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Global Change and Large-Scale Climate Modes | Regional and Local Geophysical Processes | Interactions in Coastal Areas | Socio-Economic Development

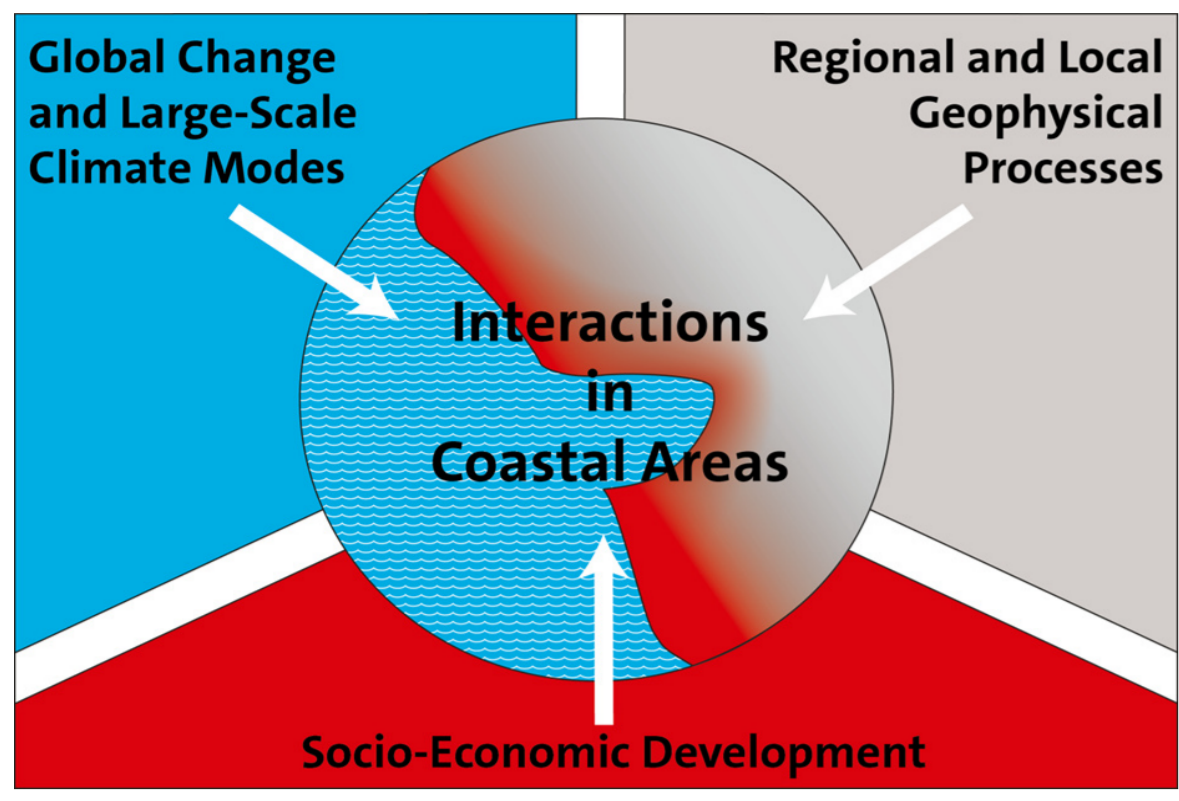SPP 1889 „Regional Sea Level Change and Society"

Epistemic Mobilities and the Governance of Environmental Risks in Island Southeast Asia

