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*by* Ardhana Januar

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# The Urgency of Interregional Cooperation for the Development of New Areas: Studies in Indonesia

Ardhana Januar Mahardhani<sup>1\*</sup>, Sunarto<sup>2</sup>, Sulton<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo

<sup>2</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo

<sup>3</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo

Email: [ardhana@umpo.ac.id](mailto:ardhana@umpo.ac.id)

## ABSTRACT

The concept of autonomy that is still running brings enormous benefits for districts to develop their regions according to their existing potential. Although there are still many districts in Indonesia that are stagnant in the development and development of new areas, districts tend to wait for instructions from the central government in this regard. This paper will show an example of opening a new area that will involve various surrounding areas even though it is a development carried out by the central government. In its implementation, it is also known that there are collaboration principles that must be carried out by local governments in understanding the involvement of five elements in understanding, namely academics, the private sector, local governments, communities, and mass media.

**Keywords:** *Regional Development, Interregional Cooperation, Collaboration.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In a research conducted by Sager with the title Dialogical Values in Public Goods Provision [1], it is explained that development planning on a regional scale is very concerned with the aspects of the location of the activity to be carried out. Development planning carried out by the government must maximize the use of space in the area, this space must be filled with various activities that can produce development choice models that are suitable for the area.

In his research local development and collaborative planning: a theoretical framework of analysis [2], also describes the importance of cooperation between one region and another, because according to him development planning with a centralized pattern will not provide the best solution in development activities. It is precisely collaborative activities at the bottom that make development progress.

The existence of inter-regional cooperation based on local conditions will be further developed if each district / city has the same territorial conditions, socio-economic conditions, and almost the same future prospects. Arsyad [3] explains that this local-based development strategy is a development strategy with a regional approach that has elements of a needs analysis for the area, local actors

from a certain area (locality), and the potential in the area to be developed.

Cooperation between regions is currently being carried out between two different administrative regions, either between districts / cities or between two provinces. This activity will directly assist regional development in order to achieve the expected progress, especially for areas that have regional characteristics and geographical conditions, conditions of people's purchasing power, and social conditions. Abdurahman [4] states that the strength of neighboring regions is the existence of a cooperation that begins with the same conditions and limitations, both from the limited resources they have, the potential of the region, the geographical conditions, each of which will actually make the regions dependent on each other the opposite.

In Indonesia, the existence of formal interregional cooperation with districts that are close to each other is not often found, from the author's observations that this kind of cooperation occurs a lot, anytime can change. There are many things that make this phenomenon of inter-regional cooperation happen and the most dominant is because of the high regional egoism [5]–[7].

In fact, the existence of a cooperation agreement between regions that are close to each other will actually be able to make a new area formed and it is possible that

it will become an economic, tourism, or other strategic area such as the tourism development of SAMOTA [8], the Sangiran area [9], and the Selongkar Wilis [10].

This paper will look at how the urgency of cooperation between regions that are close to each other with the goal of forming a new region in Indonesia, so that the results obtained will be used as alternatives and input to policy makers to carry out potential inter-regional cooperation so that the surrounding area can be utilized by maximum.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Cooperation comes from the term "cooperation", Rosen defines cooperation, namely the efforts made to obtain or a source of efficiency and quality of service [8]. Ramses explained that cooperation is the existence of two or more parties who will be connected dynamically to achieve a common goal [9]. There are three main elements seen in a cooperation framework, namely (1) two or more parties, (2) interaction, and (3) common goals. Cooperation always places the interacting parties in a balanced, harmonious and harmonious position, and the party referred to here is the regional government as the owner of power in the region including all its natural resource potentials. Frank and Smith stated that cooperation can be defined as a relationship between two or more parties who have common goals, which promise to do something together. [10]. Clitrap states that cooperation is an activity in groups to work on or complete a task together while [24] wadarminta defines cooperation as an activity that is carried out jointly from various parties to achieve common goals. [11].

