

CHAPTER III

BRIEF HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION OF SEMARANG CITY

A. History Of Semarang City

1. Origin Of The Name Semarang

Pragota (now called Bergota) is the origin area of Semarang which is the authorize territory of Mataram Kuno Empire. Previously this area is a harbor with cluster of small island in front of. Because sedimentation happens, these islands become a new land. The harbor's location is predicted in the Bulu Market elongated to Simongan harbor, the place of Cheng Ho Admiral anchor his fleet in 1405. ¹

A founder of Semarang according to historical inquiry is Kyai Ageng Pandan Arang or Arabian men with his original name Maulana Ibnu Abdullah. He was bestowed by Sunan Ampel to Islamize people in the Mugas and Bergota area – previously these area are peninsula with named Tirang Island. ² The origin name of Tirang is predicted from the place, long time ago swamp precipitation occured then become shoal of shore and called by local fisherman with “Trang” or “Tirangan”. Another supposition, in this area contain many oyster such a type of *Catrea Imbricata* so then called with Tiram island. ³

Kyai Ageng Pandanaran was known as founding father of Semarang, but he did not originator the name of Semarang. Based on book “*Serat Kandaning Ringgit Purwa Naskah KBG Nr. 7*” the creator of the name is Syeikh Wali Lanang. The story begin when he visiting Kyai Ageng Pandanaran's place to find and Islamize the

¹ Zaenuddin HM, *Asal-Usul Kota-Kota di Indonesia Tempo Doeloe*, Jakarta: PT. Zaytuna Ufuk Abadi, 2013, p.460-461

² Kantor Informasi Dan Komunikasi Kota Semarang, “Selayang Pandang Kota Semarang”, Semarang, 2008, p.6

³ Victor S. Winatayuda ed., *Kota Semarang Dalam Kenangan*, Semarang: Sinar Indonesia, Angkatan Bersenjata Jateng Kartika, Jawa Pos, p.7

Betara Katong, ex-Adipati of Panaraga. Apparently Betara Katong already becomes Muslim over Kyai Ageng Pandanaran guidance. Hearing that Syeikh Wali Lanang grateful and willing to stay in the Kyai Ageng Pandanaran's settlement to teach theology and reciting the holy Koran. Then Syeikh Wali Lanang ask about the name of that place. Apparently that place is unnamed, and finally Syeikh Wali Lanang naming it with Semarang while predict this place later will be crowd and expansion scope widely until become a "*Kuta Pasirah*" or Capital City.⁴

Other version about the origin of the name Semarang from toponimic side following C. Lekkerkerker, that Semarang coming from word "asam-arang" causally in the past contained many tamarind trees in the rarely site. Many tamarind trees grow along of Bodjong Street (Pemuda Street) until getting the credit "*Fraaie tamarinde boomen*" or "the beautiful tamarind trees". Unfortunately now tamarind trees only can be found in the Imam Bonjol Street, Citarum Street, and Pemuda Street.⁵

2. An Overview of Regional Conditions

Semarang is located in the middle of the Java island lies between the lines of 6 ° 50 '-7 ° 10 ' South latitude and 109 ° 35 '-110 ° 50 ' East longitude. The limits of administrative regions to the West of Semarang is a Regency of Kendal, the East with Demak, the South with Regency Semarang, and North is bounded by Java Sea with its long coast line reached 13.6 kilometers.⁶

Based on the famous Netherlands geologist Prof. Dr. r. w. Van Bemmelen, approximately 500 years ago the State of the Semarang city much different than now. The coastline juts out into the still far to

⁴ Amen Budiman, *Semarang Juwita Semarang Tempo Doeloe Semarang Masa Kini Dalam Rekaman Kamera*, Semarang: Tanjung Sari, 1979, p.3

⁵ Victor S. Winatayuda ed., *Kota Semarang Dalam Kenangan*, p.9

⁶ Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah (RPJMD) Kota Semarang Tahun 2010-2015, Semarang: Pemerintah Kota Semarang, 2011, p. II 1-2

the foot of the hills Gajahmungkur Mugas, Mrican, mount of Sawo Simongan, and other hills surrounding islands.⁷

Topographically Semarang city consists of a hilly area, lowlands, and coastal regions so that the topography of the city shows a variety of slope and bulge. The condition of the slope land of Semarang divided into four types: the slope I (0-2%) covering Kecamatan Genuk, Semarang Gayamsari, Pedurungan, North Semarang, East Semarang, Tugu, as well as parts Sub-regency Tembalang, Banyumanik, and Mijen. Slope II (2-5%) include the west of Semarang Subdistrict, South Semarang, Candisari, Gajahmungkur, Gunungpati, and Ngaliyan. Slope III (15-40%) covers an area of around Kaligarang and Kali Kreo (Sub Gunungpati), most Banyumanik, Mijen and Candisari. And slope > IV (50%) covers most Kecamatan Banyumanik (Southeast), and parts Sub-regency Gunungpati.