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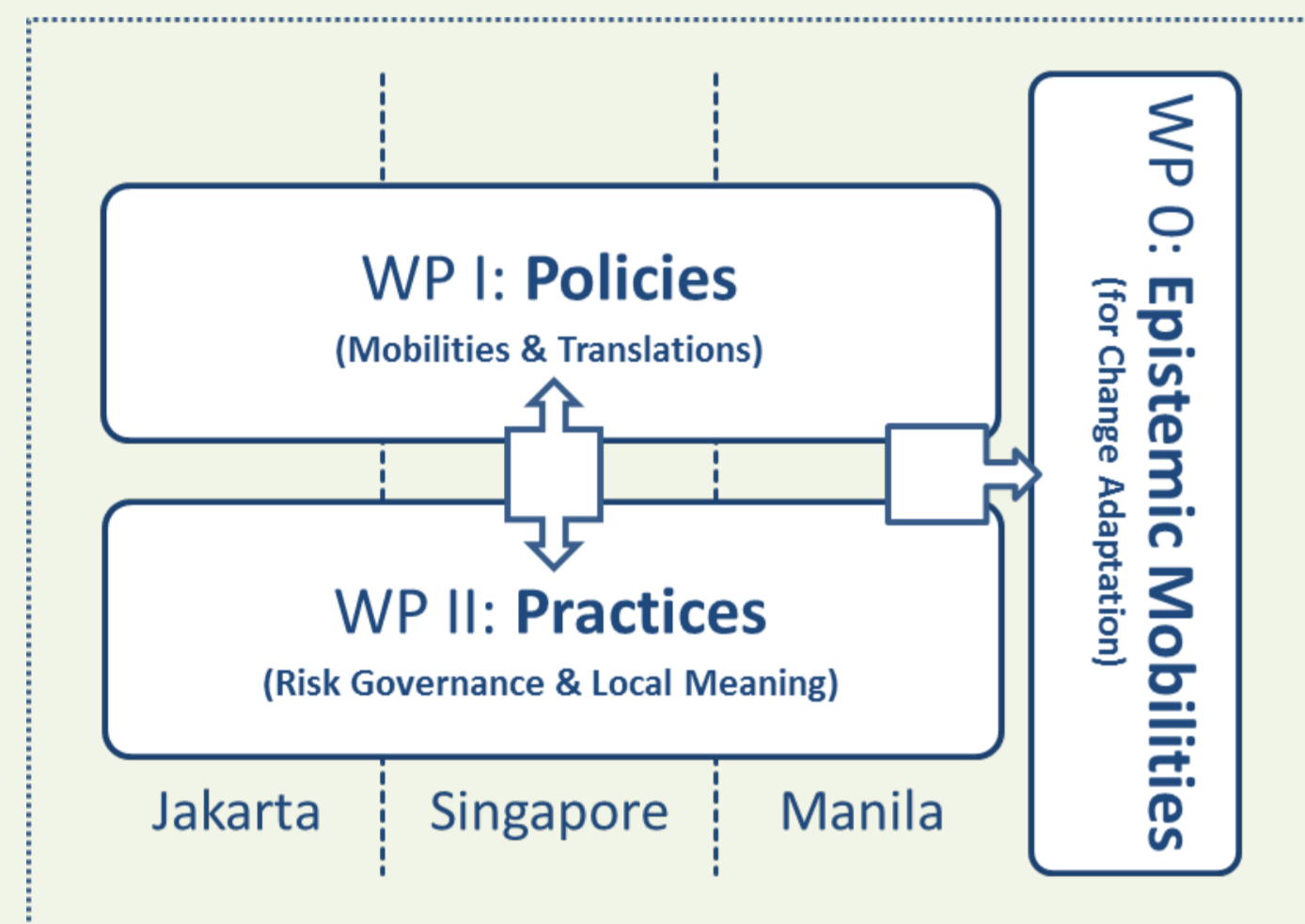
Travelling Policies and Practices for living with Sea level Rise

Research Focus: Patterns of **epistemic (im-)mobilities related to sea level rise and the contestation processes that define them** in and between the cities of Singapore, Jakarta and Manila.

Research Question: How are **policies and (standardised) practices** for living with the effects of sea level rise **communicated** by international donors and civil society organisations, and taken up, **translated into local contexts**, politically legitimised and at times **recirculated internationally** by local actors, thus **shaping localised anticipatory learning trajectories** for change adaptation?

Empirical Focus & Analytical Synthesis

WP I: **Policies** (Mobilities & Translations)
WP II: **Practices** (Risk Governance & Local Meaning)
WP 0: **Epistemic Mobilities** (for Change Adaptation)
Jakarta | Singapore | Manila

What are Epistemic Mobilities?

Policies and practices aiming at the mitigation of and adaptation to the effects of sea level rise are **highly mobile stocks of knowledge - across world regions, scale levels** (global, regional, national, local), **socio-cultural and political contexts**.

