



River Cities

Water Space in Urban Development and History

Surabaya, 11 & 12 December 2017

Organized by Universitas Airlangga and the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)

A symposium of the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA)

Program version 13 July 2017

Background

Cities and water can be said to have a love-hate relationship (1), and this is especially true of rivers in cities in Asia. Many Asian cities, like their cousins in the rest of the world, owe their locations to rivers and the trading opportunities and water sources these rivers provided. In recent years, cities across China are beautifying their water fronts, and cities as diverse as Singapore and Seoul are turning their rivers into assets as part of urban redevelopment schemes or restoring them in an effort to bring nature back to the city. But many other cities in Asia have their backs turned to their rivers. Where rivers were once trading and transport arteries, nowadays many of them have suffered neglect as roads and evolving trading patterns have supplanted the rivers' economic and social functions. Their decline has been accompanied by environmental destruction, as their waters have become polluted and serve as the dumping ground for solid waste. Moreover, riverbank settlements evolved into legally ambiguous spaces, as old settlements were detached from land formalization regimes and were subjected to environmental deterioration from the rivers. Far from being an asset, these rivers have become an eyesore—and occasionally also a threat, owing to flooding exacerbated by poor planning and a poor understanding of the place of these water bodies in the wider regional eco-system.

(1) Reference is to: Feldman, D.L. (2017). *The Water Sustainable City*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Symposium Objectives

This symposium seeks to uncover the relationship between rivers and cities from a multi-disciplinary perspective in the humanities and the social sciences. The symposium welcomes both scholars and practitioners. It aims to contribute innovative ways of thinking about how to better integrate rivers, creeks and canals—including their environmental, historical, social, political, cultural and economic dimensions—into the fabric of contemporary cities. The focus is on cities in Asia, but papers on other parts of the world will also be considered if they make explicit their relevance to Asian cities.

Papers in this symposium address four categories of investigation, spread out across six panels:

- Rivers and cities in historical perspective (history, heritage, culture, and geography)
- Neighborhoods and social life of riverine communities
- Evaluating experiences with riverfront and riverbank settlement and design interventions in Asia
- Urban policy perspectives and innovations

Conference Conveners

Dr. Paul Rabé
International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands
E | p.e.rabe@iias.nl

Adrian Perkasa
Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Airlangga
E | adrianperkasa2@gmail.com

Dr. Rita Padawangi
Singapore University of Social Sciences
E | ritapd@suss.edu.sg

Contact Person/Secretariat

Xiaolan Lin
International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands
E | x.lin@iias.nl
T | +31 71 527 4166

11 DECEMBER 2017 (MONDAY)

08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00 – 09:15	WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
	<p>Paul Rabé International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University</p> <p>Adrian Perkasa Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Airlangga</p> <p>Rita Padawangi Singapore University of Social Sciences</p>
09:15 – 10:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Chairperson	Adrian Perkasa Universitas Airlangga
09:15	<p>Water World to Flood Control: River Cities in Southeast Asia</p> <p>Howard Dick University of Melbourne, Australia</p>
10:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK
11:00 – 12:30	PANEL 1 – RIVERS AND CITIES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
Chairperson	Philippe Peycam International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands
11:00	<p>Through the Passages and Across the Worlds: A Historical Study on the Temples at the Bridges and their Fairs in the Water Towns</p> <p>Xiaomei Zhao Fudan University</p>
11:20	<p>The Influence of Political Economy on the River Landscape of Banjarmasin During the Sultanate Period (1526-1860)</p> <p>Vera D. Damayanti University of Groningen, the Netherlands</p>
11:40	<p>From the City to the Sea: Riverside Temple Networks in South India</p> <p>Emma Stein Yale University, USA</p>
12:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 15:00	PANEL 2 – FROM HISTORY TO THE CONTEMPORARY
Chairperson	Rita Padawangi Singapore University of Social Sciences
13:30	<p>Sacred River, Syncretic City: Reflections on the Dialectics of Co-living and Contestation in Varanasi</p> <p>Pralay Kanungo International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands</p>
13:50	<p>Myths and Folklore in Communities along the Brantas River Basin</p> <p>Purnawan Basundoro Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia</p>
14:10	<p>The Decline of Ritual Practices in Response to Pollution in the Vishnumati River, Kathmandu, Nepal</p> <p>Rajani Maharjan Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, Nepal</p>
14:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
15:00 – 15:30	TEA BREAK
15:30 – 17:00	PANEL 3 – NEIGHBORHOODS AND SOCIAL LIFE

