THE POTENCY OF GLODOK CHINA TOWN HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract
China town in Glodok district is one of the living landscapes evident that contributed to the form of the present Jakarta Metropolitan City. Until now, this district is still famous as commercial or trading area and having unique Chinese characteristic. There are still many important historical structures that have been designated as National Heritage, though in the present time some of those building structures are not in good conditions. As this district is an integral part of the Old Jakarta, this district had been included in the Old Jakarta Revitalization Plan. One of the objectives of this revitalization plan is to promote tourism activity in Jakarta. The aim of this study was to identify and analyze the potency of the district landscape as historical site for tourism. The survey method was used to identify the characteristic of the landscape and the potency of tourism supporting factors. The landscape characteristics consist of tangible and intangible components. These components were analyzed and evaluated to define spatial potential zone that showed strongest Chinese characteristic. The tourism supporting factors was also analyzed to provide information that useful for developing the zone. As a result, this study proposed the potential zone or landscape unit as a tourist main destination. To increase the attractiveness, simultaneously to protect the unique and original characteristics, this study also proposed the conservation actions both for the objects and the whole China Town historical landscape. All of these efforts hopefully would be integrated in the Old Jakarta Revitalization Program.

Keywords: China town, Glodok-Jakarta, historical landscape, conservation, tourism

Introduction
China town in Glodok district is one of the living landscapes evident that contributes to the form of the present Jakarta Metropolitan City. Until now, this district is still famous as commercial or trading area and having unique Chinese characteristic. There are still many important historical structures that have been designated as National Heritage, though in the present time some of those building structures seem neglected. As this district is an integral part of the Old Jakarta, this district actually had been included in the Old Jakarta Revitalization Plan (Decision Letter of Jakarta Governor Number 34 of the year 2005). One of the objectives of this revitalization plan is to promote tourism activity in Jakarta.

Revitalization Action Plan or Program is still focused in Fatahillah Zone, colonial typical city of the core zone in the Revitalization Plan (Jakarta Office of Culture and Museum, 2007). Such action, moreover tourism development program have not touch the Goldok China Town yet. On the other hand, however, the fast increase of economic
development in this area has been gradually changing unique characteristic of historical elements/setting. To save this characteristic and develop them for tourism, it is important to do identification and evaluation. The area that has unique or strong characteristics of historical elements/settings could be considered highly potential to be developed for tourism, and in the same time it should be carefully preserved (Sedyawati, 1997).

The aim of this study is to analyze the potency of the Glodok China Town landscape as historical site for tourism. Hopefully the result of this study would be useful for the committee of revitalization, and the local government of Jakarta.

Method

The study site was Glodok China Town, around 76 Ha, that included in the Old Jakarta Revitalization Plan (Fig 1). However, the surrounding area that contains important elements or characteristics related to the China Town was also observed. The potency of the landscape was derived from the landscape characteristic as the objects of tourism, and the supporting aspects of tourism. The landscape characteristic that reflects a unit of China Town contains tangible and intangible components. These components were identified and analyzed descriptively and spatially, and some quantitatively.

A modified Mac Kinnon scoring technique (Wulandari, 2002) was used to evaluate the potency of the object/area, which was composed from the object attractiveness, the potency of sustainability (the physical condition of the object as a reflection of preservation/conservation action, and its surrounding condition), and the accessibility. The value of attractiveness itself is a total of value of historical value and uniqueness, aesthetic and architecture, completeness/unity, authenticity and physical condition. The most potential objects were mapped and delineated to define the most potential zone to be developed for tourism. A development on this potential zone or landscape, as well as its tourism supporting aspects, was descriptively proposed.

Fig 1. Study site
Result and discussion

Landscape potencies

In general, the Glodok landscape still has a strong characteristic as a China town, especially reflected by the people who live there and their culture or their economic activity, and some old building's architecture and arrangement. Most of people live there are Chinese, who still use Chinese culture and custom in their daily life. As a Chinese settlement usually can be seen in Indonesia, the Glodok China town also showed a combination of settlement and commercial area. Physically the characteristics can be seen at the shrines, old houses, shops, market and food stalls.

