

THE DROWNING LAND OF RUNGKUP, PERAK:
AN ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND EVALUATION OF
RESPONSE OPTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Most of the Rungkup Peninsula has experienced significant erosion. The seafront along the Peninsula is currently undergoing rapid erosion and the coastline is retreating. A large portion of mangrove has been killed as evidenced by dead trunks and uprooted trees. The coastal bund which protects the land was exposed to direct wave attack thus leading to bund failure and coastal flooding.

In Rungkup, humans are challenging nature by converting this polder land which is vulnerable to flooding for agriculture. Land conversion and poor bund maintenance have resulted in land inundation.

Various types of erosion control measures have been emplaced in this area in an effort to stop the coastal erosion process but repairs of breached bunds have proven difficult.

The purpose of this study was to provide an assessment of coastline change and erosion and flooding hazard in the coastal region of Rungkup. From the study we know that most disasters do not stem from unexpected events. Rather they are the predictable results of interactions among the physical environment, the social and demographic characteristics of the communities experiencing them and the built environment. As the old saying goes

"The world is ruled by letting things take their course,

It cannot be ruled by interfering,

If you try to change it, you will ruin it,

If you try to hold it you will lose it."

Chinese philosopher Lao-Tse

ABSTRAK

Kebanyakan kawasan pinggir pantai Rungkup telah mengalami hakisan yang serius seterusnya telah mengakibatkan pengunduran garis pantainya. Hal ini terbukti dengan terkesannya pokok-pokok bakau yang mati di sepanjang pinggir pantai. Pengunduran garis pantai ini telah mendedahkan ban pantai kepada tindakan ombak dan seterusnya mengakibatkan banjir air masin di Rungkup.

Di Rungkup, manusia telah mencabar alam dengan menebusguna tanah bencah untuk dijadikan kawasan pertanian. Namun penebusgunaan tanah ini dengan pengawalan dan pemeliharaan yang tidak cekap terhadap ban pantai telah menyebabkan penggenangan air berterusan di kawasan Rungkup.

Berbagai cara dan usaha pencegahan hakisan telah diterapkan di kawasan ini tetapi tidak berjaya untuk mengatasi masalah yang dihadapi. Sementara ini, kerja-kerja pengawalan dan pemeliharaan ban pantai pun terasa sukar untuk ditangani dan dikendali. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk membuat penilaian terhadap perubahan pinggir pantai sekaligus menganalisa masalah hakisan dan banjir di Rungkup. Hasil daripada kajian ini, dapat diketahui bahawa bencana alam yang dihadapi di Rungkup bukan suatu kejadian yang tidak dapat diduga namun ia terjadi akibat dari suatu interaksi antara alam semulajadi, sosial dan ciri-ciri demografi masyarakat tempatan dengan persekitarannya.

Bak kata pepatah

"Dunia ini bergerak mengikut hukum alamnya ,

la tidak boleh diganggu,

Kalau anda ingin mengubahnya, anda akan menghancurkannya,

Kalau anda ingin menguasainya, anda akan kehilangannya".

Ahli Falsafah Cina Lao-Tse

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