

Kotagede after the earthquake

The role of public-private partnership in post disaster recover

Section 1

This case study demonstrates heritage district management through community participation efforts in Kotagede, capital of the Islamic Mataram Kingdom in Indonesia in the 15th and 16th centuries which is located close to Yogyakarta, where the movement to preserve traditional buildings has opened new opportunities for public-private partnership in post-disaster recovery development. The area is famous for its silver craft, rows of traditional houses and the richness of inherited Mataram artistic and cultural traditions.

Kotagede's heritage conservation recovery programme following the earthquake of 27 May 2006 earthquake was managed by the Center for Architecture Conservation of Gadjah Mada University, the Jogja Heritage Society, the Indonesian Heritage Trust, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Indonesia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank. This collaboration aimed at saving tangible and intangible heritage and supported the redevelopment of the local economy, as an essential condition for a sustainable future.

The activities started by conducting an inventory, including the measurement, analysis and design planning of the buildings and the environment in order to assist the community in the rehabilitation of their damaged traditional houses and the recovery of the Kotagede historic district as a whole. UNESCO provided guidelines for house design conservation of the traditional Javanese houses including the typical houses of Kotagede (Jogja Heritage Society and UNESCO 2007: 91) It is therefore a local/regional PPP within the framework of a wider national and international agreement.

Section 2

The contributions from donors were directed towards the rehabilitation of selected traditional buildings damaged by the earthquake. The primary objective was to preserve heritage buildings and the secondary objective was around utilization and giving value that would support daily economic activities, rather than being simply tourism destinations.

The rehabilitated traditional buildings are to be used for public activities for a certain number of years and henceforth managed by their owners. Donors are also able to use the buildings as locations to promote their activities. For their part, building owners had to implement the conservation rules in managing their buildings. In this way a partnership was established with the building owners with donors managing the properties according to a mutual agreement, linked to the overall urban plan and zoning. Offices, boutique hotels, home stays, cafés, galleries, souvenir shops and the like could be undertaken in commercial areas, while temporary home stays, guest houses and home industries were possible in settlement areas.

The memorandum of understanding between the owner and the joint investor included provisions on decision-making, management and cost-sharing. The University of Gadjah Mada contributed by purchasing a traditional old house and reconstructing it as centre for training and social activities. The Netherlands Government provided support to rehabilitate some traditional houses in Kotagede. The World Bank's Community-based Settlement Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project (CSRRP) with the Java Reconstruction Fund also gave international support by funding the restoration of traditional houses with a public function for cultural activities. This funding also covered individual traditional dwellings located at visually prominent positions in the cluster of traditional houses in Kotagede.

Section 3

The strategy was to bring together different stakeholders concerned with the degradation of heritage assets post natural disaster. It was started by a process of Damaged Heritage Rapid Assessment (DHRA) undertaken in collaboration by non-profit societies and the local university.

The villagers established an organization for Kotagede heritage district management (OPKP/Organisasi Pengelola Kawasan Pusaka Kotagede) on 17 August 2006, just three months after the earthquake. The Indonesian Heritage Trust had now appointed a Heritage-Emergency-Response Coordinator who takes national responsibility for managing disaster risk mitigation and preparedness across the country, including Kotagede.

Local residents learned a lot from their interaction with various donors. As a requirement of the World Bank CSRRP project, further OPKPs were established by communities in the Kotagede district in the villages of Jagalan, Rejowinangun, Purbayan and Prenggan. These organizations play an important role in co-ordinating and building partnerships for the reuse of restored heritage buildings in each village.