Many also explained about the concept of this collaboration juxtaposing cooperation with partnerships. The General Dictionary of Indonesian and the Cambridge International Dictionary of English provides a limitation on this definition with almost the same meaning that cooperation is defined as an activity or effort carried out by several parties (institutions, governments, etc.) to achieve common goals and partnership is defined as a relationship (work relationship). same and so on) as partners.

Cooperation between local governments by Patterson is interpreted as "an arrangement between two or more governments for accomplishing common goals, providing a service or solving a mutual problem". In this definition, it means that there is a common interest that encourages two or more local governments to be able to provide joint services or solve problems together with joint and voluntary arrangements with certain goals and targets that must be achieved by each region [12]. There

is also another definition from Pamudji which states that inter-regional cooperation is a framework of working relations carried out by two or more regions in an equal and balanced position to achieve a common goal of improving people's welfare [13].

The emergence of a paradigm shift from government to governance has resulted in a new paradigm in governance. The main emphasis is on the existence of equality and balance between the government, the private sector and the public in government administration. Of course, this also has an impact on the implementation of inter-regional cooperation at both the theoretical and practical level which makes inter-regional cooperation from originally just collaboration to become a collaboration.

## 3. METHOD

The method of data collection is to use library sources in the form of articles in journals, newspapers, or online media. The data obtained will be stored in the indexing engine to be safe using a cloud system. To ensure that the sources that the researchers used in writing this article were correct, the data validity test was used in the form of triangulation of sources [8]. In addition, peer debriefing was also carried out so that other expert researchers could provide input from the writing being made.

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Case 1. Kwala Bekala Area

The opening of the area in Kwala Bekala, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province is a form of collaboration between PT Propenas Nusa Dua (PT PND) and the University of North Sumatra. Of course, the opening of a new educational area in Kwala Bekala is in line with the seriousness of the local government of Deli Serdang Regency in developing the Kwala Bekala area into a new city in Deli Serdang Regency. In its implementation, the Deli Serdang Regency government must first open access to Kwala Bekala by creating a new road infrastructure network, so that the collaboration between the University of North Sumatra and PT PND can be implemented properly [14].

The opening of the new Kwala Bekala area by the University of North Sumatra is a good magnet to make this area a new center of crowd. It can be seen that if a new campus is established in an area, it can be ascertained that the area will soon be crowded. Until now, the Kwala Bekala campus has been developed into an

educational forest, oil palm cultivation, flower and horticultural gardens, animal husbandry, and reservoir construction. From the large number of land uses by the University of North Sumatra, the role of local governments must also be maximized, especially the provision of primary services such as road networks, water, and electricity.

#### 4.2. Case 2. Selingkar Wilis Area

The Selingkar Wilis area is a new area that will be developed by the [20]t Java provincial government, this area consists of six regencies, namely Tulungagung, Trenggalek, Ponorogo, Madiun, Nganjuk, and Kediri Regencies, all of which are [3] located between Mount Wilis ardhana [15], [16]. The opening of the Selingkar Wilis area is expected to be similar to the Bromo Tengger Semeru area or the Ijen Baluran area which was first developed by the provincial government.

The opening of the Selingkar Wilis area became a national project with the issuance of presidential regulation number 80 of 2019, however until June 2021 this regulation could not be implemented due to the transfer of budget and work programs in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

The existence of the construction of a new airport in Kediri Regency, which is located in Tarokan and Banyakan sub-districts, the two sub-districts which are a cluster of the Selingkar Wilis area, will certainly be a special attraction to accelerate road construction in this area. Therefore, the role of local governments through the existence of regional budgets is very vital to include the construction of new road networks in this Wilis circle area.

