City thematic approach to achieve liveable city: case study of Bandung City

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Abstract. Livable City has been the goal for many cities and has become the one purpose of city planning. Nowadays, the need to achieve the livable aspects of the city resurfaced as an issue highlighted in Sustainable Development Goals. This brings focus on the index of livability, which tried to measure how livable the city is. The Indexes, however, did not instruct the correct directions to achieve the index. Various approaches have been done to satisfy the index of the livable city—where city thematic becomes one of the alternatives. Along with the common goals of achieving not only livable but also a sustainable city, the city thematic approach also raises many unique perks for solving urban problems. Although when the goals have always been the same, the approach might be slightly different. This paper explains that although there are several ways to achieve a livable city, the thematic city approach may be considered as an effective way to raise awareness of uncommon livability problems, and therefore one of the interesting approaches to be focused on.

Keywords: Thematic, Approach, Livable City, Livability Index, Common Goals.

1. Introduction
The thematic development in the cityscape is one of the most innovative methods to be applied to develop and solve city problems, as well as be hope for the city to be developed. The thematic implementation of the city as a solution to urban problems is to deliver messages and as a reminder of the agenda for urban development goals (Davies, 2015). The practice of using particular verbs or adjectival prefix to the words of ‘urban, cities, or towns’ as a concept of a theme can be dated back to the late 1980s, where there is a phase when there is a lot of new ideas and approaches to urban development (Davies, 2015). This concept often associated with how urban cityscape copes with the urban problem where they summarize some innovative strategy, or policies, that are designed to solve some specific problems of contemporary urban places, boasting such features as future sustainability, vitality, appearance, fairness, and lifestyles of centers, either through the adoption of a series of new activities or through modification of the old (Davies, 2015). Theme cities itself is a development that most likely to utilize new ideas and approaches to urban development which has been summarized in a short distinctive word or phrase to become the goals of the development of the city. This particular approach named a thematic approach in city planning may be used in some cities without it being recognized as a unique approach, as the concept itself appears to be one of the approaches where it was born as an answer to the particular urban problem. A one-size-fits-all approach would not work here (Brdulak, 2017). Although these new urban themes are different from one another, there is an underlying general aim to make places not only more liveable and sustainable but also fairer or more just, although it is unfortunate that this latter objective is often lost as other interests dominate (Davies, 2015).
The thematic development approach is not only meant to achieve a livable and sustainable city but also to give identity and competitiveness according to the urban development. It has become more important to keep the city identity. It may lead to cities’ diversity, whereas ensuring diversity is the key for achieving a sustainable city and community (Yaldiz, 2014). Lately in Indonesia, there is a problem of Cities losing their identities (Wiranegara, 2017), where the essential effort of identifying a city as to define its specific role and function as a whole in a broader scope has been degrading as to the statement of vision, mission, and goals which embodied the spatial plan and development plan was too broad, despite the unique identity that has been dwelling on the city itself. It becomes a concern when the government issued a guidance document of preparation of city or regional spatial plan formulation that stating the thematic should be included as the core goals in developing a city—which then implemented to the word by Bandung City.

A city that harbors a theme is called a thematic city, it boasts a clear character, built based on its potential, uniqueness, excellence, and sustainable resources (Wiranegara, 2017). Bandung city and its 20 years Spatial Plan has accommodated the thematic development approach embodied within its core, whereas this theme, applied differently between its 8 sub-regions, generates development programs and strategic issues that complement the themes. The theme, however, was so diverse that it can be associated with a concept of city branding, that it may be or not to be accommodating the same goals as to make Bandung city more livable.

Livable City is a term that describes a comfortable environment and atmosphere of the city as a place to live and work, viewed for various aspects of both physically (urban facilities, infrastructure, spatial planning, etc.) as well as non-physically (social relations, economic activities, etc.) (IAP, 2017). To summarize, it is a term to describe the quality of life in the city. There is a lot of definition of how to describe a livable city. However, there is an underlining general idea that livability can be measured by quantifying the basic principles in the city where it is viewed. One of the renowned ways to measure how livable the city is by measuring it with the Global Livability Index, proposed by The Economist Intelligence Unit, where it assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions (EIU, 2018). Although, keeping in mind that the index itself was subjective to the principles it uses as a basis to grade the livability of the city, thus also emerges different livability index which measures unique and different principles as its basis.

How livable the city is was a means to rank or measure the city with the same principles and same basis, as to value itself based on the quality of life in the city measured. The index itself was a means to judge the subject regarding the city. It is by no means an approach to achieve it, by then it was up to the government of the city whether to live up to the index or using another approach to achieve the concept of livability. Turns up, the Thematic Development approach was one of the approaches offered that stated as one of the approaches to achieve a more livable and sustainable city.

