

Sustainable City Management in Surakarta (Indonesia)

Dealing with Informal Settlements
an Example for
'Good Governance'?

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Master thesis
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March 2013

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Abstract

In this thesis the policy of an Indonesian city – Surakarta - regarding housing and governance issues is analysed. The question is addressed whether Surakarta’s strategy of handling the city’s informal sector and marginal settlements shows signs of sustainability and good governance. For this purpose, at first, current trends in urban development as well as discussions on adequate strategies to improve the living conditions in slums are illustrated on a global and national scale. Following this analysis, a detailed examination of Surakarta’s housing policy regarding the poor - its procedures and mechanisms - is performed, using four concrete programs as examples. In particular, the city’s relocation measures are addressed and critically evaluated.

The results show that Surakarta’s city government has put into place an effective policy, reaching the poor by inclusive approaches. Influenced by global discussions and ‘best practices’ the examined programs are characterized by many elements of good governance and Solo’s strategies are already disseminated to other Indonesian cities. It is argued, however, that there also remain deficits regarding participation and transparency.