The City of Jakarta

After eras of administration by the Netherlands and Japan, Jakarta achieved independence in 1949 and currently is developing as a world city which hosts the headquarters of ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations). Its population was a mere 120,000 people in 1900 but after independence it rapidly increased and by 2005 it was home to 8,860,000 people. Economic activity is accelerating primarily in the urban region including the cities in the vicinity of Jakarta (Jabodetabek). Jakarta is the region with the highest economic level in Indonesia, but there is a large gap between rich and poor, and rapid development of the slum towns in which the poor live is under way.
Discrepancy between official report and estimation of groundwater abstraction: Jakarta

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Land subsidence caused by the excessive pumping of groundwater is a growing concern in Jakarta. There are limits to how much groundwater can be safely extracted. However, many developing cities, like Jakarta, are unclear on the appropriate levels of pumping. It is strongly suspected that Jakarta is pumping greater amounts of groundwater than officially reported, as the rate of land subsidence is increasing alarmingly.

The total water demand of a developing city can be estimated by looking at the demand of other cities, using an industrial share or unit for water demand per person. First, we estimate the total water demand, and then calculate the estimated groundwater abstraction rates by finding the difference between water demand and tap water supply.

Our results indicate that Jakarta pumps greater amounts of groundwater than stated in the official report.
Groundwater in Jakarta

In recent years, a draw-down of the groundwater level and land subsidence have became more serious in this region. More than 60% of the city area is located in a lowland swampy area below sea level, so flooding frequently occurs in the rainy season. Due to land subsidence, the damage from the flooding is getting more and more serious. In particular in the coastal areas the situation is so serious that seawater flowing into the area at high tide. The government has launched measures to reduce groundwater use, but the effects of these policies are not apparent yet. The city has not found effective alternative surface water sources, so the city is still undergoing a groundwater disaster.
Fig. 1 Historical change of spatial groundwater potential (Kagabu et al., 2010)

We adopted multiple hydrogeochemical techniques to demonstrate the groundwater flow system in the Jakarta area. Our results showed that the water quality and residence time demonstrated a clear difference between shallow and deep aquifers, even though nearly all groundwater is recharged at similar elevations. We also found that seawater intrusions are mixing with shallow and deep groundwater because of a rapid decrease in urban area groundwater potential; confirmed by major ions, Br/Cl ratios, and CFC-12 analysis.
We used a numerical groundwater flow model to discuss and evaluate the process of age rejuvenation in urbanized areas. The “vertical downward flux,” was largest of the six flux directions to the deep aquifer under DKI Jakarta, indicating shallower groundwater intruding into the deep aquifer (as a result of excessive groundwater pumping from the mid-1980s onward). This flux increased to approximately 50% in the 2000s. This result is consistent with the detection of CFC-12 and SF$_6$, an indicator of young groundwater appearing in deep groundwater.

Land subsidence in Jakarta was recognized as early as 1926. It has resulted in flooding in coastal areas, damage to constructions, and other disasters. One of the causes of recent subsidence is excess pumping of the groundwater, in particular in areas of development.

To investigate the cause of subsidence, we conducted gravity and GPS measurements. We employed a field-type absolute gravimeter, the Micro-G LaCoste A10-#017. This was the first application of an absolute gravimeter to this kind of problem.
Using the A10-#017, the first absolute gravity measurements in Jakarta were conducted in August, 2008. It was difficult to make the absolute gravity measurements in high-temperature, humid, and noisy urban conditions. We faced several problems but obtained good absolute gravity data in 2009.

Because of the lack of absolute gravity data for 2008, we have not yet obtained absolute gravity changes. Nevertheless, the figure shows the gravity changes (in μgals) obtained by a relative gravimeter, and the height changes observed by the GPS. These show that the gravity is greater in coastal areas where large subsidence was observed by the GPS.

Gravity changes (2008-2009) observed by a relative gravimeter. The contours show the height changes determined from GPS measurements.


Subsurface Thermal Environment in Jakarta

Along with the rapid growth of the city, the temperature in Jakarta City has continuously risen. The impact of this rise has penetrated underground causing a rise in the underground temperature. There is also a possibility that changes in groundwater flow caused by human activities are having an impact on the underground temperature distribution.
Reconstruction of climate change and surface warming in Jakarta using borehole temperature data

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The warming of the Earth’s surface has been recorded in the subsurface as transient temperature perturbations to the background thermal field. Temperatures in boreholes can be an important source of information on recent climatic changes, because the normal upward heat flow from the Earth’s crust is perturbed by the downward propagation of heat from the surface. To evaluate this effect, temperature–depth profile measurements and long-term temperature monitoring have been conducted at observation wells in Jakarta, Indonesia (Fig. 1) (Delinom et al., 2009; Lubis et al., 2009).

