Jakarta, Indonesia is the site of an ambitious waterfront development project that combines climate change adaptation, economic development, and the city’s global ambitions. The Great Garuda project, a series of artificial islands in the shape of the mythical steed of Vishnu, was conceived as both a solution to the city’s chronic flooding woes as well as a vehicle to elevate Jakarta to “world city” status. This talk examines the Great Garuda, connecting it to a reconstituted growth coalition and demonstrating that the project may end up forging new frontiers in maladaptation.

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