2. Problem Statement
Thematic Development approach comes as an effort to achieve livable and sustainable cities. However, the relationship between the approach and the index to measure the rate of livability in the case city of Bandung, as one of the cities that accommodates the approach, was not clear. It was then deemed important and necessary to review, whether the approach by using thematic development was a proper approach to achieve livable cities.

3. Research Question
In this paper, several research questions brought up as the problem statement arise, namely:

- How can urban themes in the city of Bandung be linked to the livable cities index?
- What is the relationship and what impact does it give to improve the rate of livability index is measured?
- Whether the thematic approach is a suitable approach to achieve livable cities.
4. Purpose of The Study
This research aim was to assess the approach of Thematic Development according to the effort to achieve a livable city. This research was preliminary, and more cases might be needed to improve the result especially to evaluate the approach more objectively.

5. Research Methods
The research design was to assess the concept and implementation as well as the progress of the thematic development approach in accordance to achieve a livable city. Therefore, there is a need to analyze it with both quantitative and qualitative methods (mix method). The data collecting method is mostly secondary data available.

The data used in the analysis are secondary. Secondary data used are obtained from various sources and literature, namely policy documents (in this case, using Indonesia’s local spatial documents which are Bandung Spatial Plan Document as an example), Technical Material Documents, Guidelines, and other documents and information about livability index assessed before. The case study for this paper is focused on Bandung City, West Java, Indonesia. The particular city was chosen because it is one of the cities that already implement the thematic approach in their development spatial plan in the city.

The research question is answered with two approaches, namely quantitative and qualitative approach. The approach was needed to 1) Assess the value of the program and component which is defined as the perks of using thematic approaches; 2) To define the relationship between the thematic development approach with the rate of livability or the goals of the approach itself. The analysis conducted will be based on the Indonesia Most Livable City Index (MLCI) which was published and assessed by the Association of Planners’ Experts in Indonesia (IAP, in Indonesian term) to measure more than 25 cities in Indonesia for 10 years, including Bandung as our case study. The index will be measured in two-time series related before the thematic approach was implemented (2014), and after the thematic approach has been implemented (2017). An increase and decrease in the data and index rating of each aspect will be associated with the program of development that adapted from the approach to evaluating the suitability and successes of the approach.

6. Result and Discussion
Some points need to be discussed to answer the problem statement of whether the city thematic approach is a feasible approach to achieve a Livable City. The point discussed, mainly consisting of 1). The theme of Bandung City, identifying the category of livability and which aspects of livability that has been accommodated or imbued within development program or strategic issues that comes from the thematic approaches. This point focuses on whether several aspects are valued as one or more of the principles of a livable city that can be related to the development program or strategic issues in the Bandung City Development Plan that implement the thematic approach; 2). Evaluate the changes in the Livability indexes that were affected by the development program. Further, discuss the changes that happen in the livability index based on MLCI rate in Bandung, focuses solely on those indexes affected by the program of development that arises based on thematic approaches, and 3). Evaluate whether Thematic Approaches is a feasible and effective approach to achieve a Livable City.

6.1. Bandung City Thematic Approach, Empirical Approach
Most cities in Indonesia have a different, unique name attached to them alongside their real name. The name (or nickname) was given by the people to address the city as a unique and different entity from another. This practice was the first city thematic approach carried out in Indonesia. Although it may be defined as a thematic approach, the themes themselves bear no impact on the development and plan carried out by the government. The practice however only treated as a brand to identify a city, much less to be called the first attempt of city Branding.
Bandung for instance has been awarded the name of ‘City of Flower’ or ‘Kota Kembang’ which derived from the perspective of the people inside and outside the city about its female dwellers. The City of Flower itself did not affect as to make the city more ‘fruitful’ or ‘bloomed’, it was only as a nickname to identify Bandung as one of the unique city from the other and never been treated as a proper City Thematic Approach.

Bandung for the last 5 years has been constantly using the thematic approach as the main practice in approaching almost every aspect of the city. The approach consists of several themes such as Creative city, Smart City, and more. However, these themes were not properly conveyed to the development documents. Despite that, the proper theme that has been used in the Planning and Development Policies in Bandung was the 8 themes of the Sub-urban Regional Detailed Plan.