Fig. 1
Study area
● Observation well

Fig. 1
Measurement of temperature–depth profile at observation wells
The reconstruction of GST history in Jakarta showed that the estimated surface temperature increased by 1.4 to 2.4 K, which corresponds with air temperature records from the last 100 years. The combined effects of heat island and climate change go below the surface of the Earth, with the heat island effect increasing subsurface temperatures at a faster rate than global warming. The effects of global warming are at levels of 0.5–0.7 K, and the effects of urbanization are estimated to represent 36–50% of the total warming of 1.4 K. These results show that subsurface thermal warming is occurring in this city because of both urbanization and climate change.

Groundwater Pollution in Jakarta

Due to the load of household waste water and industry waste, the high concentration of “nitrate-nitrogen” is detected in some area. On the other hand, the nitrate concentration tends to be low in the central Jakarta and this is because a public sanitation system including public sewage system was developed at an early stage in the center of the city.
Salinization and heavy-metal contamination in groundwater

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The metropolitan area of Jakarta is a coastal area. Generally, there is upward groundwater discharge in a coastal area. However, the distribution of the hydraulic potential indicates that groundwater flows downward in the metropolitan area of Jakarta. This suggests that the groundwater level has fallen because of excessive pumping that has changed groundwater flow.

Figure 1. Distribution of the hydraulic potential in metropolitan and suburban areas of Jakarta
Both the chloride (Cl\textsuperscript{−}) and manganese (Mn) concentrations (Fig. 2) are obviously high in the area with low hydraulic potential (Fig. 1). This suggests that the falling of the groundwater level results in the intrusion of seawater and contaminated shallower groundwater into deeper groundwater, and thus, an increase in salinization and heavy-metal contamination. However, in the case of the Mn concentration, we need to also consider the effect of dissolution from subsurface material under an anaerobic condition.

Figure 2. Distribution of a) the Cl\textsuperscript{−} concentration and b) the Mn concentration in groundwater

Nitrate contamination in groundwater

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Ammonium was the dominant form of DIN in urban and rice field areas, while nitrate was the dominant form in suburban dry-field areas. This is probably explained by denitrification under reducing conditions and nitrification under oxic conditions, as shown in other areas. Nitrate concentrations were 185 μM on average, and a maximum of 763 μM, which is lower than the WHO and EU standard for drinking water quality (806 μM).

Figure 1. Distribution of DIN compositions in shallow groundwater drawn on land-use maps
On the basis of values of stable isotopes (SI), it is suggested that NO$_3^-$ contaminations in the groundwater (GW) around Jakarta are attributable to waste from humans and domestic animals. Moreover, active denitrification seemed to occur in GW, because an increase in SI was accompanied by a decrease in the nitrate concentration along the GW flow line. Denitrification reduces the nitrate concentration in this area.

Figure 2. 1) Nitrate d$^{15}$N and d$^{18}$O values in each water component; 2) Relations between [NO$_3^-$] and d$^{15}$N in nitrate

Effect of urbanization on SGD

222Rn activity was low in areas of reclaimed land (i.e., 0.8–3.0 dpm/L) around the center of the city, while it was as high as 6.0 dpm/L along the coastline with natural mangrove vegetation in western suburban areas. 222Rn and conductivity signatures suggest that an increase in the Rn concentration around suburban areas can result from river water (likely groundwater fed) rather than the direct discharge of groundwater. The estimated minor contribution of groundwater to the terrestrial water flux passing into the ocean corresponds to the observed decline in the hydraulic potential due to the urbanization of urban Jakarta.
Specific flow rates observed at the beach near the center of the city by automated seepage meters ranged widely from 1.0 to 200 cm/day (e.g., see Fig. 2). Higher SGD fluxes were observed during low tide at all locations throughout the monitoring period. However, the conductivity trend did not follow the higher SGD fluxes at low tide, suggesting that most SGD was “recirculated seawater” rather than “fresh groundwater”. Constantly low Rn values independent of salinity are consistent with there being little fresh groundwater discharge at this beach near the city.

Fig. 2 Time series of the monitored SGD, water level, and conductivity around 50 m from the coastline near the center of the city.