

IMPACT OF LAND RECLAMATION

STUDY AREA : MACALLUM STREET GHAUT, PENANG

by

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abstract

Coastal development should not only take into consideration the economic benefits but also the environment effect. The coastal land reclamation in Macallum Street Ghaut, Penang, in its eagerness to win land from the sea has had many adverse impact on the physical, social economic as well as biological environment.

The adverse impact can be seen in form of high construction costs, loss of income to those who rely on the aquatic habitats for their living and also to the environmental pollution and traffic hazards as revealed in the survey.

However, these adverse impacts can be minimized if certain steps are taken.

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INTRODUCTION.

The theme of this dissertation centres on the impact of land reclamation which is presently being carried out in Penang Island by the State Government. In a statement made by the Chief Minister of Penang, Y.B. Dr.Lim Chong Eu in the state assembly, he discribed this activity as an activity of the eighties which ia a crucial programme for sustained economic development within the state of Penang.

However, as known reclaiming of land is a long term programme and that would span a couple of decades. This would then need a thorough study of its feasibility and determine whether the project identified is a good solution to be appreciated. As it is a long term programme, not only the good points of it should be looked into but also the adverse impact that might occured upon the human being welfare should be investigated. Sacrifices for short sighted development profits should be avoided as what is lost shall never be recoverable.

Thus the main purpose behind this dissertation is to identify the major adverse impact of land reclamation on the social economic, biological and physical environment. In order to have a closer observation, a developed piece of reclaimed land in Macallum Street Ghaut, Penang will be taken as the case study area. Recommendations will later be formulated based on the findings.