

THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES IN FACING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Environmental issues are still the main concern for the Pacific Islands Countries. This region is known to be one of the most exposed to natural hazards and climate change in the world. A recent research showed that at least 8 islands in the Pacific Ocean such as the Islands of Nahlap, Laiap, and Nahtic in Micronesia have disappeared due to rising sea levels. The common threat also happens in Indonesia. As a country located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and surrounded by three tectonic plates makes Indonesia as a disaster-prone area. Furthermore, the impact of climate change has threatened 92 small islands in Indonesia that will potentially drown. Looking at the challenges and threats faced by the countries, building a constructive cooperation in addressing the environmental challenges is important. The purpose of this paper is to identify the environmental security challenges faced by the Pacific Islands Countries, to map out the existing cooperation between Indonesia and the Pacific region, and to elaborate on why this collaboration is important. This paper uses qualitative method with data collection technique through literature study. The research contends that enhancing the technical assistance through South-South and Triangular Cooperation is an effort to strengthen the role of Indonesia in engaging with countries in the Pacific Islands and to address environmental challenges.

Keywords: environmental security; climate change; technical assistance; Pacific Islands Countries; Indonesia

ABSTRAK

Permasalahan lingkungan masih menjadi isu utama bagi negara-negara di Kepulauan Pasifik. Kawasan ini dinilai sebagai salah satu yang paling rentan terkena dampak bahaya alam dan perubahan iklim di dunia. Penelitian terbaru menunjukkan bahwa setidaknya 8 pulau di Samudera Pasifik seperti pulau Nahlap, Laiap, dan Nahtic di Micronesia telah tenggelam akibat naiknya permukaan air laut. Ancaman serupa pun terjadi di Indonesia. Sebagai negara yang terletak di kawasan Cincin Api Pasifik dan dikelilingi tiga lempeng tektonik menyebabkan Indonesia menjadi wilayah yang rawan bencana. Dampak perubahan iklim mengancam sekitar 92 pulau kecil di Indonesia yang berpotensi akan tenggelam. Melihat tantangan dan ancaman yang dihadapi oleh negara-negara di kepulauan Pasifik dan Indonesia, pembangunan kerja sama yang konstruktif untuk mengatasi permasalahan lingkungan menjadi hal yang penting. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi tantangan-tantangan keamanan lingkungan yang dihadapi oleh negara-negara kepulauan Pasifik, memetakan kerja sama yang sudah dilakukan antara Indonesia dengan kawasan Pasifik, dan mengelaborasi mengapa kolaborasi ini penting. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui studi literatur. Penelitian ini berpendapat bahwa kerja sama yang dilakukan melalui kerangka kerja sama Selatan-Selatan dan Triangular merupakan upaya untuk memperkuat peran Indonesia dalam menjalin hubungan dengan negara-negara di kepulauan Pasifik dan untuk mengatasi tantangan lingkungan.

Kata kunci: keamanan lingkungan; perubahan iklim; bantuan teknis; negara-negara Kepulauan Pasifik; Indonesia

Background

The Pacific region is Indonesia's closest neighbor after Southeast Asia. Based on the geostrategic concentric circle approach, this area should have gained the priority of Indonesian foreign policy.¹ According to Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian foreign policy began to penetrate the Pacific region and is no longer limited to Southeast Asia or known as 'look east policy'.² As Indonesia's relations with Southeast Asian countries have been long-standing, constructive relations based on a mutual understanding with Pacific Islands Countries were established in the early 2000s.³ One of Indonesia's diplomacy guidelines in conducting diplomacy with countries in the Pacific region is the country's geographic location and characteristics.⁴ Indonesia is a country located between two oceans: the Indian and the Pacific, covering Southeast Asia and some Pacific Islands Countries. Indonesia and the countries in the Pacific region are archipelagic countries. Moreover, they share a similar ethnicity and cultural heritage. Considering the position of Indonesia in Southeast Asia as an important actor, Indonesia can play a bridge builder between the Pacific region and Southeast Asia in the future.

