

CLARKE URBAN SYSTEMS

Management Economics Planning Engineering

Australia
Box 423 GPO Sydney 2001
15 Albion Ave Sydney 2021
Telephone (02) 311543

Indonesia
P.O. Box 15 } address
Denpasar } for reply

Associated Offices in
Washington DC, USA
Jakarta, Indonesia
Melbourne, Australia
and in Singapore

Denpasar
8 January 1981

Reply dated 21.1.81
Received 23.1.81

44
Sugijanto Soegijoko
Bukit Dago Utara 1/12
Rumah Kantjil
Bandung

Dear Sugijanto:

Apa kabar ? We almost met in Jakarta in the last week of November and I've been meaning to write to you since Suci, Ruslan Diviryo's secretary, gave me your home address. We missed each other in Ruslan's office and Suci told me next day that you had tried to ring me at my hotel. What a pity I was out. For many years I've been hoping to meet you again, and hear of your views, news, ideas and ambitions. You must now be the most knowledgeable, skilled urbanist among your 150 million fellow citizens, and it's good that you've returned home at last to put your skills to work where they are so much needed. I've been following your career at a distance all these years since 1966 (or was it 1968 ?) when you visited Australia for that Planning Congress when I was Editor of RAPIJ. I had some news of you through John Toon. In 1975 or '76 I visited Bandung and spent an hour or so talking with your wife, but at the time you were back at MIT, I think. At an UNCRD Nagoya Conference in February, 1980, I met Lloyd Rodwin and Ruslan Diviryo, among others, and your name came up in our conversation. In September, 1980, I spent some time in Cambridge, Mass, at MIT and Harvard, and later at the World Bank in Washington, and met a number of people who knew you.

It
was
1966,
He says.

In 1977, I retired from practice in Australia after 18 years of intensive work there with a large and complex practice. I found that I had become bored with the types of problems in urban and regional development experienced by such a homogeneous country approaching zero population growth. I handed over my Australian practice to my younger associates, but retained international clients and contacts. I set up a Clarke Urban Systems office in Semarang to do Cipta Karya/Perumnas/World Bank KIP and S&S studies and projects in Semarang and Surakarta during 1977 and 1978. Over the six years since 1974 I've been visiting Indonesia frequently every year, and spending an increasingly large proportion of my time outside Australia and inside Indonesia.

My wife and I have grown very fond of Indonesia and find Indonesian national development efforts fascinating to observe. We enjoy Bali, and currently we're living quietly in retirement in a hilltop village a few kilometres north and west of Ubud, where we have spent some time each year since 1974. We are the long term guests of a Balinese and his family. He is building a guest house which I have designed in traditional style on a ridgetop overlooking the most beautiful and spectacular valley of the Sungai Ayung, the largest river in Bali. We hope that the Indonesian Immigration Department will allow us to visit Indonesia for extended periods so that we can continue to develop our relationships with the people in the local Bandjar, of which I am a dues-paying "foreign member".

We get a lot of reading and thinking done in the peace of our very quiet village... I've just worked through Brian Derry's "Public Works Investment Strategy in a Developing Country: the case of Urban Water Supply in Indonesia" (with Katherine Sierra) which John Kain gave me a few months ago; Sam Sherer's 200+ pages for the IERD financed Jabotabek Metro Plan on land law in Indonesia; and for relief, James Boon's "Anthropological Romance of Bali 1597-1972" and Geertz' "Religion of Java". We're improving our Bahasa (Indonesia and Bali); my wife teaches the local kids English, in the afternoons after school. We learn more and more from first hand experience of traditional family, Bandjar and other forms of Balinese social organisation, and of *plonologi asli*, and the ancient cosmological laws of laying out house compounds, and of constructing bale bale.

We're also fascinated by the continuing changes wrought by the penetration of the national government into the villages, by technological change (listrik came to the Bandjar two years ago); and by tourism (more and more of the locals are getting jobs or income directly or indirectly from the tourist industry). Balinese culture seems to be readily adapting to and absorbing new ideas and ways without changing in its essentials. The impact of colonialism was mild here compared with Java; traditions have so much greater continuity.

It's all so much more interesting than Australia, which I now find so deadly dull. Problems in Indonesia are so much more worth thinking about and trying to help with, if ever help is really needed. I maintain contacts with old friends and colleagues in IERD, ADB and UN, as well as with Australian Aid people, in the hope that from time to time I can do something useful in the field of development policy, somewhere in Asia. One such opportunity of course is your National Urban Development Strategy Project, on which, Ruslan told me, he has been lucky enough to secure your full time services as National Coordinator. Congratulations, and best wishes for success! I was given a copy of the draft Project Document in Jakarta, and tried to express my feelings to Ruslan that it could benefit from some editing, while at the same time expressing my strong personal interest in working

66 it. It's difficult to understand how UN people manage to produce and allow publication of such muddled stuff; the draft seems to have been written by someone without any practical knowledge of Indonesian conditions whatsoever.

