

Portrayal of City: Bandung, Indonesia

Bandung is the capital of West Java province in Indonesia, located approximately 140 Km South-East of Jakarta. The earliest reference to the city dates back to 1488. The city grew during 17th and 18th century, during the Dutch colonial era. Situated in a valley, in a cool elevated landscape, surrounded by major plantations, Bandung became an exclusive European resort town. The reminiscence of Dutch urban planning and architecture is still very much present in various parts of the city.

It is the third largest city and second largest metropolitan area in Indonesia. The Bandung city has an area of 167 Sq.-Km and population of 2.4 million (2010). The Northern part of the city is a mountainous terrain with beautiful panoramas, while the Southern part is relatively low laying areas with agricultural fields and swamps. Bandung metropolitan area, which consist of Bandung & Chinmai city; and Bandung & West Bandung regency has an area of 3, 380 Sq. Km. and population of 7.9 million (2010). As per Indonesian national spatial planning law, a metropolitan area is a standalone urban area or an urban core, surrounded by other urban areas that have functional linkages with integrated system infrastructure; and a total population of at least 1 million or more.

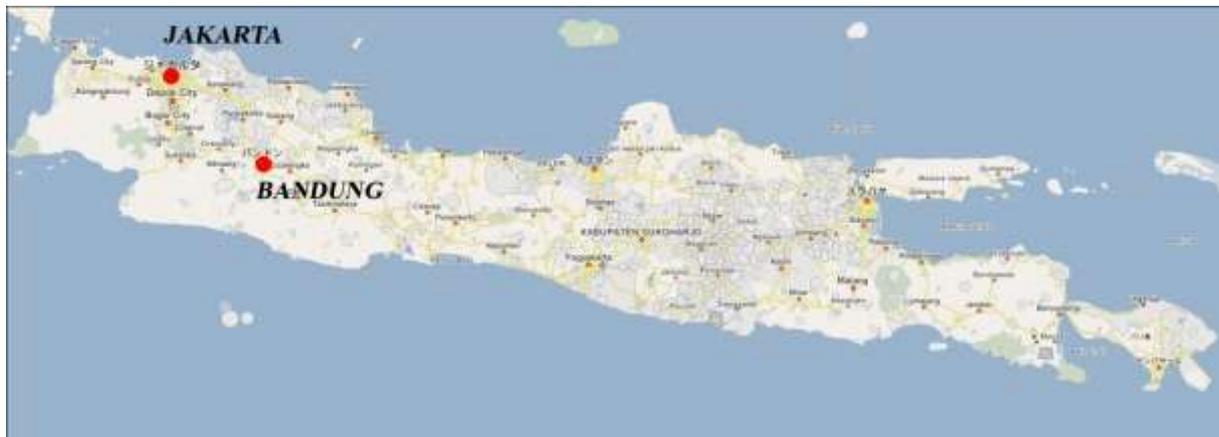


Figure 1: Location of Bandung in West Java Province, Indonesia

The economy of Bandung city thrives on tourism, manufacturing, textile/apparel, retail, services, plantation/agriculture, financial, pharmaceutical, food and healthcare. Intercity transportation from Jakarta and other cities improved after the establishment of the new expressways. Bandung is always a weekend break destination for people living in Jakarta. After the new expressway the number of weekend visitors from Jakarta has raised many folds. The major attraction to come to Bandung is the food and retail shopping with its numerous factory outlets and stock centres. The food in Bandung is well known for their wide varieties and taste. Bandung has grown beyond its city core with the Bandung Raya plan. Traffic in Bandung is infamous with its complex, congested and chaotic nature. There is virtually no intercity mass transportation. Taxis and small vans called 'Damri' are widely available public transportation. The city core is practically uprooted, old faces are torn down, lot sizes regrouped, and what was idyllic residence are now bustling chain of supermarkets, restaurants and glittering shopping arcades.

The heart of Indonesia's economic activity is located on the expressway connecting Jakarta and Bandung. Several industrial towns managed by the global conglomerate are a unique feature of the urban growth. Among these, Cikarang situated in the peri-urban Bandung is considered to be the largest industrial agglomeration in South-East Asia. The first planning initiative for the city was initiated back in 1933 during the Dutch colonial era. Presently the city is preparing to commence its master plan 2013, first after the decentralisation in 1998.