Originally developed in particular local contexts, eventually **communicated globally**, **taken up** elsewhere, **adjusted**, developed further, **or silenced** and **made immobile**, these policies and practices are **exemplary for social learning and political contestation processes** at the interface of global climate politics and local, everyday forms of living with nature.
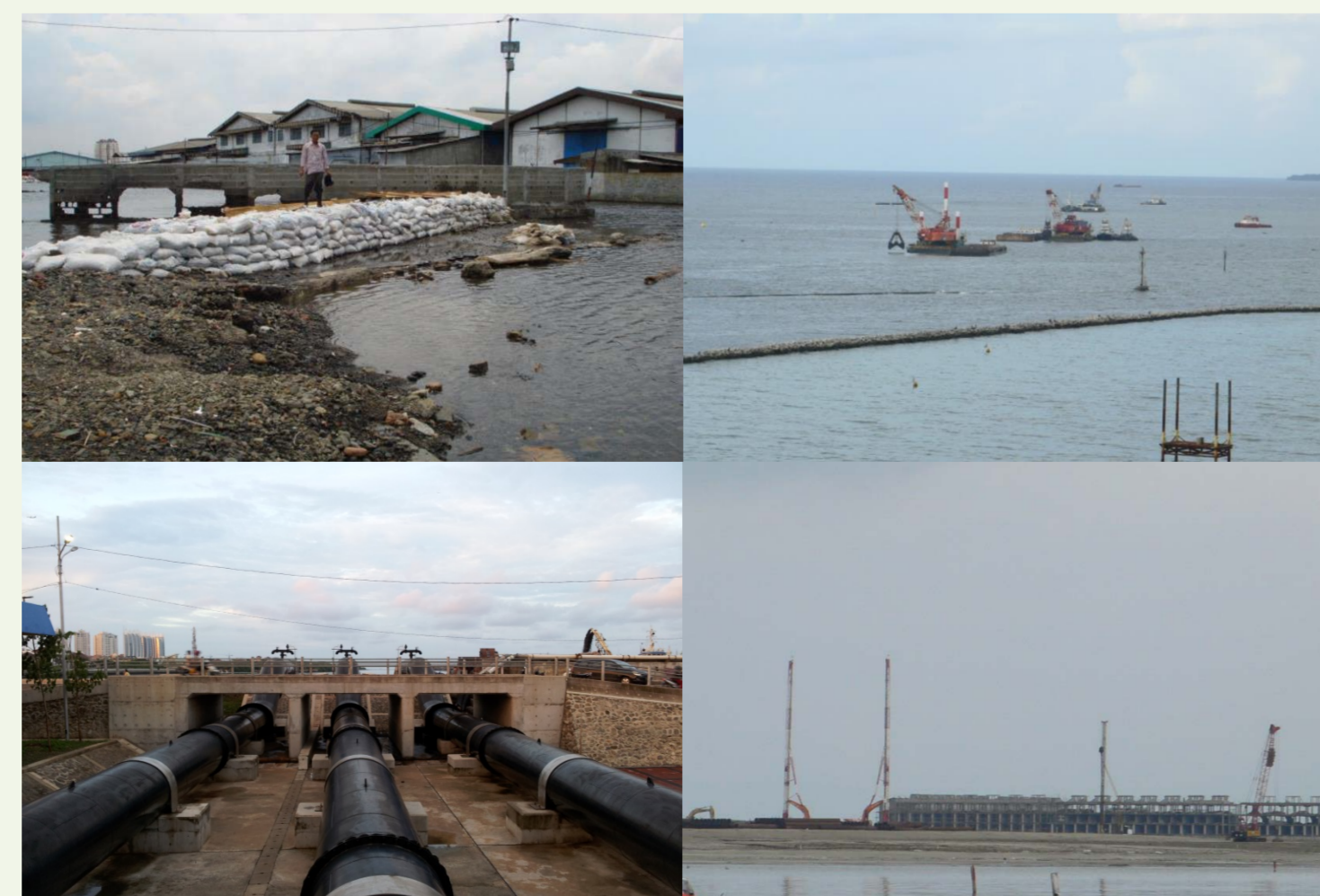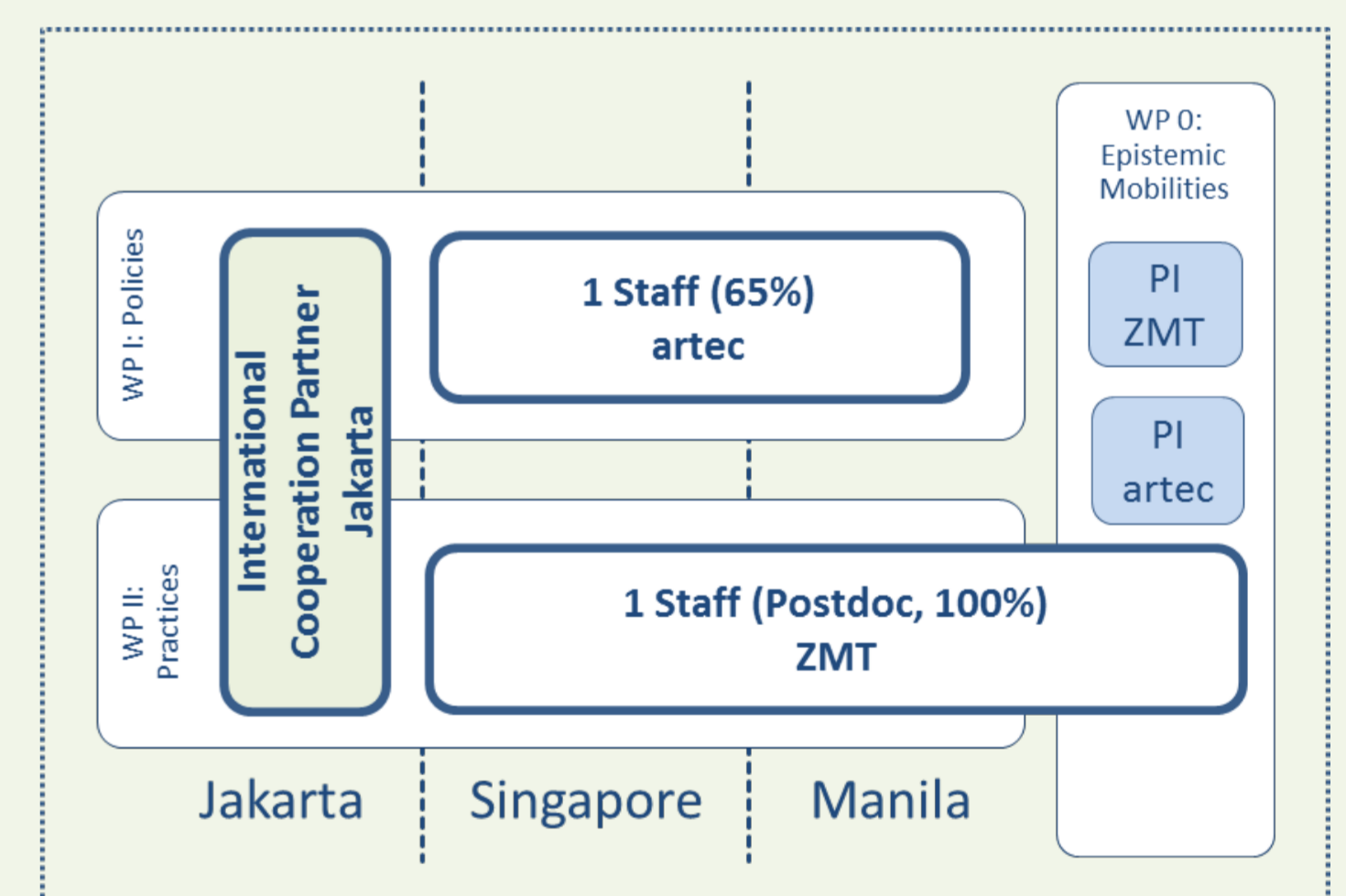

