

Session 2: Field Visit Orientation

11:00-12:00, Wednesday, 23 November 2016

A Case on “Cultural heritage of building and handicraft in Kotagede, Yogyakarta”

The historical region of Kotagede has suffered from the Yogyakarta Earthquake of 2006. Many traditional houses of all types totally collapsed or heavily damaged. But many of those damaged, fortunately, could be reconstructed; but there was a potential danger of compromising the historical characters of the region in the process of reconstruction. Efforts to reconstruct the heritage district of Kotagede needed a comprehensive strategy encompassing work to revitalize tangible and intangible heritage resources including Kotagede’s cultural identity, historical characters such as heritage-Javanese houses, community-based silver craft, and reorganizing the overall effort to safeguard the heritage district.

The reconstruction initiative was done by universities and NGOs related to preservation, and later on, the government policy through Java Reconstruction Fund (JRF) has started since 2008, three years after the earthquake. Pilot models and strategies had been developed to cope with community problems in reconstructing their heritage assets. These experiences and challenge turned out to be the source of learning for other disaster prone areas which contain many of cultural heritage in Indonesia.

The study had been done as a reflective process of various progressive problem solving by lecturers and students of Universitas Gadjah Mada – as a voluntary team – who worked with or as being a part of a “community of practice”. It involved systematic observations, data collection and organization which can then be used by the practitioner-researcher to make proper decisions, strategy and action.

The tour of Kotagede centered on a building which was heavily damaged and its reconstruction served as a model to emulate. The building now houses hotel, seminar and meeting facilities, as well as serving as a demonstration place for learning on how cultural heritage is preserved or restored after a disaster.

(Ref. - Ikaputra, “Reconstruction Heritage Post Earthquake, The case of Kotagede, Yogyakarta, Indonesia”, Journal of Basic and Applied Scientific Research, 2011, TextRoad Publication.)