<i>Chairperson</i>	Paul Rabé International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands
<i>15:30</i>	Floating Settlements in Sintang City, West Kalimantan: A Representation of Urban-Rural Dendritic Connectivity Mira Lubis Universitas Indonesia
<i>15:50</i>	Community Initiatives in The Riverine Area of Kali Pepe, Surakarta Kusumanindyah Nurul Handayani Universitas Nasional Sebelas Maret, Indonesia Nur Miladan Universitas Nasional Sebelas Maret, Indonesia Lia Sparingga Purnamasari Universitas Nasional Sebelas Maret, Indonesia Muhammad Khoirul Universitas Nasional Sebelas Maret, Indonesia
<i>16:10</i>	The Unjust Redistribution of Floodwater within the City: The Story of and Resolution for Shezidao, Taipei City Liao Kuei-Hsien National Taipei University
<i>16:30</i>	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
17:00	END OF DAY 1
18:00 – 20:00	DINNER (FOR PAPER PRESENTERS, CHAIRPERSONS AND CONVENORS)

12 DECEMBER 2017 (TUESDAY)

08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00 – 10:15	KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Chairperson	Tanti Nasution (TBC) Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia
09:00	Johan Silas Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia
09:45	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
10:15 – 10:30	BREAK
10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 4 – RIVER PLANNING INTERVENTIONS
Chairperson	Debjeni Bhattacharyya Drexel University, USA
10:30	The Canal and the City: Water's Edge Urbanisms in Chennai Karen Coelho Madras Institute of Development Studies, India
10:50	Colonial-Global Tianjin: The Politics of Design Centered on the Hai River between Past and Present Maurizio Marinelli University of Sussex, United Kingdom
11:10	Recovering the Stream: Contestation about River Access as a Catalyst for Eco-City Development in Suwon City, South Korea Youngah Guahk University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
11:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 14:30	PANEL 5 – REHABILITATING RIVERS
Chairperson	Rita Padawangi Singapore University of Social Sciences
13:00	Mekong and Modernization: Cities of Thakhek and Nong Khai Emir Bosnic Estácio de Sá University, Brazil
13:20	Division and Marginalization in The Lower Brantas Basin: A Longue Durée Approach Anton Novenanto Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia
13:40	What Have Transnational Planning Visions Done in Red River, Hanoi in Vietnam? Sujee Jung Rutgers University, USA
14:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
14:30 – 15:00	TEA BREAK
15:00 – 16:30	PANEL 6 – RIVER FUTURES REFLECTED
Chairperson	Paul Rabé International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands
15:00	Hybrid Riverscapes: Governing River Cities Beyond Land and Water Dichotomies – the Yamuna in Delhi, India Alexander Follmann University of Cologne, Germany
15:20	Narmada Water on Sabarmati River: A Ship of Theseus? Parthasarathy Rengarajan Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Gota, Ahmedabad, India
15:40	Sociocultural and spatial factors in river-edge relationships: A comparative case study of rivers in Indonesian cities Michaela Prescott Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia

16:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
16:30 – 16:45	CLOSING REMARKS
	<p>Paul Rabé International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University</p> <p>Adrian Perkasa Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Airlangga</p> <p>Rita Padawangi Singapore University of Social Sciences</p>
18:00 – 20:00	DINNER (FOR PAPER PRESENTERS, CHAIRPERSONS AND CONVENORS)