Topographic condition results in Semarang have areas that are known as the city of the lower and upper town. The region of rolling hills with an elevation of 90,56-348 mdpl represented the high point of which is located in Jatingaleh and Gombel, South Semarang, Tugu, Gunungpati, and Mijen. Whereas the lowlands have a height of 0.75 mdpl from the coast and lowlands which has a slope between 0%-5%.⁸

3. Influence Of Migrants Culture To The Development Of Semarang

Semarang is the city with important harbor as early as now. Therefore many foreign merchantmen stop over such China, Arab, India. Convinced that the first merchant from China thousands years ago. The reason is unending warfare happen. Estimated Chinese have been stay since 921. But the legendary Chinese arrival is embarkation of Cheng Ho Admiral in Simongan to saw Chinese colonies in the abroad. This historical place then becomes a temple, as gratitude to the

⁷ Victor S. Winatayuda ed., *Kota Semarang Dalam Kenangan*, p.7

⁸ “Rencana Kerja Pemerintah Daerah (RKPD) Kota Semarang Tahun 2016”, Walikota Semarang, 2015, p.II-3

Admiral for his visiting. In this temple also exists sacred grave of his helmsman Ong King Hong.

Previously the location of Chinese residence around of Simongan. After rebellion toward Dutch occur, their existence concentrate in the edge of Semarang River now called by Chinatown (Pecinan). The commercial development of Chinatown is supported by Semarang River which connects harbor and hinterland of Semarang. Big warehouse which storage the merchandise was built in the border of Semarang River, and also many boats carrier the goods made sail in Semarang River and anchor in Gang Pinggir.⁹

The assimilation between Chinese and local people not only on custom but also language and culinary. Many Chinese woman use hair bun and *kebaya*. Lots of Chinese words commonly used such as “Tjat” or “Tjet”. *Lumpia* – special culinary of Semarang, is adaptation from Chinese menu. Temple as their praying place begin many, the oldest temple of Semarang was built around 1753 on Gang Baru.¹⁰

Besides Chinese, another migrant comes from Europe. They are residing in Old City area. Though Portuguese is the first migrant, but the most influence migrant is Dutch who arrived about seventeen century. Along with the development of Old City as the residence of European, begin to build the fortress and the gates. And also Blenduk Church – the first church named Emanuel church, was built with Europe architecture in the center of Old City.

Old City was known by “De Europeeshe Buurt” or European residence, begun developing as the center of Dutch Government with specific town plan and architecture of Dutch. Semarang River was shaped canal like around the Old City. More rapidly the development of Old City many building such Commercial office, bank, assurance office, notary, hotel, and stores was built. In the east side of Blenduk

⁹ Victor S. Winatayuda ed., *Kota Semarang Dalam Kenangan*, p.21

¹⁰ Victor S. Winatayuda ed., *Kota Semarang Dalam Kenangan*, p.19

Church also built field for military parade or music performance in the evening.¹¹

In that time there were two big residence i.e., Dutch residence within the fortress and local residence outside. The local residence is separated by race group until known such as Chinatown a special residence of Chinese, Arabic residence for Arabian trader, and Pekojan for Indian seller. This grouping makes government regulated easily.