Indonesia has also developed diplomatic relations with almost all countries in the Pacific Island Countries.⁵ There are some interpretations

of the definition and the scope of Pacific. However, in this article, the Pacific refers to the thousands of islands and societies scattered in the Pacific Ocean.⁶ It encompasses three ethnic geographic groupings, namely Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The island societies consist of 14 postcolonial states which are the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and the other areas are still dependent territories of France, New Zealand, Britain, and United States of America.⁷ Physically, the Pacific islands are small states, except Papua New Guinea. Most of the islands countries have a land area of no more than 500 km² and at least two of them which are Tuvalu and Nauru only have an area no more than 30km².⁸ In conducting diplomacy, Indonesia has a principle to build good relations with all its neighbors in order to maintain a secure regional neighborhood. In order to implement this principle, Indonesia has a diplomatic mission in the Pacific region that is to create a safe, stable, and friendly and to strengthen economic cooperation, trade, investment and social-cultural relations.⁹ Indonesia strongly supports sustainable development in PICs by providing training in terms of capacity building as well as technical assistance in order to address their common concerns in environmental issues, such as climate change.¹⁰

¹Center for Policy Analysis and Development on Asia-Pacific and African Regions Policy Analysis and Development Agency Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, *Kebijakan Luar Negeri Indonesia di Pasifik Selatan: Menimbang Etnis Melanesia dalam Diplomasi Indonesia* (pp. viii). Jakarta: P3K2 Aspasaf. 2013.

²Bantarto Bandoro, *Indonesia dalam Lingkungan Strategis yang Berubah*, (pp. 21). Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu. 2014.

³Arto Suryodipuro, "Building Relations with Pacific Islands Countries, The Jakarta Post. (2014, January 25). Accessed January 3, 2018 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/01/25/building-relations-with-pacific-island-countries.html>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ The Jakarta Post, "RI and the Pacific: A History of Cooperation" (2016, December 2). Accessed January 31, 2018, at

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/adv/2016/12/02/ri-and-the-pacific-a-history-of-cooperation.html>

⁶ Greg Fry & Sandra Tarte, Ed, *The New Pacific Diplomacy* (pp. 4). Canberra: ANU Press. 2015.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Te'o Fairbairn, Charles E. Morrison, Richard W. Baker, Sheree A. Groves, *The Pacific Islands: Politics, Economics, and International Relations* (pp. 3) Honolulu: East-West Center International Program. 1991.

⁹ The Jakarta Post., *Loc.Cit.*

¹⁰ Centre for Policy Analysis and Development on Asia-Pacific and African Regions Policy Analysis and Development Agency Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia., *Op.Cit.*, pp. 8

Environmental issues are still the main concern for the Pacific Islands countries. This region is known to be one of the most exposed to natural hazards and climate change in the world.¹¹ Pacific countries are not the major contributors to carbon emissions but the region is the most affected by climate change event and threatened its existence. Global warming has had a noticeable effect on rising sea levels resulting in a lack of clean water supply and destruction of existing land.¹² A recent research showed that at least 8 islands in the Pacific Ocean have disappeared due to rising sea levels.¹³ The common threat also happens in Indonesia. As a country located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and surrounded by three tectonic plates makes Indonesia as a disaster-prone area. Furthermore, climate change is also one of the source of environmental problems in Indonesia. The impact of climate change has threatened about 92 small islands in Indonesia that will potentially drown.¹⁴ Almost 85 percent of disasters occurring in Indonesia are closely related to climate change-related phenomena.¹⁵ Looking at the challenges and threats faced by countries in the Pacific Islands and Indonesia,

¹¹ World Bank, *Climate change and Disaster Management* (pp. 16). Washington: The World Bank. 2016.

¹² Jim Rolfe, "The Pacific Islands: Security Problems Out of Mind and Out of Focus", (Centre for Strategic Studies New Zealand, 2014). Accessed January 31, 2018

https://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/centres/strategic-studies/documents/20_The-Pacific-Islands_Security-Problems-Out-of-Mind-and-Out-of-Focus.pdf

¹³ Trevor Nace, "New Study Finds 8 Islands Swallowed By Rising Sea Level" (September 2017). Accessed December 5, 2017, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/09/09/new-study-finds-8-islands-swallowed-by-rising-sea-level/#54c494575283>.

¹⁴Harkins Hendro Prabowo and Muhammad Salahudin, "Potensi Tenggelamnya Pulau-Pulau Kecil Terluar Wilayah NKRI", in *Jurnal Geologi Kelautan*, Volume 14 Number2, 115. November 2016.

¹⁵ The Jakarta Post, "Rising Sea Levels Threaten 2000 Islands in Indonesia" (December 2015). accessed December 5, 2017 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/12/17/rising-g-sea-levels-threaten-2000-islands-indonesia.html>.

therefore, building constructive cooperation to tackle environmental issues is needed. Indonesia as a country with various experiences in dealing with disaster issues, sending humanitarian aid to a number of affected countries, and having advanced technology in early warning and monitoring system¹⁶, can be a development partner for the PICs. This paper aims to explore why the collaboration between Indonesia and Pacific Island Countries in addressing environmental challenges is important.

