

## **Joko Says More Still Needs to Be Done to Stop Floods**

By Lenny Tristia Tambun on 9:02 am January 10, 2014.

Category Jakarta News

(<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/jakarta/joko-says-more-still-needs-to-be-done-to-stop-floods/>)



A general view showing flood water on a main road in Jakarta on January 17, 2013. (EPA Photo)

Jakarta Governor Joko Widodo has conceded that his administration's flood-prevention efforts are still lacking as highlighted by Wednesday's downpour when rainwater inundated several parts of the capital.

Joko said the city was still in the process of dredging and normalizing rivers in an effort to minimize the effects of the rainy season.

"It is true that we have dredged, or normalized, rivers and dams and it's still ongoing. If we take a look at yesterday's rains, rivers can already accommodate more rainwater and so can the Pluit dam," Joko said at City Hall on Thursday.

He said that aside from dredging major rivers, the Jakarta administration has also dredged smaller rivers. But out of 884 small rivers in Jakarta, only 160 have so far been done. The remainder will be dredged gradually over the next years, he said.

"Culverts are also in the same condition, still covered by sediment that blocks water from dispersing effectively. This has contributed to the flooding of several roads during heavy rainfall. That's why I ask the people of Jakarta to be patient; we're solving the problem of flooding gradually," he said.

The city administration has accelerated the installation of infiltration wells across the capital. So far Jakarta only has around 1,900 of these wells, compared to a target of 2 million.

Although it was still far from the target, Joko said the infiltration wells were already proving to be quite effective in preventing water from accumulating in those areas.

“But the number is still insufficient to completely eliminate flooding,” he said.

Joko said the efforts made by the city administration would be pointless, no matter how hard it worked, if the public did not support the development of the upstream areas.

“All development in the upstream areas has to be conducted integrally. There is the central government, and others, but if the people don’t want to cooperate, it’s pointless because Jakarta would still be flooded,” he said.

Meanwhile, the weather modification team from the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) was ready to redistribute rain and to make artificial rain to preempt flood disasters.

Florentinus Heru Widodo, technical head of BPPT’s artificial rain unit, said his team has made preparations and developed a new method in seeding clouds for rain modification.

“The team is ready, but the decision to carry out the rain redistribution lies in the hands of the Jakarta administration. The Jakarta administration has not issued an emergency status yet,” Florentinus said in Jakarta on Tuesday evening.

He added that this had prevented the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) from disbursing the budget.

Florentinus said rain redistribution was useful in minimizing the flood potential in the capital during the rainy season.

The BPPT has this year also secured contracts from the West Sumatra office of state electricity company PLN to fill up the dams of Koto Panjang, Riau, and Danau Singkarak, West Sumatra, in April. Both dams support hydroelectric projects.

The agency also has a contract for the same purpose with PLN’s office in South Kalimantan.

Florentinus said the Riau and Central and West Kalimantan administrations have also asked the agency to help prevent forest fires during the next dry season.

## The Solution to Floods Must Be Sustainable

(<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/opinion/the-solution-to-floods-must-be-sustainable/>)

By Jakarta Globe on 11:38 am January 23, 2014.

Category Editorial, Opinion

Every rainy season, parts of Jakarta are now suffering from floods as monsoon rains fill city streets.

This year's floods have cost at least a dozen lives, and displaced more than 130,000 people in the greater Jakarta area.

Aside from the tragic human costs, there are also huge economic costs. The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) reported that last year's floods cost the businesses up to \$3 billion in losses.

In some respects, flooding in Jakarta can be seen as a form of natural disaster. After all, no one can control how much rain falls in the city, or when.

Thirteen rivers cut through the capital to the sea, joining up with remnants of Dutch-era canal systems along the way. As rain swells the rivers in the wet season, the waterways tend to spill over their banks.

Add to this rising sea levels from global climate change and the fact that 40 percent of Jakarta is below sea level, and it is inevitable that parts of the city will be swamped in heavy rains.

Many of the factors that lead to flooding in Jakarta are the result of unsustainable human practices happening today, whether carried out by the government, developers, businesses, communities or individuals.

