

FLOODING ON HILL SITE OF BUKIT JAMBUL DEVELOPMENT AREA

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A project report submitted in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the award degree of
Master of Engineering (Civil)

Faculty of Civil Engineering
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

JANUARY 2017

To my lovely person in my life

Nur Arina Zainal Abidin

Nur Auni Fahimah

Abdul Wafi

To my parents.

Ab Hamid Ismail

Wan Minah Wan Hamat

My teachers.

My siblings.

My friends.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and love to my dear wife, Nur Arina Zainal Abidin, my dear parents, Abdul Hamid Ismail and Wan Minah Wan Minah, and the entire family for consistent love, support, encouragement and guidance shown to me during the course of my study.

I would like to acknowledge everyone who had assisted me in the creation of this writing especially my supervisor, Dr. Zulhilmi Ismail. Your invaluable assistance, patience and insights are truly appreciated.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my family for their generous support that had provided me with the strength and motivation in finishing my master's degree.

Not to mention, my colleagues, who had helped me through thick and thin during this whole programme. Also my gratitude to all the folks who had took a part in realizing the completion of this project.

Thank you.

ABSTRACT

Hydrological consideration of a hill site development is important due to the development may subject to significant impact as a result of a huge water catchment from the uphill area. The study area is one of hill site development which suffer from flooding incident which occurred every years and it has marked the worst flooding incident on November 2015. Case study approach was carried out to determine the main cause of the flooding. Study of the site area revealed that the actual catchment for the site was significantly huge and the site is lies in between two major depressions point. Three streams was identified that contribute to the surface runoff. Two cases of analysis were adopted to simulate different rainfall that based on the water catchment area. First is consideration of water catchment within the site boundary and second is consideration of uphill water catchment and the natural streams and the peak discharge of the design rainfall was checked against the drainage capacity. The result of the analysis shows that the existing drainage capacity was only designed to cater maximum Q_{peak} of 1.71 m³/s. However, with the consideration of water catchment from the uphill area the drain capacity has exceeded about 90% in order to flow a surface runoff Q_{peak} of 12.53 m³/s The result of the study shows that the existing drainage system was not designed for the uphill catchment and caused the area to be flooded.

ABSTRAK

Pembangunan di tanah bukit memerlukan penelitian yang penting dari aspek hidrologi kerana ia akan melibatkan kawasan tadahan hujan yang besar dari kawasan berbukit yang tinggi. Kawasan kajian yang terletak di kawasan Bukit Jambul Pulau Pinang adalah kawasan pembangunan tanah bukit yang menerima impak banjir yang serius pada November 2015. Kajian kes dijalankan untuk menentukan punca banjir di kawasan kajian. Kajian terhadap sekitar pembangunan tersebut telah membongkarkan bahawa kawasan tadahan air hujan bagi kawasan kajian adalah sangat ketara dimana ianya terletak di lembah di antara dua bukit dan terdapat tiga aliran sungai semulajadi. Dua kajian kes dijalankan untuk mensimulasikan dua (2) jenis hujan yang berbeza iaitu yang pertama adalah kawasan tadahan terhadap kepada sempadan lot kawasan kajian dan yang kedua ialah dengan mengambil kira kawasan tadahan hujan dari tanah bukit dan aliran air semulajadi. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan longkang sediaada di kawasan kajian direkabentuk untuk aliran puncak Q_{peak} of $1.71 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$. Apabila kawasan tadahan sebenar diambil kira, kapasiti longkang tidak mampu menampung aliran puncak sebanyak $12.53 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ dimana ia melebihi sebanyak 90% yang mengakibatkan kawasan kajian dilanda banjir

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xi
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xv
1	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1 Background Of Study	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	2
	1.3 Objectives Of Study	3
	1.4 Scope of Study	4
	1.5 Expected Finding of the Study	5
	1.6 Significant of Study	6
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	
	2.1 Introduction	7
	2.2 Hydrology	7
	2.2.1 Flood Hydrology	10

2.3	River	11
2.3.1	River Characteristic	11
2.3.2	River Discharge	13
2.4	Characteristic of Runoff	14
2.4.1	Watershed Characteristic Affecting Runoff	16
2.5	Impervious surface	18
2.5.1	Environment Effects of Impervious Surface	19
2.6	Soil Erosion	20
2.6.1	Natural Cause of Soil Erosion	21
2.6.2	Effects of Soil Erosion	22
2.7	Flood Damage Assessment	23