The Concept of Environmental Security

The concept of security has evolved. It is not merely about national traditional security like security from military attacks by other countries. It includes a wider category of threat ranging from earthquakes to environmental degradation.¹⁷ Therefore, environmental security concept appears in the security discourse. The discourse of environmental security is not new. It has been appearing since the 1970s. According to Deudney, the concept of environmental security itself has redefined the concept of national security to encompass threats to societal welfare.¹⁸ The environmental issue could be defined as a condition of free from environmental degradation threat which might cause a humanitarian crisis.¹⁹

Copenhagen school with securitization approach could explain environmental security as a concept by looking that environment issue used to be a non-politicizing issue. Then, environment threat evolves as a political issue. Security concept is understood as a social construction. The securitizing actor can state

¹⁶ Pacific Disaster Center, "Indonesia Unveils New Technology to Avert Disasters, Responding Faster and More Effectively" (April 26, 2017) accessed 18 April 2018, <http://www.pdc.org/news-n-media/pdc-updates/2017-Indonesia-National-Disaster-Risk-Reduction-Day/>

¹⁷ Andrew Dobson, and Robyn Eckersley, eds, *Political Theory and the Ecological Challenge* (pp. 232) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2006.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 242.

¹⁹ Barry Buzan, "New Patterns of Global Security in the Twenty-First Century," in *International Affairs* 67, No. 3, 451. 1991.

some issues which might cause existential threats to society or countries. If the public agrees with the statement of the securitizing actor, then the process of securitization is considered successful.²⁰ Climate change issue which was a non-politicizing issue can be securitized and it becomes a security issue.

In this paper, climate change is apparently as a threat that might harm countries and their citizens. Climate change can exacerbate natural disasters such as the rise of sea level, floods, droughts, heat waves, and cyclone. It can damage infrastructure, disrupt economic stability, displace people, and cause hunger. Political scientists define that kind of environmental impacts as being part of the security issue.²¹ Therefore, many countries consider environmental security as a part of their national security including Pacific Island Countries and Indonesia.

The Challenges of Environmental Security in Pacific Islands Countries

Countries see climate change issue in a different way and experience different effects. It can be one of the top national interests for most countries, yet it might be not a priority for others. When many of people in a country experience the existential threats caused by climate change, the government will consider climate change as one of their top national interests. Pacific Island Countries are a group of countries which put climate change as their concern since they are facing the environmental threat caused by climate change.

There are several risks and vulnerabilities caused by Climate Change which might cause threats to PICs. Some of risks and vulnerabilities faced by PICs can be identified in a diagram below.

Picture 1. Risk and Vulnerabilities of Pacific Island Countries to Climate Change



Source: Asian Development Bank²²

²⁰ Bob Sugeng Hadiwinata, *Studi dan Teori Hubungan Internasional: Arus Utama, Alternatif, dan Reflektif* (pp. 122) Jakarta: Obor. 2017.

²¹ Andree Kirchner, "Environmental Security," *Fourth UNEP Global Training* (pp. 1) 2015.

²² Asian Development Bank, "Pacific Risks, Vulnerabilities, and Key Impacts of Climate Change and Natural Disasters," ADB Support to Small Pacific Countries. Accessed February 1, 2018, <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/E-Pacific-Risks-Vulnerabilities-Climate-Change.pdf>.

Based on the diagram, Pacific Islands Countries are vulnerable to the threats of climate change. It is a real threat to people who live there. Sea level rise might displace people from their residence. According to the study of Campbell who developed a scenario to predict the number of people displaced, he estimated that 665,000 to 1.7 billion people will be forcibly displaced in 2050.²³ Sea level rise has an impact on the existence of coral reef which is home to many species of fish. Many people in PICs depend on fisheries for a living. Extreme weather such as cyclone, flood, and drought might damage infrastructure and cause people homeless. Many people still remember that Cyclone Pam in 2015 left 75,000 people homeless.²⁴ The drastic change in rainfall impacts on water supply and indirectly affects agricultural productivity. When agricultural productivity decreases, then it will lead to food scarcity and become food security problem.

From the diagram, it can be seen a connection between climate change impacts and other aspects of national security. Climate change might affect other aspects of security such as human security, health security, and food security. Thus, it is obvious if PICs has interest on climate change issue and strive to minimize the impacts of climate change.