Mitigating the impact of flooding in the capital will require coordination from all these stakeholder groups — the sustainability of the city itself — is at stake.

### **Government**

The Jakarta government was again spurred into action after last year's floods, which put the city under a state of emergency for more than a week.

Much of the city's response has focused on restoration of the Ciliwung River and West Flood Canal after a section of the canal collapsed in Central Jakarta and flooding the city's major landmarks.

As in the wake of the major floods in 2007, the city government aimed to increase the capacity of the waterways to accommodate run-off from deforested areas upstream.

The dredging of key channel systems and retention basins — and the repair of collapsed embankments — is supported by a \$189-million project by the World Bank started in 2012.

But the Bank's progress report of the Jakarta Urgent Flood Mitigation Project in July last year shows that from January to June 2013, the project was delayed by the local government's request to reconsider its "timeframe, implementation framework and conditions."

The report further states that no results were expected in the first two years of the six-year project, meaning that Jakartans will have to wait even longer to see its impact.

In any case, Marco Kusumawijaya, founder of the RUJAK Center for Urban Studies, said that large-scale projects like these only address the symptoms of flooding, and not the cause. He said increasing the capacity of drains only allows more water into the capital, and does not address the source of the problem, which is surface run-off from deforested areas upstream.

"For more than 100 years the same approach has been pursued and failed in Jakarta ... Every time new infrastructure is completed, bigger floods occur the following year," he wrote on his blog, [mkusumawijaya.wordpress.com](http://mkusumawijaya.wordpress.com), after last year's floods.

Marco suggested a conservationist approach as a better solution, with all parties working together to reduce surface run-off via reforestation.

"The government needs to ensure that all are doing their respective share and regulate it justly but firmly," he told the Jakarta Globe.

## Development

With a population of more than 28 million people, the capital is a booming business spot.

The city's open spaces are quickly filling up with shopping centers, housing complexes, and apartment blocks, as well as informal shops and shelters.

All of this development puts a strain on Jakarta's inadequate water infrastructure and its green open spaces.

A frightening fact that most Jakartans are aware of is that the city is gradually sinking, at an estimated rate of 10-20 centimeters per year.

This phenomenon is known as subsidence, and it is largely caused by the excessive extraction of groundwater by homes and businesses.

Because the water quality and supply from the city mains is unreliable, many businesses such as malls and offices secure their own water source by pumping groundwater.

“The fact is the rich have more power to do so: they can afford the pumps. Not just individuals, but also businesses and industries,” Marco said.

The depletion of groundwater reserves and the weight of concrete developments on the land is pushing the city well below sea level, making it more susceptible to flooding.

Furthermore, large-scale developments eat into the amount of green open space in the city, reducing the area of land able to soak up excess rainwater.

A moratorium on building new malls has put a cap on the 173 shopping centers already filling the urban landscape. But this policy is only a temporary fix for a style of development that needs to be made more sustainable in terms of its use of water, energy and land that previously absorbed rainwater.

Businesses and industry need to take responsibility for their impact on subsidence and the reduced area of green space in the city if they want to thrive here in the long term.

### **Communities**

The people of Jakarta also have to bear some responsibility for protecting their city from floods.

Some of the city’s poorest residents live along its major waterways, using the water for washing, bathing, sewage and garbage disposal, and even for drinking. These are also the residents most at risk to the dangers of flooding.

Jakarta residents are quick to blame these communities for causing flooding in the city, by clogging up important dams and drainage systems with trash. However, these communities have the least amount of power to make a change.

For a more sustainable Jakarta, every resident needs to take responsibility for their impact on flooding —individuals, communities, or leaders in business and government. In the long run, flood mitigation efforts of all kinds can save money and save lives.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/01/23/analysis-jakarta-floods-threats-opportunities.html>

Analysis: Jakarta floods: Threats & opportunities

Harry Su, Bahana Securities | Business | Thu, January 23 2014, 11:52 AM

In the past 10 days, floods have hit various districts in Jakarta, covering 17.7 percent of the total area, up from 17.4 percent in 2013.