3

METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Design and Approach	24
3.2	Desk Study	24
3.2.1	Flooding Information	26
3.2.2	Topography of the Site	30
3.2.3	Geological Data	33
3.3	As-Built Information	34
3.3.1	As-Built Information Based on Site Verification – Drainage System	35
3.3.2	Site Verification – Natural Water Flow Towards the Study Area	37
3.4	Analysis and Verification Process	42
3.4.1	Average Recurrence Interval	42
3.4.2	Time of Concentration	43
3.4.3	Overland Flow Time	43
3.4.4	Rainfall Intensity	44
3.4.5	IDF Value for Short Duration Storm	45
3.4.6	Peak Flow	46
3.4.7	Size of Lined Drain	46
3.4.8	Flow Velocity	47

4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1	Introduction	48
4.2	Average Recurrence Interval (ARI)	49
4.3	Drainage Design without Consideration of Uphill Catchment – Case 1	49
4.3.1	Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) Curve	50
4.3.2	Peak Flow	51
4.3.3	Drainage Design	51
4.4	Drainage Design with Consideration of Uphill Catchment – Case 2	55
4.4.1	Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) Curve	56
4.4.2	Peak Flow	56
4.4.3	Drainage Design	58
4.5	Findings	59
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5.1	Conclusion	61
5.2	Recommendations	63
	REFERENCES	64

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Value of FD from Table 13.3 MSMA	46
4.1	Design Storm ARIs (MSMA, 2000)	50
4.2	IDF Table for Pulau Pinang 1951-1990	50
4.3	Design Sheet for Q_{peak}	52
4.4	Design Sheet for Drainage Sizing	54
4.5	Design of Raifall Intensity of 100 years ARI	57
4.6	Drainage Design Verification	58

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Satellite Image of Penang Island	4
1.2	Close-up view of the study area. The satellite image is dated June 2016 where the construction of study area was just completed	5
2.1	Hydrological Cycle	8
2.2	Schematization of storage and process of the terrestrial part of the hydrological cycle	9
2.3	Straight Channel (Rosgen, 1996)	12
2.4	Sinuuous Channel (Rosgen, 1996)	13
2.5	Pre-development and post development runoff (DID, 2000)	17
2.6	Relationship between impervious surface and surface runoff (FISRWG, 1998)	18
2.7	Changes in stream channel shape, floodplain and water table of post development	19
2.9	Erosion impact of soil	19
3.1	Summary of the methodology of the study	26
3.2	View of water spill on the road at the entrance of the development area. Note that the development is located on a sloping ground. (MBPP, 2015)	27
3.3	View of surface water has started to raise at the green area within the Study Area. (MBPP, 2015)	27
3.4	The surface water has caused the residential houses	28

	affected by the flooding. Note the water gushing out from the road side drain in-front of the house. (MBPP, 2015)	
3.5	A newspaper report showing the house unit at the highest ground within the development also was affected by the flooding.	28
3.6	Hyetograph obtained from the JPS Infobanjir. 100mm rainfall was recorded on the day of the flooding incident. (JPS, 2016)	29
3.7	GIS Topographical Data with 10m contour interval. (PeGIS, 2016)	31
3.8	Sample of high resolution Orthophoto Image (PeGIS, 2016)	31
3.9	Orthophoto Image with 20m contour data (PeGIS, 2016)	32
3.10	Geological map of the study area. (JMG, 2011). Note the presence of the fault line and stream that crossing the study area.	33
3.11	The information of the original topography of the study area before its being developed.	34
3.12	Summary of Drain Verification of the Study Area. The highlighted line is the drain which consists within the Study Area	35
3.13	View of the drainage system within the study area. Drain of the left hand side of the photos is the internal drain within the house while on the right hand side is the road side drain of the development.	36
3.14	View of the complainant house during the site visit. Based on the measurement, the water had raised on the development area of about 500mm from the existing ground level.	36
3.15	Tracker data imported into the Google earth	37
3.16	View of the tracking works during the site	39