**Table 1. Bandung City Themes Development Goals**

| Theme(s)      | Development Goals                                                                 | Regional Function                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aerobiopolis  | Realizing the protection of the Airport area and Strategic Industry               | Trade and Services                  |
| Travelapolis  | Protection of heritage buildings and culinary centers                             | Tourism, Trade, and Services        |
| Mediapolis    | Creative Industry Development                                                     | Creative Industry, Trade, and Services |
| Karyapolis    | Integrated Creative Zone Development                                              | Tourism and Services                |
| Sportipolis   | Development of potential Sports coaching centers                                  | Services and Public Facilities       |
| Sundapolis    | Community-based Cultural Arts Development                                         | Agroindustry and Tourism            |
| Exhibisiopolis| Organizing events as storefronts of work products and services                    | Tourism and Services                |
| Technopolis   | Regional Development which synergizes between higher education, creative economy, commercial, and central government with the concept of Technopolis, in realizing the function of City Service Center | Mixed-Use Development and ICT based Development |

Source: Noviansyah, 2017

Bandung City employed 8 different themes for 8 different development goals embodied in all sub-urban regions in the city. It is likely one of the cases where according to Davies (2015), the condition of most towns and cities today requires attention from several of these themes in order to develop policies of very different types to improve the quality of urban life, ecology, and economy. Each development goal was born from its unique potential and problem, which according to Wiranegara (2017), the theme of the cities is composed by considering and integrating three kinds of city resources: human resources, natural resources, and man-made resources altogether which will make a city diverse. Therefore, there are 8 themes for 8 different sub-urban regions in Bandung.

To evaluate whether the themes’ development goals are in line with the livable city goals or index, it can be measured compared to the principles of livability index itself.
Figure 1. Most Livable City Index Principles
Source: IAP, MLCI 2017

Seven main principles became the main index of assessing the rate of livability index. The principles are as named:

- Availability of Basic Needs
- Availability of Public and Social Facilities
- Availability of Public Spaces
- Safety and Security
- Community Participation in Development
- Economic, Social, and Cultural Functions in the city
- Environmental Quality

These 7 principles become the main foundation of the Most Livable City Index, which assesses the livability index of the city from 48 criteria. It is also in line with The Global Livability Index by EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit) which assesses the rating of livability based on five broad categories: 1) Stability, 2) Healthcare, 3) Culture and environment, 4) Education, and 5) Infrastructure. MLCI itself has been growing as a trusted Livability Index in Indonesia, which has been carried out from 2009 by using two methods: survey and the perceptions of the city residents. The basis to evaluate the effectiveness of the thematic approach will be using MLCI as the main index of measurement.

6.2. Assessing Accommodated index
Themes of the Bandung City have been implemented and are the main goals of the development program carried out in the region applied. The thematic approach, being a development goal has been used as a basis for making strategic issues and development in the region. Therefore, we can value the theme with how well the theme accommodates the Livability Index by utilizing Most Livable City Index, seen from the development program and strategic issues that are born from the themes. The assessment and valued table are presented in Table 2.

The assessment is conducted by marking the: 1) Development Goals Criteria, 2) Regional Functions of Themes, 3) Development Programs, 4) Strategic Issues, and 5) Component of Formulation of the Theme. Based on table 2 (two) it is safe to assume that out of 7 principles and all the criteria included in the principle, most of the principle was accommodated in the themes of Bandung. However, there is not a single theme that accommodates all the principles of Livability. This can be referred to as the theory that the theme is used to solve the specific, and unique problem of the city, but not to solves the whole complex problem of the city (Davies, 2015).
Table 2. Bandung City Themes Livability Index

| Theme(s)   | Accommodated Index |
|------------|--------------------|
|            | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| Aerobiopolis| Yes| Yes|     |     |     |     |
| Travelapolis| Yes| Yes| Yes|     |     |     |
| Mediapolis | Yes| Yes| Yes|     | Yes|     |
| Karyapolis | Yes| Yes| Yes|     | Yes|     |
| Sportipolis| Yes| Yes| Yes|     |     |     |
| Sundapolis | Yes| Yes| Yes| Yes| Yes| Yes|
| Exhibisiopolis| Yes|     |     |     |     |     |

Source: Author, 2019

The most accommodated index of Livability dwells in the index code numbered 1 (one), Availability of Basic Needs. All the themes in Bandung have been accommodated mostly as a development program. It is likely because whether approached by using thematic approach or not, the well functional city will always include the improvement of the basic needs in its agenda. However, the same cannot be said for the 4th and 7th index, Safety and Security and Environmental Quality. The two indexes were only accommodated by one of the themes in Bandung. This occurs because security and environmental issues are usually born out of special attention to these issues and not the common and mutual problems in common cities. Therefore, for the index or issues that need special treatment or uncommon problems in the city development, the thematic approach usually comes as a need to accommodate the issues. This may be referred to as the origin of the Ecological City Approach, Just City approach, and Resilient City Approach which is based on the specific agenda.