There are 12 objects consist of historical buildings and market/shopping areas which was identified having potency or attractiveness. All of these potential buildings/areas have significant characteristics, including intangible characteristics. Among of them, four buildings are national heritage buildings. There is also a church, St. Maria de Fatima church, of which the building architecture was Chinese. The total potency was composed from the object attractiveness, the potency of sustainability (the preservation/conservation action), and the accessibility (Table 1). The most potential objects were mapped and delineated as a core zone or the most potential zone for tourism destination (Fig 2). The development of this core zone should not change the typical characteristics, but on the other hand it should maintain the characteristics in order to sustain the tourism activity itself. The surrounding areas of the core zone that still have Chinese characteristic should have function as transition or buffer for the core zone.

Table 1. The potency of the objects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Attractiveness</th>
<th>Potency of sustainability</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Σ score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pasar Pagi Lama market</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay An Tong drug store</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budhi Dharma shrine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariya Marga shrine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiong Hoa Hwee Koan building</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souv family house*</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blandongan street/houses*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanda Bhakti shrine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toa Sai Bio shrine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Maria de Fatima church*</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jin De Yuan shrine*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancoran Glodokplein area</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remark. 19-25= highly potential; 9-10= moderately potential; 5-8= lower potential; * is a national heritage
Tourism supporting aspect

The attractiveness of the objects is not the only key factor in tourism development. It needs other supporting factors such as accessibility, transportation, touring program, facilities and services. The potential tourist and the community hospitality and awareness are also should be considered.

The accessibility was observed on its physical condition, easiness, capacity and legibility. Evaluation on those components resulted that the accessibility to the Glodok China Town and its interesting objects is relatively good, except the access to Ariya Marga shrine inside the town. The town can be reached from many directions with some transportation modes such as bus, train or other small public transportation modes. But to look around the town, tourists prefer to walk or ride a bike taxi (ojek sepeda) because the road relatively narrows and crowded. The taxi bike is a unique and interesting transportation mode. The access to Ariya Marga shrine is only one and very narrow, and the condition was not good; however, this condition may give an interesting experience.

An established tourism or touring program was not available yet, and the information about this town and the interesting objects inside were limited. People come to this town generally to do shopping. Many visitors or tourists usually come to this town on Chinese celebration days to see many attractions. There are some communities of heritage or historic conservation which sometimes hold touring event in this historic site. The supporting tourism facilities and services such accommodation and restaurants were available both inside and at surrounding the town. However, tourist information and interpretation services were still insufficient.
Landscape development for tourism

Tourism development should be implemented comprehensively and integrative. All components of the stakeholders such as government, management board, business or private sectors and the community should get involve and work in good coordination and cooperation.

To develop the potential objects and the landscape for tourism, the convenience, attractiveness and aesthetic aspects should be taken into consideration. This effort, however, should not change the typical landscape characteristics of the China Town, and it should be integrated to the effort of preservation or conservation of historic elements/landscape. Historical buildings, particularly private houses, which are currently not in good physical condition, should be repaired. This effort needs support to the private house’s owners or an incentive system should be developed. Development of the tourism program should be carefully planned and widely socialized, especially to the community, in order to avoid any conflict. The community should play important roles in the tourism activity. Furthermore, to support the program, the improvement of supporting facilities and services are needed. For historical touring, interpretation facility is very important to provide interesting and sufficient knowledge of the object to the visitors.

Conclusion

The Glodok China Town showed high potential for tourism development. This town has unique and interesting objects, settings/landscape and cultural activities/events. This study defined the most Chinese characteristic of historical zone that potentially valuable for tourism development, but simultaneously should be carefully preserved.

The supporting tourism aspect was relatively good, except that the established touring program had not been available yet, and the information and interpretation facilities were insufficient. To develop tourism activity in this town, the ‘aesthetic’ quality of the landscape should be refined simultaneously with preservation of historical objects/settings, and well-planned tourism program should be developed and promoted.

References


Fig 2. Circulation and interpretation line concept