Policies:
- Adaptation frameworks
- Flood insurance policies
- Groundwater mining regulations
- Early warning mechanisms
- Slum resettlements & gated real estate investments

Practices:
- Seawall construction, Dykes
- Dredging/Pumps
- Living with & off floods/moving
- Artificial reefs & water breaks
- Land reclamation

Why Jakarta, Singapore and Manila?

Sea level rise, further exacerbated by the **El Niño-Southern Oscillation Phenomenon**, is especially felt in the **Island nations of the Tropics** – and in particular in **coastal Megacities** such as **Jakarta and Manila.** *(Kraas and Mertins 2014)*

In the processes of translation and contestation, **Singapore** in addition acts as **epistemic hub** and **idea incubator**, but also as **powerful, interest-driven player** in the region.

Conceptual Underpinnings

Communicative & Discursive Constructivism *(Keller 2011a, 2011b; Knoblauch 1995; Reichertz 2010)*

- **Practices:** conventionalised patterns of action, based on collective stocks of knowledge about the 'proper' way of acting
- **Dispositifs:** infrastructures (i.e. policies) of discourse production and infrastructures emerging out of a discourse
- **Translations, Contestations & Social Learning** *(Pahl-Wostl 2009; Siebenhüner 2008)* = discursive battles as part of power/knowledge complexes

Travelling Models and Policy Mobilities *(Behrends et al. 2014; Rottenburg 1996; McCann 2011, 2013; Müller-Mahn 2013)*

- **Diffusion/transfer:** intercultural translation, co-creating their own vocabularies, networks, tacit knowledges
- **Co-production** of policies, political spaces & legitimacies for transformation

Project Implementation

- Collaborative research with **long-standing partners** in Jakarta, Manila and Singapore
- Collaboration with projects in Work Program C foreseen

Project Structure & Task Division

WP 0: Epistemic Mobilities | PI ZMT | PI artec | 1 Staff (65%) artec | WP I: Policies | International Cooperation Partner Jakarta | WP II: Practices | 1 Staff (Postdoc, 100%) ZMT | Jakarta | Singapore | Manila

Workplan, Milestones & Deliverables

Methods:

- **Qualitative ethnographic research** (interviews, participant observation – local language skills & regional expertise exist)
- **Tracing policies and practices: follow-the-moving-target methodologies**
- **Policy & document analysis** based on Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD)

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