The partners involved are:

- Heritage building owners
- Centre for Heritage Conservation, University of Gadjah Mada, which contributed its expertise and also purchased an old traditional house which is now used for training, community meetings and other social cultural activities.
- Indonesian Heritage Trust, a national heritage society organization
- Jogja Heritage Society, a local heritage society organization in Province of DI Yogyakarta
- OPKP, local heritage society organizations in Kotagede
- The Royal Netherlands Government, an international donor, rehabilitated a traditional house.
- Prince Claus Fund, an international donor which supported silver craft makers.
- The World Bank and Java Reconstruction Fund, a group of international donors that funded the rehabilitation of four large traditional houses for public functions and a dozen of private traditional houses to be used for home stay.
- Provincial and City Governments coordinated related heritage policies.

The initiative began with heritage trails to promote the uniqueness of this area, showing all the restored heritage traditional houses in the lanes of the kampungs. Potential private investors and tourism agents were invited to explore the possibility of specific investment. The OPKP network has formed a Village Library in one of the restored traditional houses and they are very actively spreading information through their website www.kotagedeheritage.org.

The final stage was adopted by the Governor of DI Yogyakarta and the province officials who allocated funds to set up a Koperasi (cooperation firm) for the establishment of homestays several selected restored traditional houses.

Section 4

The impact on silver craft sales, culinary consumption, the number of visitors, rent levels or the number of vacant buildings had not yet measured. However, regular academic visits take place, not only from the local university on Java Island, but other cities in Indonesia as

well groups from Japan and the Netherlands who regularly undertake field visits in Kotagede.

The revival Kotagede's Art and Cultural Festival, which had stopped several years ago, demonstrates the positive impact of the programme. The next festival, taking place in September 2012, will further build awareness of the importance of preserving heritage. A series of publications on the richness of heritage in Kotagede, called the "Comics of Heritage Education" has been published for younger readers along with an important edition of the "Manual of Traditional House Restoration", and the "Homeowner's Conservation Manual". Despite the increased awareness however, private investment is still lacking and so the government has recognized Kotagede as a heritage district (Governor Decree no 186/Kep/2011), which should make conditions more favorable for heritage investments.

Section 5

The key lessons that can be learned from this case study are that:

- Inventories and regularly updated heritage mapping are essential to ensure the recognition of heritage site potential and deciding how best to reuse.
- Natural disasters can have a silver lining in terms of community cohesion and solidarity. The focus on emergency rescue and relief has broadened from health, food, shelter and public facilities to include the protection and recovery of cultural assets. Cultural heritage is often highly valued and hence an irreplaceable asset for disaster-affected communities. Post-disaster recovery and relief is not only a matter of housing rehabilitation and reconstruction, but has to cover the sustainable recovery of both physical settlement facilities and socio-cultural assets.

The main recommendation is for the development of a comprehensive system for the involvement of community, non-profit heritage societies, universities and local government in the following way:

- Keep updating and activating community organizations by working in collaborative partnership. Community participation is widely acknowledged as the key factor to ensuring the sustainability of any activity.
- Governments are invited to introduce policies that might catalyze and support PPPs in the future.

Section 6

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Section 7

The list key sources:

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Author profile

Catrini Pratihari Kubontubuh has a background in city planning and architecture. She graduated from the Institute Technology of Bandung, Indonesia (1995, Bachelor degree of Urban and Regional Planning) and Universiteit of Katholieke Leuven, Belgium (1997, Master degree of Architecture in Human Settlement). She was involved in the Center for Research of Institute Technology, Bandung, for 3 years, served as a lecturer at the University of Bung Hatta, Padang, and guest lecturer for several universities. She founded several Heritage Trust organizations in Indonesia, including the West Sumatera Heritage Trust (1999), Bali Kuna Heritage Society (2000), Bali Heritage Trust (2000), Indonesian Network for Heritage Conservation (2000) and Indonesian Heritage Trust (2004). She has managed voluntarily the operational of the Indonesian Heritage Trust as Executive Director since 2007. She was appointed as a member of Executive Committee of the International of National Trusts Organisation (INTO) which represents over 60 heritage organizations worldwide. Catrini currently works professionally as a Specialist of Social Safeguards for The World Bank Jakarta Office focussing on projects around Indonesia related to community participation and cultural creativities.