

Last month, 2 weeks at the end of the year, there happened to be an invitation to a friend's son/daughter's wedding which was held in Jakarta. The places are quite good, the first is on Jl Gatot Subroto and the second is on Jl Rasuna Said. As a flower farmer, of course what is interesting to see is what kind of design, arrangement and type of flowers will be used in the ballroom where the event will be held. Besides of course also the taste of the food served by the catering used.

However, we were quite surprised to find out from the reception table that there were lots of artificial flowers and plants used at the event. There were all artificial plants installed in the gazebo towards the aisle, and also artificial flowers inserted in several arrangements along the food stands and tables. For an event of that size to be held in such a good place, it would have been unimaginable a few years ago that this would happen. Not only that, it turns out that the various ornamental plants under the stage are also artificial plants that we usually find at IKEA or Ace hardware. It's also sad to know that for events like this, prestige is only measured by what looks good in the photo, but ignores the higher aesthetic value, namely the freshness of the real flowers and plants used. After returning from the event, thoughts raced in my mind imagining in the next 10 years or so, how fresh flowers and plants would be used at weddings which might be held 1-2 times in our lifetime. It would also be interesting to know what the situation is like in the more premium places along Jl Thamrin and Jl Sudirman in Jakarta.

Indeed, less encouraging signs have emerged in recent years. Events that are usually a booming period for sales of flowers and ornamental plants seem to be starting to disappear one by one. Valentine's Day, which used to be a good period for selling roses, is no longer seen in malls along with flower and chocolate themes. Only the promo flyers and posters are still scattered around. Likewise with the Chinese New Year, Eid or Christmas periods.