Building architecture of Semarang also influenced by culture unification from these ethnic. The influence can be seen from appearance or lay out of Semarang houses. Islamic side seen from three shape of *fasade* door, it emphasize at *Iman, Islam, and Ihsan*. Chinese cultures are visible on decorating style in *konsol* shape and tile motif, also ventilation form usually drawing about God's plants or animal. Then touch of Dutch culture on the arrangement of air circulation and illumination of air hole in every room appropriate with tropical climate.¹²

The ethnical variety of Semarang also brings various faiths. It makes many temple, mosque, church, pagoda, even shrine with historical value, so it can be education and religious tourism spot. Here some religious tour of Semarang, following:¹³ 1) Great Mosque of Central Java (MAJT). The mosque with exclusive Islamic architecture, that is dome shaped roof and four tower also four cluster model imported from Medina. 2) Great Mosque of Kauman is the oldest mosque in Semarang. Mosque with three stacked roof and decorated of *mustaka* in the peak, as the only building left from previous town square of Semarang. 3) Blenduk Church (Immanuel Church) is the first Europe church, the location in the center of Old City with European

¹¹ L.M.F. Purwanto, "Kota Kolonial Lama Semarang (Tinjauan Umum Sejarah Perkembangan Arsitektur Kota)", *Dimensi Teknik Arsitektur Journal*, Vol.33, No.1, Juli 2005, p.32-33

¹² Sukawi, "Integrasi Budaya Pada Wujud Arsitektur Dan Pola Tata Ruang Rumah Tinggal Khas Semarang", *Nasional Journal*, 2007, p.1

¹³ Dinas Kebudayaan Dan Pariwisata Kota Semarang, "Wisata Religi", Semarang, t.th.

architecture. 4) Menyanan Mosque, is the oldest mosque of Chinatown, an evidence of assimilation Islam-Chinese culture. 5) Tower Mosque (Layur Mosque) the location in the Melayu village which is built by a group of Yemen trader, have tower for muezzin, the wall is decorated by colorful geometrical ornaments. 6) Gedong Batu Temple (Sam Poo Kong) the location in the Cheng Ho Admiral was anchor. 7) Avalokitesvara Pagoda is the temple with seventh layers building, have twenty eight Kwam Im Goddess statues, the roof, accessories, stone stairs relief (nine dragon), and Hong and Kilin bird statue are imported from China.

B. Vision And Mission Of Semarang City

The development vision of Semarang City in RPJPD (Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Panjang Daerah) years 2005-2025 that is “Semarang is Metropolitan City which Religious, Orderly, and Cultured”. It means that Semarang city hopefully to be the city always esteemed the religious value, working ethos, custom, and norm of local wisdom which is life and develop until attain the government and society living in the regularity, prosperity, and supporting by main economic activity such as trade, service, and industry.¹⁴

The meaning of development vision on RKPD of Semarang:

- **Metropolitan City**, it means that Semarang has good infrastructure to supply all activity of society and its hinterland with primary economic activity such as commerce, service, and industry and support by another economic sector to create prosperous people. Metropolitan also has meaning to assure their society in safe, serene, beautiful, healthy, and sustainable.

¹⁴ “Rencana Kerja Pemerintah Daerah (RKPD) Kota Semarang Tahun 2016”, Walikota Semarang, 2015, p.IV.1-2

- **Religious**, it means the society of Semarang city convince the validity of tenet and values of religion also applying it as faith and piety to God, and upholding tolerance and care as way of life.
- **Orderly**, it means each people consciously to use rights and perform obligation as good as possible then manifest well regulated and certain life of government and society, always be orienting with the essential constitution system to create discipline, orderly attitude, appreciate the time as the characters of progressive people.
- **Cultured**, it means every behavior life of society which is based on work ethic, habit, customs, tradition, local wisdom, norm which is thriving on society also convinced as good character and bring into social interaction as identity of government and building implementation.

To bring into reality this vision, then any five development vision, those are:

- Mission 1. Create high quality human resource in the Semarang city.
- Mission 2. Create good governance and political living with democratically and responsibility.
- Mission 3. Create the autonomy and district competitiveness.
- Mission 4. Create sustainability lay-out of region and infrastructure.
- Mission 5. Create social prosperity.

According to the evaluation of implementation the mission in RPJMD (Rencana Pembangunan Menengah Daerah) period 2010-2015, was formulated the development issues and problems until end of the year

2015. Apparently the most problem exist in the fourth mission about sustainability lay-out of region and infrastructure than another mission.¹⁵

This indicates that environmental condition of Semarang far from sustainability. The problems from result evaluation of sustainability lay-out of region and infrastructure following:

- Extant flood puddle (rob flood) attack 3.400 ha with average stagnating 45 minutes and flood puddle (rainwater flood) in 8.200 ha with long stagnating 240 minutes at the wet season.
- Extant land subsidence until 0-14 cm / year
- Extant un-optimal city drainage function.
- Extant high sedimentation in the drainage.
- Under communication of society in maintain and manage the drainage system.
- Shortcoming of flood handling in drainage basin, headwaters, and seaboard.
- Shortcoming of accessibility development in growth region.
- Extent un-optimal quality of road and bridge condition in Semarang. In the 2013, road in good condition only 49,67% from 2.690 km length.
- Limited of Municipal Waterworks ability in supplying fresh water for people in Semarang.
- Shortcoming of equipping lighting lamp in main way, especially in growth region.
- Limited of funeral area in Semarang.
- Extent un-optimal service quality and massive transportation availability.