Table 3. Citizens Perception Index on Livable City Index

| Aspect            | Perception Index (%) |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Physical/Urban Design | 28.63                |
| Environment       | 34.32                |
| Security & Safety | 37.09                |
| Economy           | 41.84                |
| Social & Cultural | 48.91                |
| Transportation    | 49.56                |
| Public Utilities  | 68.18                |
| Public Health     | 71.03                |
| Education Facilities | 72.63                |

Source: Indonesia Most Livable City Index, IAP, 2011
Environmental and Security Index was not a common problem that often accommodated as one of the problems in making City Plan and Development program. Therefore, the thematic approach was necessary for accordance to accommodate the uncommon problem in the city, environmental and security issues, especially in Bandung, one of the most developed cities in Indonesia. The absence of the implementation of a Thematic City approach in accommodating these issues may result in absence of growth in the livability index values due to the lack of special attention to the issues. Table 3 describes the public perceptions of things or aspects that are very influential in achieving livable cities. Based on table 3, the attention of the public perception on the aspects of security and the environment issues was minimal and ranked very low. Thus, it can be said that most people in Indonesia still sees the environmental and security issues and aspects as not the most influential aspects in achieving a Livable City. The thematic approach comes as an important approach that addresses environmental and security issues gives special attention especially in the formulation of activities that support this, therefore stimulates the growth of the said indexes.

6.3. Livability Index Growth

Table 4. Bandung Livable City Index

| Livable City Index                                    | Year 2014 | Year 2017 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Basic Needs Availability                              | 67,5      | 67,25     |
| Public Facilities and Social Facilities Availability  | 68,03     | 65,33     |
| Public Space Availability as a Place for Interaction Between Communities | -         | 74,00     |
| Security and Safety                                  | 54,40     | 54,75     |
| Public/Community Participation in Development         | -         | 59,00     |
| (City) Economic, Social, and Culture Functions Support| 61,74     | 55,00     |
| Environmental Quality                                | 56,06     | 63,50     |

Source: Indonesia Most Livable City Index, IAP, 2017

Based on the measurement of the Livable City Index in Bandung in the year 2014 and 2017 by utilizing Most Livable City Index (MLCI), there are declines in many indexes. The rate however is increasing in both the Security and Safety and Environmental Quality Index, and none can be seen in Public Space Availability and Public/Community Participation in Development, as the index itself has been accustomed after the 2014 MLCI survey.

The two-increasing rate of Index happens in the two particular issues that the Thematic Approach benefit from, referring to the discussion that has taken place before. The rate of livability on the Security and Safety index is increasing by 0.35% post-implementation of the Thematic City Approach and the same can be said on the Environmental Quality Index which happens to be increasing 7.44% post-implementation. As blunt as it may be, it can be assumed that the increasing rate might be happening because of the implementation of the thematic approach, as the issues of Environmental Quality and Security and Safety were accommodated in the Theme of Aerobiopolis and Sundapolis in Bandung Development Document. Although there may be no clear correlation between the two, the assumption that the approach of Thematic City in Bandung to achieve a livable city may be effective, or at least influence the achievement rate of the index.
The improvement, however, cannot be said for the five-remaining index, as the three indexes were declining in growth and unmeasurable for the two-remaining index. Based on the Most Livable City Index, however, in Bandung, there is declining of growth in the overall livability index, which rated 64.40 in 2014 (pre-implementation) decreasing to 63.60 in 2017 (post-implementation). While there is an increase in some measured indexes, it should be pointed that there is also a decrease in several important indexes such as the Basic Needs Availability Index and the City Economic, Social, and Culture Functions Index. The two aspects which are considered important in a well functional city, apparently have gone down in percentage, meaning there is a slight decline (or significant in the latter index) that raises concern whether the thematic approach might also be an influence. Thus, it is hard to say that the Thematic Approach has an overall effect on the growth of the Livability Index. This happened to be in line with the statement of Davies (2015), that some Cities sometimes need several themes to develop policies of very different types to improve the quality of urban life, ecology, and economy.

7. Conclusion
The implementation of the thematic development approach to achieve a liveable and sustainable city might have a positive impact if utilized properly, assessing particular problems on urban levels to raise awareness will therefore giving the extra steps needed to solve the problem. The discussion that took place gives a slight overview regarding the impact of the approach on several indexes that are not commonly addressed in city development, such as security and safety, and the environmental quality—which is rarely addressed while currently become an important direction for city development.

The thematic development approach might not have a direct impact on the measurement of how liveable and sustainable a city is. There is also a slight chance that utilizing the approach might have different results in different study cases. However, the thematic development proves to be a promising tool to increase public awareness regarding specific urban problems that are uncommon and need to be addressed, by including the said problems in the development plan. Although not complete, the implementation of the thematic development approach might be an important feature for the city stakeholder to strive for a better liveable and sustainable city.
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