I've been through the draft and covered it in notes, from which I've extracted a six page summary of the major ways in which I think it needs to be improved; but I would need to check these thoughts with someone like you, and/or Ruslan before I would feel confident in putting them forward.

The central problem in any national urban development strategy is that of achieving institutional cooperation and coordination:- first in the definition of ~~whattthe~~ problems are, then in the setting of objectives, hierarchies and frameworks...and most significantly in the selecting of priorities for immediate action in the short term future; and of course with the allocation of resources to tackle those priorities. Later, of course, cooperation and coordination is the "without which, nothing" of continuing implementation, review and adjustment of the strategy as a whole, and each of its multitudinous parts.

In brief, the draft Project Document doesn't seem to concentrate enough attention on essential, central concerns like that. It dissipates attention and energy on a host of interesting, important, but peripheral matters... all of which can be tackled in due course by Indonesian nationals and Indonesian institutions themselves, without such a "big bang" foreign assistance project.

I'm sure that Ruslan and others in Bappenas, Dalam Negeri, the Department of Finance and so on, all appreciate the weaknesses of the Document, and that they've been calling on you to advise them. It's a very delicate situation, but I'm confident that with your local cultural sensitivity and your Cambridge, Mass, background, you'll be giving them sound advice. I hope they take it.

If I can do anything to help in whipping the Document into shape, please don't hesitate to call on me. I've got my old enthusiasm for professional challenges back again. And please keep me in mind when you come to advise on the selection of foreign personnel. I would enjoy working with you.

I've arranged a Telex link for easy and fast and cheap communication, if you ever wish to contact me without undue delay. You can Telex to the Denpasar Public Telex Office (Telex Number 35140 or 35141 or 35142) (Answerback Code: EXBEN DPS) starting your message:-

"Please deliver to
George Clarke
d.a. Wayan Karyasa
Easy Rider Travel Service
Molasti Hotel, Kuta Beach.

....."

I gained some insight into the institutional coordination problems when I visited Dalam Negeri and spent a morning with your clients in the Directorate of Urban Development, for whom you and ITB did some workmanlike reports on a national information system. It seems to me that the Project Document could allocated a slightly larger proportion of the budget to the Information System work, and also to the Training component... without information and without training, nothing can be achieved no matter how many scores of fancy reports are prepared by foreigners. But nothing much can be achieved without close cooperation with Dalam Negeri, either.

I also learnt that a lot of people in the U.N. are also very unhappy with the draft as it stands. An Assistant Resident Representative told me that he had written from UN Jakarta to Cipta Karya, and also to UNCHS Nairobi, strongly criticising the draft for:- failing to mention other Ministries and Departments of GoI, not taking account of so many other relevant studies, and of data and policy being generated elsewhere in GoI; trying to do everything at once, instead of taking a more staged, phased approach; demanding too much of Cipta Karya by way of providing such a host of super trained national professionals; and offering to provide too many fancy expatriates, in too many different disciplines, too quickly. What was the Indonesian reaction to that?

Bruce Hyland, who worked in my office for many years before he joined the UN in the early 'seventies, mentioned in a recent letter that "we had a consultant (an Iranian) go to Jakarta, but I don't think he did us a great deal of good, and we are now sending a staff member to follow up". Who came, and did he manage to sort things out to everyone's satisfaction?

If you ever visit Bali, do drop in and visit us for lunch or dinner some time. Ask a local driver or taxi to take you to Bandjar Kutuh, Desa Sayan, Kedewaten, on the road between Denpasar and Payangan, which can also be reached from Ubud and Campuan. We're about 45 minutes from Denpasar, or 5 to 10 minutes from Ubud. When in Banjar Kutuh, ask for the rumahnya orang orang Australia, atau rumahnya Wayan Ruma.

We look forward to meeting you soon, either in Bali, Jakarta or Bandung, if an when we next go to Java.

Sampai jumpa lagi

George Clarke

22068

telex ke kenya (afrika) 987

22063 unhabitat

executivedirector

unchs habitat

nairobi

kenya

attention: bruce hyland

following recent discussions in jakarta,
i request you to register my interest and
availability to assist unchs and bappenas
to finalise project document for indonesia
urban development policy project.

also request you register my interest and
availability to serve on project as senior
policy adviser or senior urban planner.

letter follows.

am now resident indonesia

contactable by telex to:

35140 tlx bth denpasar — 35140 wrong?

or

35141 attention: g clarke — or 35142

care: easy rider travel service

melasti hotel kuta beach

yours faithfully,

george clarke.