¹⁵ “Rencana Kerja Pemerintah Daerah (RKPD) Kota Semarang Tahun 2016”, Walikota Semarang, 2015, p.IV 11-13

- Dissatisfy trash service only serve 75,71% from totally region, and also carrying trash 80,99% from amount of rubbish \pm 4757,1 m³/day. In addition Jatibarang trash drip cup deficient.
- Urban aesthetics management needs upgrading.

C. Environmental Management of Semarang City

Environmental management is the total activities carried out by a particular society with the objective to protect the environment.¹⁶ Government as policy maker and ecological agency (BLH = Badan Lingkungan Hidup) as the primary actor who implement and control the environment. The environmental management policy includes six aspects such as: planning, utilization, restraint, maintenance, monitoring, and law upholding. The planning, utilization, restraint, maintenance aspect are emphasized to the urban lay-out policy.¹⁷ So, it is important to discuss about urban lay-out of Semarang and some standpoint of environmental condition in Semarang.

1. Urban Lay Out Of Semarang

Semarang's urban development motto is "Its Time Semarang *Setara*". *Setara* is an acronym of *Semarang Kota Sejahtera* (Semarang is Prosperous City). This motto hopefully can be motivating in order to implement the vision and mission of Semarang year 2010-2025, until Semarang paralleling with another metropolitan cities within all aspect to get social prosperity. Therefore region land use planning separated into central and sub-central development district, with expecting the development can spread evenly.

¹⁶ Jan Joost Kessler, et.all, *Environmental Management: Toward a Conceptual Framework for Environmental Governance*, Washington: Inter-American Development Bank, 2001, p.5

¹⁷ Fauzanul Fikri Jafni, "Studi Kebijakan Penataan Lingkungan Di Kota Semarang Dalam Perspektif Hukum Administrasi Negara", Semarang: Laporan Penelitian Individu, Universitas Negeri Semarang, 2011, p.60

Central development district located in the heart of Semarang (Simpang Lima region, Pandanaran, Tugumuda, etc.). Central development district contained regional level services such Governor and Mayor Office, public servicing and loyalist office, regional main financing, hotel, private offices, and another service accommodations. While sub-central development district concentrated in suburban area (Tugu, Genuk, Gunungpati, Mijen sub district, etc.) sub-central development district contained commerce and service, education, health, religious, and public servicing tools.¹⁸

Besides all achievement from urban development of Semarang either physic or non-physic success, but from existing land use can be concluded¹⁹: 1) Majority land of Semarang is planned for built up land, especially for settlements. 2) Allocating commerce and service area in the center of the city increase the density and hoarding activity in this area, so as the impact traffic jam and disjointedly monger (PKL) which is broke urban image. 3) Extant allocating seaboard as industry and settlement (Candi Industrial in Tugu and Terboyo Industrial in Genuk) which is causing land subsidence and rob (sea overflow). Developing the education area in the suburban area (UNNES in Sekaran and UNDIP in Tembalang) also bringing the flood and green area availability (RTH = Ruang Terbuka Hijau) because of built up the buffer zone or rainwater infiltration area.

Fundamentally compiling the land use development planning head for harmonizes human living place needs with restricted and unrenewable environmental support capability. However, from the realization can be known that urban land use of

¹⁸ Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah (RPJMD) Kota Semarang Tahun 2010-2015, Semarang: Pemerintah Kota Semarang, 2011, p. II 12-16

¹⁹ Prihadi Nugroho and Agung Sugiri, "Studi Kebijakan Pembangunan Terhadap Perubahan Tata Ruang Di Kota Semarang", *Riptek Journal*, Vol.3, No.2, 2009, p.44-45

Semarang only for economic oriented progress than for environmental sustainability.

