Lecture Note

Course Title: ICS 1102 Man and Global Society

Credits: 3(3-0-6)

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Week 3   **Unit 3:** Humans and Environments

Topic

1. Relationship between nature and humans
2. Cultural landscape
3. Invasion of humanity to natural environment

Objectives

After the completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Explain the relationship between human and environment, both passive and active approaches.
2. Explain how nature can be transformed by culture groups.
3. Explain what cultural landscape is and its importance to human.
4. Identify how human create sense of places.
5. Explain in what way humanity has invaded to the natural environment.
6. Define the word "urbanization.
7. Explain the drives or factors of urbanization process.

1.   Relationship between Nature and Humans

What is "Environment"?

Environment is everything around us. It can be natural- made or man- made. It can be living thing or not. It can be tangible and intangible. Finally, it can be good or bad to human living.

Characteristics of environment

1. Each environment has unique character and can be categorized easily whether it is created by nature or human.
2. Environment never exists alone. It always exists because of the existence of other environment.
3. Environment is created under diversity and it is called "Ecosystem" which composes of diverse environment. Each environment has its own duty (ecosystem service) and every environment could not survive without the existence of other environment in the ecosystem.
4. The relationship between each environment in the ecosystem is a chain and in dynamic. One environmental impact affects another.
5. Each environment has different level of capacity and fragility.
6. Environment changes under time factor and changes can be contemporary or permanent.

Environment is not only nature. However, if we consider environment as nature, we as human has life- long relationship with nature. This is especially seen mostly in rural or pastoral environment.

Ideology of relationship between environment and human

(1.1)   Passive Approach

This ideology considers nature as being superior over human. It is nature that creates availability of resources, human physical and mental characteristics, human settlement, transportation, communication, occupation, social pattern, values, beliefs, culture and other behaviors. *This ideology relates to the idea of "natural landscape".*

What is natural landscape?

A natural landscape is a landscape that is unaffected by human activity. A natural landscape remains intact or integral when all living and nonliving elements are free to move and change. A natural landscape may contain either the living or nonliving or both. Normally, natural landscape is a place under the current control of natural forces and free of the control of people for an extended period of time.

The passive- approach relationship between environment and human emphasizes on the fact that human living under the force of nature and the living is integrated with natural flow, not trying to live against it.

However, this doesn't mean human lives without building anything. Contrarily, human plays an important role in determining the appearance of landscapes and their functioning. *This means that a landscape should not be viewed separate from the human population within it. This is a new ideology of landscape ecology where human roles are stressed.*

Human views the landscape differently, depending on how they feel and interpret landscape. Individuals usually have their own perceptions of landscapes, and ideas of what they are, relating to their own experiences.

(1.2)   Active Approach

This ideology discusses that human is intelligent creature which has learned to adapt to survive. Therefore, once human faces problems such as population increase or natural disasters, they will attempt to find various solutions to those problems. We have known that in the history, the world human had created innovations and tools, and technology which could help them bring more benefits from nature or prevent them from dangers of natural disasters. Moreover, humans have learned to adapt their environment (landscape) to suit their living, and the level of adaptation keeps changing through time. This is what we call "active approach of human and environment (nature) relationship". *This ideology relates to the idea of "cultural landscape".*
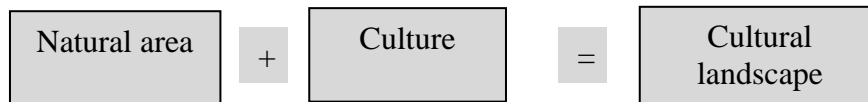
2.   Cultural Landscape

What is cultural landscape?

Cultural landscape is developed from natural landscape, by a culture group.

Culture is the AGENT.

The natural area is the MEDIUM.

The cultural landscape is the RESULT.

Natural area	+	Culture	=	Cultural landscape

A culture group has action on a specific territory by doing various activities. Human activities include how people have changed and shaped the environment to the buildings, signs, fences and statues that people erect. *Cultural landscape reflects the values, norms, and aesthetics of a culture*.

Definition

Cultural landscape is therefore a complex reality that is integrated by natural and cultural, tangible and intangible components. This combination makes up itself in order to identify character of each landscape. Therefore, the concept of cultural landscape must be approached from different perspectives.

Cultural landscape tells us the development through time of human settlement and society under the influences, physical limitation or opportunities of nature and environment, social situations and economic. Cultural landscape therefore also means the diversity that is a result of the relationship between human and natural environment.

Cultural landscape usually reflects the mechanism of how to use land with sustainability and concerning individual characteristics of the land such as the carrying capacity, belief and spiritual attachment of people who live on the land. Using land this way is to protect cultural landscape of each land (environment) and finally it protects the ecological diversity of that particular area or environment.