	verification	
3.17	View of Stream 1 next to the new access track for villagers. Original waterway for the Stream 1 possibly buried by the new access track	39
3.18	View of Stream 2 within the new development site	40
3.19	View of Stream 2 that flows throughout the new development area	40
3.20	View of water flowing from the new development site (from Stream 2) was observed to be flowing into the man-made pond, next to the study area	41
3.21	View of the man-made pond that retain Steam 1, 2 and 3. Note the blue sheet pipe that used by the submersible pump in the pond to discharge water into the road side drain within the study area.	41
4.1	Total area of the study zone	50
4.2	Trend of IDF Curve for Pulau Pinang 1951-1990 rainfall	51
4.3	Nomograph for determining the t_o (MSMA, 2000)	52
4.4	Design Chart for Runoff Coefficient (MSMA, 2000)	53
4.5	Topography data of the site and the identified water catchment of the study area.	55
4.6	Nomograph for determining the t_o (MSMA, 2000)	57
4.7	Comparison of water catchment area of Case 1 and Case 2	59
4.8	Comparison of Design Rainfall Intensity for Case 1 and Case 2	60
4.9	Comparison of Peak Discharge Flow Rate for Case 1 and Case 2	60

LIST OF SYMBOLS

Tr	-	Average Recurrence Interval, ARI (year)
P	-	Annual Exceedance Probability, AEP (%)
t_c	-	Time of concentration (minute)
t_o	-	Overland sheet flow travel time (minute)
F_c	-	Conversion factor, 58.5 when area A is in km ²
P_d	-	Design rainfall depth
I	-	Intensity
d	-	Duration
Q	-	Peak flow in (m ³ /s)
So	-	Slope gradient (%)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Urbanisation of a hill-site clearing for the purpose of development had caused a significant impact to the natural environment of the hill. The process commonly involves the cutting of hill slope, chopping down of trees, and diversion of natural stream that replaced by the hard footprint of the development would affect the natural stability of the ecological system of the hill.

The process of the urbanisation has led to an increase of surface runoff due to less infiltrations of surface water into the ground. This was resulted from an increase of the hard footprint in the hill land area.

In Penang Island, the development of the hill land area nowadays is common due to the high density population at the low lying area especially at the eastern part of the Island. As the demand of the houses is increasing, the development was stated to take place in hill land area (JPBD, 2012).

In recent time, there are several flooding incident occurred in Penang Island especially when there is a heavy downpour event. The event had caused flash flood in several areas in the island as well on the hill site development. Rapid water flow as

a result from intense rainfall combined with the sloping terrain of the hill caused the water runoff on the ground surface become rapid increase in volume and its flow velocity.

The study area, is a hill land development located at Bukit Jambul area of Penang Island. The development comprise of 29 units of Semi-Ds and terrace houses, constructed on 2.5acres area at near-toe of Bukit Jambul hill. The highest ground elevation within the development area is 90m above mean sea level. Bukit Jambul hill was one of the famous hiking spot in Penang Island. The peak of the hill is at 240m above the sea level, can be reached by the natural hiking trails.

The construction of the study area was started in early year 2008 and completed in mid of 2010. The development was built at a higher level from its original ground which was raised on a filled platform. The ground terrain of the development compound was made much less steeper than the slope surrounding the development, except towards the entrance, there is a steep access road due to different level of the built platform and the original ground. The development also has provide green space area as part of the development approval conditions.

The drainage system that constructed for the development was a typical drainage system for a normal housing development. The drainage system comprise of the house internal drain and road side drain to flow the surface water towards the monsoon drain at the toe of the development. The monsoon drain was constructed to channel water from the hill site area of the Bukit Jambul. No retention or detention system in the record of the development.

1.2 Problem Statement

After 4 years of the completion of the development, the study area experienced numerous kind of natural incidents. Most of the incidents occurred was

heavy flow of surface water within the development area which had cause the area to be flooded in several times (Jabatan Kejuruteraan MBPP, 2014). Most significant flooding incident was occurred on 29 November 2015. Surface water was reported to be flooding in the resident's houses as a result from the heavy flow. It was recorded the raise of water flow would at least about 3 feet from the original ground. Trace of vegetation bend at the green area of the development could indicate that the flow of the water was high in volume and fast in velocity.

Beside the flooding incidents, the presence of sinkholes has created uneasy feeling for the study area residents. The sinkhole developed near the road side drain would become a hazard for the resident especially for the children. Repair of sinkhole was carried out by the local Authority. However, the hole observed has been redeveloped and the size of the hole was getting bigger.

Apart from the incident mentioned above, several of houses within the development experienced settlement and crack.

