"Culture of Living"

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Living With Disaster
In The Archipelagic Context

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Abstract

The people in Indonesian archipelagic country are used mainly the flexible, adaptable and coexistence with their living environment. It was the result of their particular environment in order to live with the floods or on the sea-shore above the weather-level their habitat had to either float or stand on stilts and with the area prone to the natural threat posed by earthquakes. These disasters have been on the increased because of the accelerated urban growth.

Until recently, disaster prevention was not a program priority. However, this trend began changing in the end of the year 2004 when the great wave killer 'tsunami' in Aceh caused destruction and has been followed by a series of devasting floods, earthquakes and landslides in various part of Indonesian archipelago.

This paper tries to understand way of living in the vulnerable areas and to clarify that the disaster management and prevention is not only a prerequisite for achieving the sustainable development targets but also a keypoint of the effort for improving the shelter, urban development and governance.

Keywords: disaster, archipelagic, management and prevention.

Introduction

Indonesia is situated along the boundary of two tectonic plates. It makes some various parts of island prone to the natural threat posed by seismic activities. Also, the flooding, landslides and fires caused by strong currents of rainwater, mud and drought cause death and destruction almost every year. It accelerated by urban growth spawl into vulnerable areas such as slum areas on the river bank which could collapse in the event of a flood or landslide, waterfront area development situated in coastal areas prone to tsunami wave, urban development in water catchment are, etc.

Poor building codes, inefficient governance systems and lack of awareness on how to cope with disaster in the archipelagic context can all impact the scale of death and destruction.
Cosmological Thinking Of Aquatic Environment

As an evidence, in the archipelagic context, water gets recognized as a major environmental feature, as far as management of water resources potency and water disaster risk and prevention. In the cosmological model, the water symbolism was a total experience of oceans and mountains and a total environment on macrocosmic scale. Most of Javanese (including Madura, Bali and Lombok) Royal city has a 'upper stream - down stream' character (kaulu-kailir, kaja-kelod, nyegara-gunung). The limits of 'our word' are 'ancestral world' toward the mountain, and the 'under world' toward the sea. Thus, the 'land-based and water-based linkage' civilization played a main role in search for symbiosis within the archipelagic fabrics system.
Disaster Responsive Design

In general, there are two types of civilization on earth. One is based on tensile material and the other one is on compressive material. The former is the result of the water-based civilization. In the waterfront areas when the condition of inland flooding is relatively mild, stilts and structural frames slope inwards towards an imaginary triangular form. As an illustration, the massive foundation post of waterfront vernacular houses are braced by equally massive diagonal struts. The stilts and the rafters are slatted together by diagonal members resulting in the form of triangular structure of tension-compression forces.

This structural system is also found in seismic disaster area of Nias house architecture in Sumatra. There is a distinctive feature of seismic responsive design. The other triangulation of tension – compression forces in Batak vernacular house, where a set of overhanging bamboos in tension present in the roof structure.

From the viewpoint of seismic and archipelagic context, it can be seen that the water-based civilization arose from an environment of flux and flow, constantly requiring flexibility, adaptability and coexistence with vulnerable environment.
Fig.3. Architectural image based on local knowledge which built in vulnerable area of Nias.

Disaster Management And Prevention

The past ideas of architecture used appropriate technology for houses and were developed through indigenous creativity by their own design and construction in the vulnerable area. It help us to understand way of living in the archipelagic culture which the people used mainly coexistence with the vulnerable area.

The action of disaster management and prevention programs usually take the form of specific agendas intended to reduce the effects of disaster on a nation or community. The following programs are generally regarded as coming under the heading of mitigation:

- enforcement of building codes
- land-use regulations
- safety regulations codes
- system to protect key installation such as power supplies and vital communications.
- Infrastructure development

The mitigation programs are covered below under the heading of non-technical mitigation and technical mitigation. The non-technical mitigation may include legal framework, incentives, training and education, public awareness, institution building, and warning system.
Fig. 4 Architectural Image based on Local Knowledge which built in vulnerable area of Batak

Non technical mitigation measures may need to be complemented by technical measures. It may include site planning, assessment of forces created by natural disaster, the planning and analysis of structural measures to resist such forces, the design and proper detailing of structural components material and good workmanship under adequate supervision.
Conclusion

As a conclusion, it may be noted that 'living with disaster' strategies should be based on the design of effective community based disaster mitigation and prevention that address the unique vulnerabilities of a settlement by building upon existing capacity and strengths. It strengthens capacity by supporting the skill development of private and public partnerships to create "a culture of disaster prevention". This culture is the best vehicles for disaster vulnerability reduction.

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