Cultural landscape classification:
- Urban landscape (cityscape / townscape)
- Rural landscape
- Archaeological landscape
- Industrial landscape

In conclusion, cultural landscape can be summarized into the following aspects:

- Cultural landscapes provide a sense of place and identity. They map the human relationship with the land over time and they are part of human's national heritage and each of human lives.
- Cultural landscapes are sites associated with a significant event, activity, person or group of people.
- Cultural landscapes can be grand estates, farmlands, public garden and parks, college campuses, cemeteries, scenic highways, and industrial sites.
- Cultural landscapes are works of art, narratives of cultures, and expressions of regional identity.

The importance of cultural landscape

Cultural landscape can tell us humans' origins and development as well as humans' evolving relationship with the natural world. They provide scenic, economic, ecological, social, recreational, and educational opportunities that help communities to better understand themselves.

Sometimes humans are too active and even aggressive with the natural world, attempting to make use of nature without concerning about negative impacts and unbalanced environment that may happen. With inappropriate planning and short- sighted vision of development, many unexpected phenomena and natural disasters happen as we have seen nowadays.

Different culture and religious beliefs is part of making the human viewing nature differently and the beliefs in the forces of nature as well. There are some examples.

- For example, the Christians believe that the first humans were created in the image of God (*imago Dei*). This derives from Genesis 1:26-27, which declares:

  Then God said, *"Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."* So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

  This belief was later interpreted that human has the right to use natural resources as much as the God could; nature exists for human use; and human views that human is the center (anthropocentrism)

- Another belief, the belief of the Mayans: they believed that human body has animal parts and animal body has those of human. *This means that every human has animal soul*. This belief is called "shamanism"- *the powerful psychological and spiritual process for re-creating the cosmos and turning death into life in all the dimensions of Reality--was the driving force behind every aspect of ancient Maya life*. (Gillette 1997: 117) The Mayan believed that every "authentic" human being was a shaman- creator and built his/ her resurrected bodies through self- sacrifice and deprivation. Combined with this was the

notion of animal- self that was linked to an individual's existence. These ideas allowed the Mayan to become a divine, supernatural being that was often represented as having animal qualities such as fangs, wings, beaks or snouts. Religions based in shamanism share the fundamental belief that the shaman can transform himself into another self. Usually, that self is some kind of animal spirit, and the animal that was chosen is from among the dominate predators of the region. The Maya elite routinely associated themselves with jaguars, snakes, and crocodiles. These animals, dangerous in their nature, served to raise the status of those associated with them. Likewise, in Europe, shamans associated themselves with the wolf.

Mayan calendar

Mayan art

- Another example is about the Pagagayo (ปกากะญอ) of Karen Tribe. The tribe believes in animism or belief in spirits and usually the spirits in nature such as tree (sacred tree). The Karen believes that every tree has the spirit and every Karen has a tree to take care as part of individual's life spirit. Therefore the Karen will not do harm to their trees as doing harm with the trees mean doing harm to themselves.

From the above, we can see that different tribes which lived very close with nature would attach their lives and even life after death, with nature.

3. **Human Invasion of Natural Environment**

Human invasion of natural environment has been caused by many factors as follows:

- **Increase of the world population**

This causes environmental degradation when the lands are excessively used without negative impact concern. It is the fact that an increase of population will lead to the invasion of human into natural lands (natural landscape) for human residential settlement. The development of the invasion can be fast or slow depending on various social factors. Finally a natural landscape will be developed as a cultural landscape. Too excessive changes (without good planning) of the natural landscape can lead to natural environment degradation and disasters.

- **Urbanization**

Change of rural lifestyle to urban lifestyle. This implies that it is a change of agricultural society to city society, through the process called "urbanization". Urbanization is defined as the process of shifting from a rural to an urban society, and involves an increase in the number of people in urban areas during a particular year. Urbanization is the outcome of social, economic and political developments that lead to urban concentration and growth of large cities, changes in land use and transformation from rural to metropolitan pattern of organization and governance.

Urbanization is the driving force for modernization, economic growth and development. However, the process of urbanization (or simply saying "the process of expanding cities) has affected human in many ways such as human health, livelihoods and the environment. Rapid urbanization can change demographic trends for employment, food security, water supply, shelter and sanitation, especially the disposal of wastes.

How urbanization goes in process?

The factors that define urbanization may include the following, as mostly it is defined in a comparison with a definition of rural area:

- *Population size:* actually population size or number of population is set by various criteria depending on different cities. For example, an urban or city by Denmark means to be the area with more than 200 people, Iceland 300 people, Venezuela and New Zealand 1,000 people, Belgium, India, Ghana and Netherland 5,000 people, U.S.A and Mexico 2,500 people, Greece 10,000 people. However, this criterion is quite weak due to the reason that some cities with a population of more than 2,500 or 10,000 people may not have an urban qualification, while some cities with a population of less than the same number have qualification of being a city.

