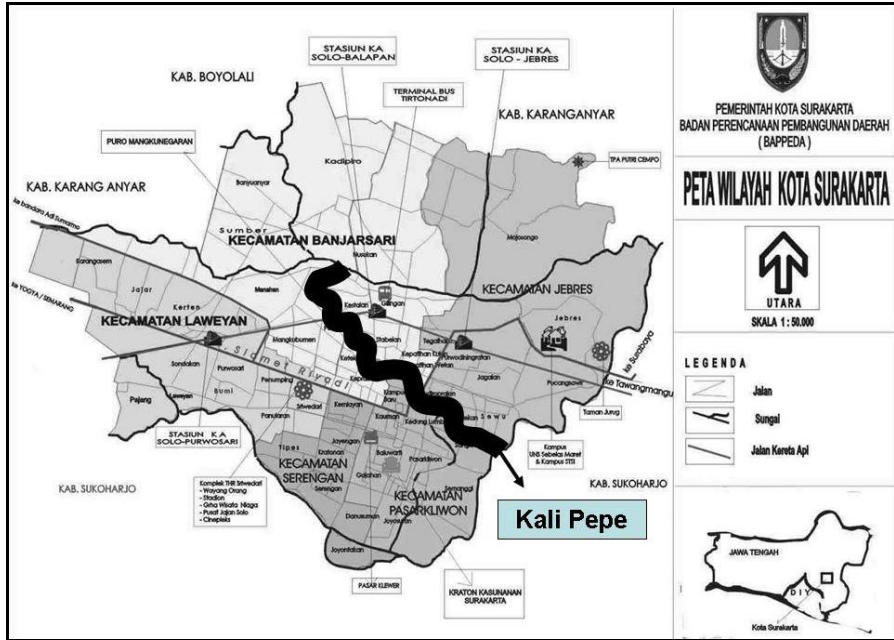


Figure 5. Kali Pepe River as Pilot Project of “Healthy Prosperity” in Healing City of Solo  
Source: Qomarun, 2014

### RESIK-REJO-REJEKENI AS THE DESIGN PRAXIS DIMENSION

Having got many meetings and discussions conducted by SCCN, either in City Hall (Balai Kota), office of sub-district (Kantor Kecamatan), office of village (Kantor Kelurahan), or house of citizens (Rumah Warga), there were many results. The need for space and the building is actually raised by the citizens themselves, while the city government will act as executor. In other words, the standard physical development is to be the domain of government, while the non-standard physical development is becoming public domain. Standard physical developments are including: sediment dredging; city sewers; river channeling; road construction; inspection manufacture; and wastewater treatment plant. Meanwhile, non-standard physical developments are including: communal kitchen; communal drying manufacture; procurement of waste banks; the art hall of riversides; and other creative facilities as a result of the excavation of local potential.

The efforts of the creative economy in the river region, however, are able to provide a great added value. It needs not only some periods of time, but also a focus of development step. Through the participatory development models with the riversides residents, there was built the concept of Javanese-3R: Resik-Rejo-Rejekeni. The concept of ‘resik’ (healthy) is to create the river be clean again in the short term (less than 5 years); the concept of ‘rejo’ (worthy) is to create the river be beneficial in the moderate term (5-10 years); while the concept of ‘rejekeni’ (wealthy) is to create the river be scene of new jobs for riversides residents in the long term (after 10 years). The concept of ‘resik’ has implemented on Kali Pepe since year 2013, i.e.: sedimentation dredging by department of public works; sporting and cleaning by the stakeholders; design competition by the local



community of Kali Pepe; and bicycle Sunday morning on riverside of Kali Pepe. In the year 2014, the project of sediment dredging is still happened, and will be finished by the end of this year. To know more the process of healing city of Solo at this first step (resik), the followings are the photos during 2013-2014 (see fig. 6-7). Meanwhile, for the next step (rejo-rejeken) will be arranged in the future time by the community.



Note:

*The various conditions of Kali Pepe as the pilot project of healing city of Solo. The activities of sediment dredging were conducted by the department of public works on headwaters of Kali Pepe (above). The activities of cleaning and sporting had been done by the community on along Kali Pepe (middle). The bad water quality was found on downstream of Kali Pepe (below).*

Figure 6. Kali Pepe as the Pilot Project of Healing the City of Solo

Source: [www.solopos.com](http://www.solopos.com), 2014



Note:

*The process of Community Action Planning (CAP) is conducted in many places, i.e.: City Hall (above), office of sub-district (middle), office of village (below-left) and house of Mayor (below-right). The members of CAP are: the government (Mayor, Bappeda, DTRK, BBWS, DPU), the NGO (Ngreksa Lepen, SCCN, YUF), the academics (UNS, UMS, ATMI) and the citizens.*

Figure 7. Resik-Rejo-Rejeken as the Result of CAP in Kali Pepe Development  
Source: Qomarun, 2014

## CONCLUSION

This paper shows about the creative engagement through design praxis. Solo has experienced in many disasters. To prevent the more severe disasters in the future, especially of Urban Social Disaster (USD), city of Solo actually needs many treatments. This paper describes the author's practical experience in healing the city of Solo, conducted jointly by the stakeholders, either from the government (Mayor, Bappeda, DTRK, BBWS, DPU), the NGO (Ngreksa Lepen, SCCN, YUF), the academics (UNS, UMS, ATMI) or the citizens. The concentration of this healing is focused on the aspect of economic disparity. The treatment of economic disparity is stepping through the creative economy in the region of ancient rivers in the city of Solo. The efforts of the creative economy in the river region, however, are able to provide a great added value. The pilot project is chosen on the region of Kali Pepe. Through the participatory development models (CAP) with the riverside residents, there was built the concept of Javanese-3R: Resik-Rejo-Rejekeni. The concept of 'resik' (healthy) is to create the river be clean again in the short term (less than 5 years); the concept of 'rejo' (worthy) is to create the river be beneficial in the moderate term (5-10 years); while the concept of 'rejekeni' (wealthy) is to create the river be scene of new jobs for riverside residents in the long term (after 10 years). This paper suggests that outreach efforts have only increased if there is a start. In other words, although it is very difficult to get started, the public engagement will be increase more and more since there was a beginning.

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