2. Standpoint Of Environmental Condition In Semarang City

Environmental management of Semarang will be represented from Semarang River's management for environmental construct of Semarang. Semarang River besides as the historical river, also an identity of Semarang in the past. So this river is a conservation area should have been protected and maintained from pollution or damaging. Furthermore will be explained about building management of some religious tour in Semarang.

Semarang is commerce urban as early as now. The city with importance harbor makes many merchantmen from abroad stop in this city such China, India, or Arab. Rapidly developed of their commerce activity over Semarang River as key position, which is connecting the center of city and its hinterland. The importance of Semarang River as trade route and defense makes the riparian area develop to be residence of these merchantmen. Until known the Chinatown, Kauman, Pekojan, Europe, etc.

Historically the topography of Semarang five thousand years ago was shallow sea. Coast line protrudes until foothill of Gajahmungkur, Mugas, Mrican, Gunung Sawo, Simogan etc. Mud sedimentation occurred makes the new land now called by underside of Semarang (Semarang bawah). Then Dutchmen composed canals to overcome rob, no wonder Semarang River grooves just like the huge drainage. Characteristic of Dutch architecture with canal around the city makes Old City famous with Little Netherland.

Beautification of Semarang in the past was described by Jongkie Tio with cargo ship back and forth from Boom Lama Harbor to the hinterland of Semarang. In other side Dutchman and

his wife was enjoying tea or coffee in their house balcony of Old City (Picture 1). But, now the conditions of Semarang River become much different (Picture 2). Although in the 1980 had been carried on the Semarang River normalization project, in process of time rubbish popped out and stuffed up Semarang River pipeline.

Semarang River beautification cannot enjoyable for today. From sixty meters wide and four meters average deepness at four centuries in the past, now narrowly become five teen meters only. Sedimentation occurs because population density around Semarang River, also rapidly developed of industry or business and rob impact make Semarang River narrower then ship cannot going through anymore. Then function as drainage also hampered, no wonder if underside of Semarang flood stricken often when wet season coming.



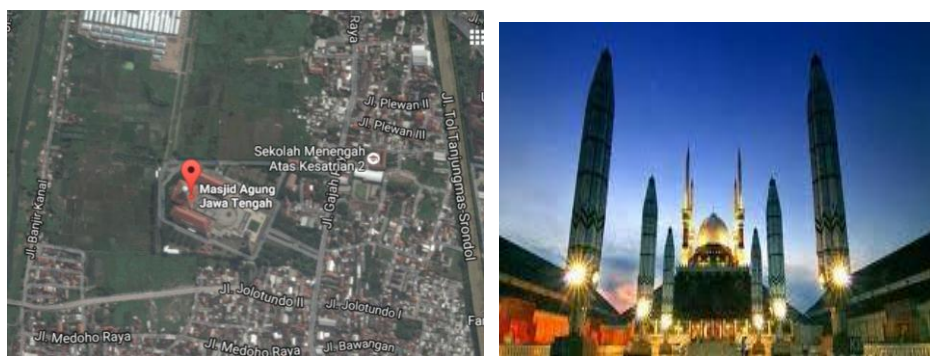
Picture 1. Semarang's harbor in the past (Jongkie Tio)



Picture 2. Semarang River condition today.

As vision and mission of Semarang year 2010-2025 that Semarang is Religious Metropolitan City. In fact many praying place from various faith indeed, as the impact of multiethnic society. May even exist with magnificent building. Besides to create religious environmental condition also becomes tourism spot. So vision of Semarang as Religious Metropolitan city can be reach. One of them is Great Mosque of Central Java (MAJT). Magnificent mosque in ten hectare wide designed Islamic universal architecture with main dome shaped roof and completely four side pointed tower also four cluster model imported from Medina.

Unfortunately, rubbish management does not planned well. For huge level of religious tour, rubbish processing still utilize manual manner – carried by cleaning service then collected in the temporary garbage dump, and then every two day it throwing in the final garbage dump periodically. There are contained two kind trash can, but very limited number and in the special place only, no wonder much rubbish spread around in the mosque area. In addition rubbish quantity produced disproportionately with garbage dump volume capacity. Separated rubbish from the trash cans finally collecting in one temporary garbage dump²⁰ (Picture 3).