- *Density:* Mark Jefferson indicated that an area with a density of population of 10,000 per kilometer squares is considered a city, while some other academics indicated the number less than that.
- *History:* history is also used for indicating an urban, with the principle that a city that has its history as a central area or a city in the past should be considered a city at present.
- *Governmental act:* in U.S.A. or UK, the government is the one who indicates which areas are categorized as cities. In Middle Era of Europe the areas considered an urban or city could have a right to open market.
- *Availability of tangible or man- made buildings:* this criterion views that an urban is man- made while a rural area is naturally developed. Man- made buildings include streets, roads, highways, buildings, canals and other inventions, and etc. Richard L. Meier explained that buildings and inventions of things have been made by human in a particular area until the area's natural environment is diminished, and instead occupied by man- made environment. However, in rural areas there can be some man- made inventions that are used for agriculture such as machine and storehouse that keep rice and other agricultural crops. Thus, some academic argued that a criterion to be used in defining an urban should be related with population rather than things.
- *Way of life:* way of life means pattern of living and feelings. People who live in urban and rural areas usually have different way of life. Urban people are physically closed (i.e. crowded walking on streets or on public commuting vehicles) yet have no or less emotional attachment and relationship, which is contrary to the way of people living in rural areas; people who live in city usually are living with a hurried pace and their living lies on time string; their neighborhood is not as closed as that of people living in rural areas, for instance.
- *Careers:* urban people usually do not have any job related with nature or agriculture but rather have jobs related with services, trades and industries.
- *Being as trading zones:* areas with trading characteristic gives well a definition of an urban or a city. Friedrich Ratzel defined an urban as a spacious place that human gather permanently and the place is also a place for trading.
- *Being as industrial zones:* for this criterion, the view is that an urban zone is determined by factories. However, an argument is that in some rural areas there are factories as well.
- *Urban area is not a self- contained area:* this means that normally urban or cities cannot produce foods. As agricultural products are produced in rural areas, foods are produced in rural areas (where there are natural resources) and transported into cities. Besides, labors are those who are from rural areas and those who live in rural area.
- *Transportation:* cities are transportation center, especially in the era before automobile development. There is a statement, "all roads lead to Paris". This is because all rail routes to different parts of France must pass Paris. Charles H. Cooley said that development of transport routes also causes urbanization.
- *Traveling:* traveling causes disperse of population.
- *Centralization:* cities are the center of a country, state or region. In a city level, an inner zone usually is a town center. Centers are in different forms, such as main

streets and business districts. However, business zones are not for residential purpose but city people have daily commute to city center for works and business activities, for entertainment like meetings friends for party or shopping. In automobile-dependent countries, business, shopping and entertainment zones can be dispersed outwards.

- *Heterogeneity:* cities have more complexity and diversity than rural areas due to a diversity of population.

The urbanization processes are largely driven by market forces and government policies. These factors lead to simultaneous processes of change in livelihoods, land use, health and natural resources management including water, soil and forests and often reactive changes in local governance.

It is usually seen that government development policies and budget allocations often favor urban residents over rural or countryside areas and tend to pull people into the urban areas. When we talk about public investment, it is usually seen that the investment regards less on the poor who live in the urban/ city, but more expenditures is considered for the higher-income classes. That's why we often see there are many slum and squatter settlements in urban areas. However, there still is a relationship between urban and rural areas in that people living in urban area still need food produces from rural areas or countryside. This is because rural area is the agricultural- based society that has land and natural resources. The produces here refer to rice, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meats, etc. The larger increase of urban population is, the larger agricultural production in rural area will be. However, nowadays, there is a reduction of agricultural lands. Nowadays, *horticulture** is therefore adapted, because of the fact that there is a shortage of food supplies forced by the increasing population and the reduction of large agricultural lands.

* Horticulture is defined in the strict sense as the science that employs special techniques and methods to cultivate plants, including methods used to properly condition the soil for seed planting or planting tubers.

Therefore, by this market force, it results in a series of changes in employment, urban agriculture and peri-urban (peri- urban is an immediately adjoining area to an urban area; between the suburbs and the countryside) production systems. Ready market leads to an increase in production of horticultural crops such as vegetables given the high demand and proximity to urban consumers. These factors therefore, act as a great force of urbanization.

Learning Activities and Medias

1. Lecturer introduces this unit.
2. Lecturer gives lecture.
3. Lecturer gives individual assignment to do at home.
   - Students do activity called Landscape "Views", by individual.
     - Students look at the pictures of different landscapes in Activity Sheet for Unit 3 (you can download from the e- learning). Then, ✓the choice that you think well fits with each picture. Then, explain different perspectives you might have for each landscape. This activity is for homework. They should bring this homework in next class.
     - In next class, students group together and think further what different perspectives people might have for each landscape.
     - **Remark:** The answers can be different (or even totally different) depending on each individual perception but good explanation is needed.