The incident occurred had created a lot of problems to the study area residents. The incidents has repeated over years especially during heavy downpour event. Actions taken by the Local Authorities i.e. ensuring the drainage system within the development area in proper conditions (Jabatan Kejuruteraan MBPP, 2014) seems could not resolve the problem.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In order to determine the cause of the flooding at the hill site at the study area, the objective of the research is to achieve the followings :

- (a) To verify the drainage design for the development area in accordance to MSMA,
- (b) To identify the water catchment of the development area to identify possible source of natural water flow from hill site area towards the development area, and
- (c) To identify the possible underground flow within the site area.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study will be focused on the development and its surrounding area. The study area is presented in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 below.



Figure 1.1 Satellite Image of Penang Island

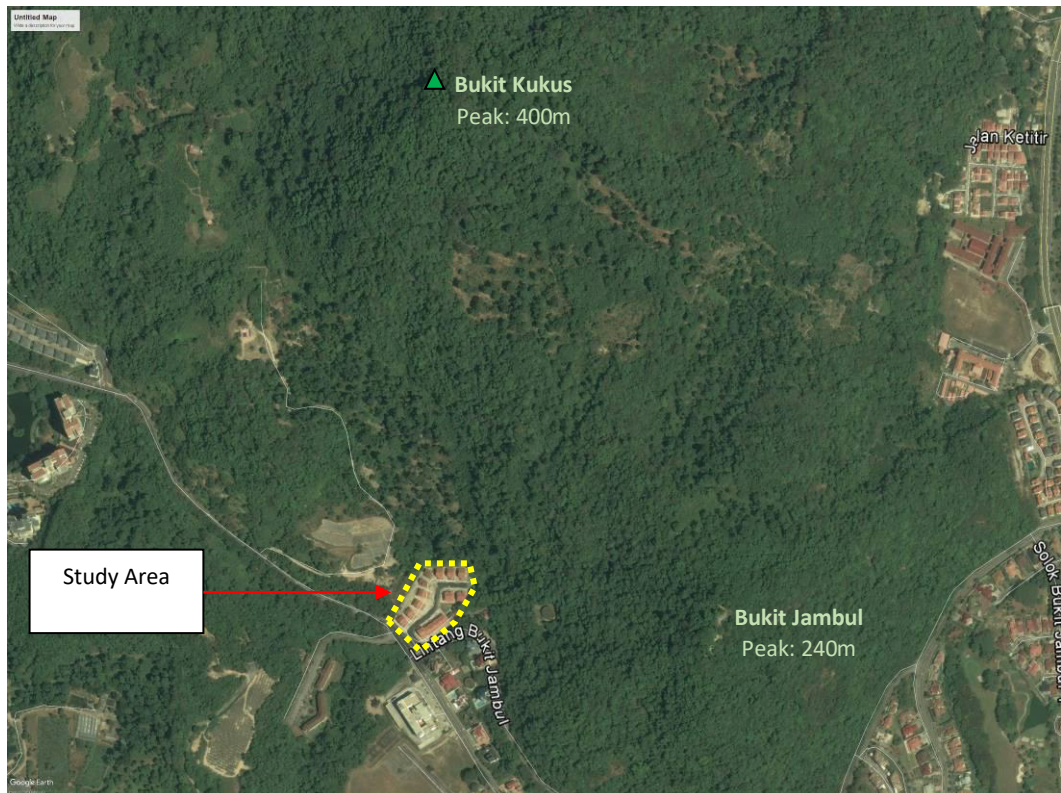


Figure 1.2: Close-up view of the study area. The satellite image is dated June 2010 where the construction of study area was just completed

As the most significant flooding incident occurred on the 29 November 2016, the study will be focused the caused that occurred on the date. Its deemed to be most critical incident within the site area.

1.5 Expected Finding of the Study

The expected finding of the study are as follows:

- (a) The increase of surface water within the development area could contributed by the uphill natural stream flows which possibly under

estimated or does not taken into consideration during the early stage of the development.

- (b) Inadequate of drainage system within the development could cause the flooding within the development area
- (c) There are possible disturbance to the existing ecological system of the hill site uphill from the development area which in result the increase of surface water
- (d) Possible underground flow within the site area.

1.6 Significant of Study

As the main cause of the flooding of the hill site development will be known, the study will be a future reference in taking consideration possible natural flow from up hill area, especially when the proposed development is located within valley area. The study also will highlight the importance to study water catchment outside from boundary area of the proposed development.

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