More than 10,000 houses have been flooded with 64,000 people being displaced from their homes. In East Jakarta, one of the worst hit areas, the flooding has been up to a depth of 5 meters in places. Twelve people have reportedly died thus far in flood-related incidents.

In this write-up, we attempt to assess the floods' impact on the various sectors under our coverage and corporate earnings as follows:

While all distribution channels are adversely impacted by floods, we believe there are sectors and stocks that will perform better than others from the situation. In general, this should provide positive sentiments for apartments at the expense of landed housing. Thus, we expect Lippo Karawaci, to see uplift, helped by its hospital business which should see increased traffic as people get sick.

We expect the pharmaceutical sector to also see some uptick from increased purchases of medicines to treat wide-ranging illnesses such as flu and skin diseases. Within our coverage, this would benefit both Kalbe and Tempo.

Additionally, during flooding normally households and evacuation centers will stock up on staple foods such as noodles to the advantage of Indofood Consumer Branded Products.

During rains, smokers also have the propensity to smoke more, resulting in increased sales for Gudang Garam.

Within the commodity sector, we expect flooded plantation estates in Sumatra to result in decreased output, resulting in higher crude palm oil (CPO) prices ahead — our top pick in this sector remains Astra Agro.

In the automotive sector, Astra's subsidiary, Otoparts, could be a name to watch (car spare parts), while Ace Hardware should also see increased repair-related products sales ahead.

With rains, cement, construction and coal plays could face operational delays. We also expect an adverse impact on bread maker Nippon Indosari (69 percent of its sales are in the Greater Jakarta area), and due to the fresh nature of its products, spoilage rates will rise.

Rains should also adversely affect retailers due to spoilage and reduced traffic, particularly Ramayana since its low-end target market consumers are normally deterred from leaving their homes as they do not possess cars for commuting.

Finally, traffic jams caused by flooding should spell bad news for transportation, adversely impacting Express and airlines like Garuda Indonesia, as flights are delayed or canceled.

The writer is senior associate director/head of equities and research at PT Bahana Securities.

## **Exercise on Citation, Quotation, & Paraphrase**

### **Script 1:**

[www.thejakartaglobe.com](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com)

“It is true that we have dredged, or normalized, rivers and dams and it’s still ongoing. If we take a look at yesterday’s rains, rivers can already accommodate more rainwater and so can the Pluit dam,” Joko Widodo, the Governor of Jakarta said at City Hall on Thursday.

### **Script 2:**

[www.thejakartaglobe.com](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com)

Florentinus Heru Widodo, technical head of BPPT’s artificial rain unit, said his team has made preparations and developed a new method in seeding clouds for rain modification.

“The team is ready, but the decision to carry out the rain redistribution lies in the hands of the Jakarta administration. The Jakarta administration has not issued an emergency status yet,” Florentinus said in Jakarta on Tuesday evening.

### **Script 3:**

[www.thejakartaglobe.com](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com)

A frightening fact that most Jakartans are aware of is that the city is gradually sinking, at an estimated rate of 10-20 centimeters per year.

This phenomenon is known as subsidence, and it is largely caused by the excessive extraction of groundwater by homes and businesses.

Because the water quality and supply from the city mains is unreliable, many businesses such as malls and offices secure their own water source by pumping groundwater.

“The fact is the rich have more power to do so: they can afford the pumps. Not just individuals, but also businesses and industries,” Marco Kusumawijaya, founder of the RUJAK Center for Urban Studies said.



**Script 4:**

[www.thejakartapost.com](http://www.thejakartapost.com)

Harry Su, senior associate director/head of equities and research at PT Bahana Securities:

“We expect the pharmaceutical sector to also see some uptick from increased purchases of medicines to treat wide-ranging illnesses such as flu and skin diseases. Within our coverage, this would benefit both Kalbe and Tempo”.

**Script 5:**

[www.thejakartapost.com](http://www.thejakartapost.com)

Harry Su, senior associate director/head of equities and research at PT Bahana

“Securities:Finally, traffic jams caused by flooding should spell bad news for transportation, adversely impacting Express and airlines like Garuda Indonesia, as flights are delayed or canceled”.