#### 4.3. Case 3. Mandalika Area

The main concept in opening The Mandalika area is to make The Mandalika [22] a leading tourism area on Lombok Island [17], [18], West Nusa Tenggara Province. The development of The Manda [22] area has not yet been completed. The Mandalika area has been designated as a Special Economic Zone [22] (SEZ) so this work is a national strategic project through Government Regulation number 52 of 2014 concerning the Mandalika Special Economic Zone

The Mandalika area has an area of 1,035.67 hec [27] es [18] and faces the Indian Ocean, in this area 10,000 hotel rooms and world-class racing circuits, convention centers, and other supporting infrastructure will be built,

so the government invites third parties to invest in The Mandalika. besides inviting communities and educational institutions to conduct studies on the development of this area.

#### 4.4. Case 4. Sorong Area

The Sorong area was [22] elected by the Indonesian government and designated as a special economic zone through Government Regulation number 31 of 2016 concerning the Sorong Special Economic Zone. This area is the first special economic zone on the island of Papua. The Indonesian government's biggest hope with the opening of the Sorong area is that it will become a new integrated center of economic growth in the eastern part of Indonesia [19]

This economic area development in Sorong is located in Mayamuk District and is built on an area of 523.7 hectares, strategically located at the intersection of Asia Pacific and Australia international trade. The advantages developed in the Sorong area are the fisheries and sea transportation sectors, besides that it is also strategic for the development of the logistics, agro-industry, and mining industries.

#### 4.5. Case 5. Batang Area

This area will be developed into an integrated [3] industrial area (KIT) Batang or Grand Batang City. This area is located in Central Java Province and is a central government project impl [5] mented as an effort to recover the national economy as a result of the Covid- [3] Pandemic. This Batang integrated industrial area has an area of 4,300 hectares, which is divided into several clusters. The first cluster covering an area of 450 hectares is almost complete and ready to be used for investment related to technology [20]

In the context of developing the Batang integrated area, the central government will also build infrastructure in the form of regional main roads, bridges, river weirs, integrated waste management sites, drinking water supply systems, wastewater treatment plants, and flats. Studies related to the development of the Batang integrated area have also been carried out by the community, local government, and educational institutions in order to maintain harmony between industry, society, and the environment.

The five cases presented above represent new regional developments which of course cannot be carried out independently by one district. Even though the



project is a national project but the local government as the occupied area will definitely have an impact. However, the main reason for the government in opening this new area is for the welfare of the community and the economic recovery of the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. In overcoming the problems that arise in the development of the new area will also be felt by districts that are close to each other, strengthening the principle of collaboration in solving problems such as community mobilization, waste, garbage, road networks, or water is very important to be carried out by local governments.

In the context of collaboration governance, collaboration is basically a series of arrangements in which one or more public institutions directly involve non-state stakeholders in all their activities [21]. In the collaboration process, of course, there are several phenomena that will be observed, namely the interests of stakeholders and the shared vision to be achieved by each collaborating region.

In addition, in the collaboration process that occurs, as in the case presented above, it is necessary for several parties to join in the settlement or preparation of cooperation for each region that is carrying out cooperation. The implementation of cooperation through a two-party network can no longer be used at this time, a partnership pattern with a collaborative spirit is now important to use, of course, not only collaboration with two or three parties, but all elements that must be involved, namely academics, private parties, local government, community, and mass media or use the Pentahelix model [22].

Along with the times and the increasing needs of the community, regional cooperation is urgently needed to meet all the things needed by the community, of course that need will not be fulfilled when no new areas are opened. The five cases that have been submitted are evidence that shows that the opening of new areas is a must, especially at this time of the Covid-19 pandemic which requires extra handling in terms of social and economic recovery for the community. Therefore, inter-regional cooperation in opening the area is very urgent.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Indonesia as a unit of various regions with different characteristics from one another, requires extra handling in the context of improving the economy and social community. The opening of new areas is one of the alternative solutions in order to provide the best service for the community. However, the opening of the area will not be able to run well if there is no involvement of the

district with other districts that are close to each other or with other elements involved. Therefore, in the opening of new areas, regional cooperation is needed with the principle of collaboration so that all the surrounding areas feel and have each other. In its development, other parties involved are also needed, namely the pentahelix model.

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