²⁰ Taufan M, at.all, “Utilitas Lingkungan Studi Kasus Masjid Agung Jawa Tengah”, Semarang : Laporan kelompok Mahasiswa Teknik UNDIP, 2009, p.73-76



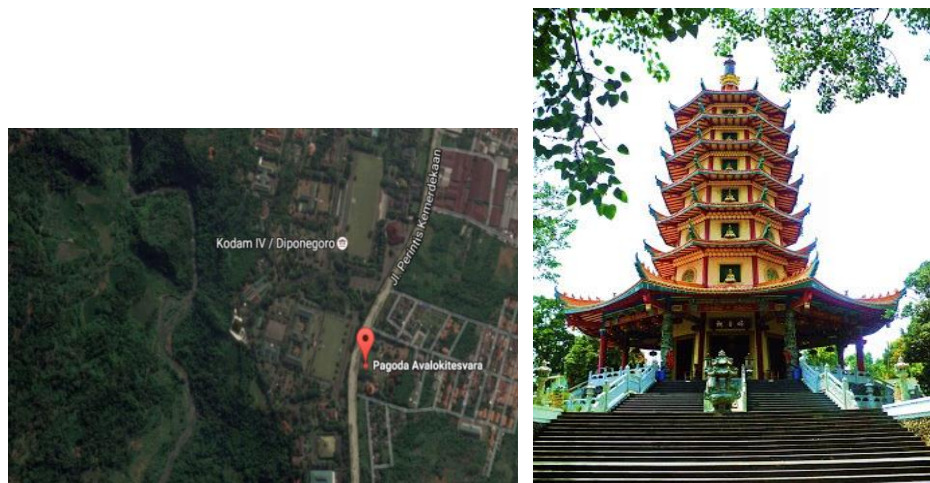
Picture 3. MAJT garbage dump condition (Google Earth 2016 and Taufan 2009)

Other religious spot is Mahavira Graha Temple. The biggest temple in Central Java consists of seven floors. Beautification of the building is decorated with one thousand twenty Buddhist statues, eighty eight Buddhist in the *abayamudra* position statues, and thirty two Avalokitesvara statues reside inside and outside of the building. Besides for religious activity, tourism, also education functioned for candidate of Mahayana Buddhist monk. The temple locates in St. Marina Raya VI 1, belonging to Marina beach region. Unfortunately that magnificent temple was built in seaboard with highly rob stricken. In addition inappropriate land use of seaboard conservation area, rob impact also building destructively (Picture 4).



Picture 4. The location of temple very close with the sea. (Google Earth 2016 and private document 2016)

Pagoda Avalokitesvara (Metta Karuna) is one of religious spot in Semarang. It is seven floor pagodas with forty five meters high and decorated by twenty eight Kwam Im Goddess statues, in every floor contained four statues looked towards cardinal points. Seven floors has meaning that a hermit will achieve the purity in the seventh level. Another pagoda's peculiarity is either roof, accessories, stone stairs relief (nine dragons), or Hong and Kilin bird statue imported from China. Something else conspicuously is the site of this building. Locating in St. Perintis Kemerdekaan is area around Gunungpati – which is buffer area or rain water infiltration area. So established building in this area potentially landslide occur because the land is erosive, also decreasing the green area impact flood and draining well (Picture 5).



Picture 5. The Pagoda location is buffer area or green area. (Google Earth 2016 and private document 2016)

The last religious place is Tay Kak Sie Temple at Gang Lombok, belonging to Semarang Chinatown area. Temple with Chinese architectural styled was built at 1746 and now still exist sturdily with several times renovation. Initially this temple used for Koan Sie Im Po Sat Goddess veneration only, now has been used for Tao or Confucianism also. This building decorated with faith

ornaments and symbols such as roof decoration contained a couple dragon snatch the sun. Dragon symbolizes justice, strength, and sacred things guardian. Whereas a couple dragon as symbol of temple guardian from bad influence.

The beautification of Tay Kak Sie Temple more perfect with permanent replica of Cheng Ho Admiral Ship, reside in fifty meters in front of temple. This replica's length forty one meters and wide twelve meters with high three meters increase the beautification of Gang Lombok in Chinatown Semarang. But conspicuously thing is the ship almost cover up the drainage of Semarang River which is wide fifteen meters only. So the drainage function hampered and invite rob from the sea. Even this replica disturbed Semarang River normalization project also. (Picture 6)



Picture 6. The Tay Kak Sie Temple location and Replica of Cheng Ho Admiral ship which is cover up almost all drainage of Semarang River (Google Earth 2016 and private document 2016)