Managing the security impacts of climate change including mitigation, adaptation, response and knowledge creation is other challenges for PICs because it needs a considerable amount of budget. In fact, it is

²³ John Campbell, "Climate-induced community relocation in the Pacific: the meaning and importance of land," *Climate change and displacement: Multidisciplinary perspectives* (2010), quoted in Elizabeth Ferris, Michael M. Cernea, and Daniel Petz, *On the Front Line of Climate Change and Displacement Learning From and With Pacific Island Countries* (pp. 19). London: Brooking Institution. 2011

²⁴ Addam Connors, "Cyclone Pam: Vanuatu One Year Later," ABC (March, 15, 2016). Accessed January 28, 2018, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-13/cyclone-pam-vanuatu-one-year-on/7242620>.

usually derived from their national budget that should be allocated for development. According to IMF policy paper, the average of government spending on disaster for small countries is nearly 2 percent of GDP. This percentage is four times bigger than larger countries. It means that small states experience a higher frequency of disasters.²⁵ According to the data from Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, there were 11 natural disasters which struck PICs from May 2015 to January 2018. The type of natural disasters was dengue outbreak, a measles outbreak, landslide, tropical cyclone, and floods.²⁶ Considering that PICs have relatively small populations, limited budget, and resources to overcome the impacts of Climate Change, PICs are not capable of relying only on their national budget and resources. They should find collaborative partners who have the same interest and experiences in managing the impacts of climate change. Collaboration might be inter-agency, cross-sectoral, regional, and international.²⁷

Indonesia as a country which is also vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change can be a potential collaborative partner for PICs. Firstly, Indonesia has similar environmental threat caused by climate change. Indonesia as an archipelagic country has a very wide area of coastal and many of the people live there

²⁵ International Monetary Fund, "IMF Policy Paper Small States' Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Change – The Role of IMF," Policy Papers. Accessed 20 January 2018, <https://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2016/110416.pdf>

²⁶ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, "EM-DAT: Disasters of the Week," The International Disaster Database. Accessed January 20, 2018, www.emdat.be

²⁷ J. Scott Hauger, *Climate Change Challenges to Security in the Pacific Islands Region and Opportunities for Cooperation to Manage the Threat, in Regionalism, Security and Cooperation in Oceania*, ed. Rouben Azizian, and Carleton Cramer (pp. 156) Honolulu: Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Honolulu United States. 2015.

depending on fishery sector for a living. Sea level rise threatens the coastal community, for instance, coastal communities in Kampung Laut, Cilacap regency will be drowned in 2026 if there is no mitigation action to prevent this happen.²⁸ Sea level rise might also threaten fishponds as one of the economic activities for the people in the coastal area for living.²⁹ In the agricultural sector, the climate change might cause crop failure when the dry season lasts longer or the floods destroy the crops. It happened in West Java in September 2017 which 139 ha of paddy field experienced crop failure because of the long dry season.³⁰

Secondly, Indonesia has experience in managing the impacts of climate change, resources, and experts who can help with technical assistance. Thirdly, Indonesia is geographically located in the Pacific region as well. Therefore, the collaboration between Indonesia and PICs will benefit each other.

Indonesia's Assistance to Pacific Island Countries in Addressing Environmental Insecurities

Indonesia has provided a number of technical assistance to countries in the Pacific region through the South-South Cooperation Framework (SSC). Within the framework of SSC, there are several programs already undertaken in Pacific Islands Countries as an effort to assist them in dealing with and anticipating the risks posed by extreme weather and climate threats. One of the cooperation is focused on developing human resource capacity through a number of trainings. As in 2014-2017, 41 trainings have been provided by the

Indonesian government to Fiji in the framework of technical cooperation.³¹ As in July to August 2017, Indonesia held Training on National Multi-Hazards Early Warning System with Geospatial Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development. The training was attended by 12 participants from representatives of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) and the National Disaster Management Agency of six countries in the Pacific region, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. In addition, the UN-ESCAP and BMKG have conducted training activities related to disaster risk assessment and early warning systems by implementing Geospatial Information System and remote sensing systems in Pacific countries.³²

The Directorate of Technical Cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also undertaken programmes related to disaster risk reduction. For example, International Workshop on Enhancing South-South Cooperation on Disaster Risk Management in the Asia Pacific: Focusing on Climate Change Adaptation, attended by representatives of Fiji and Papua New Guinea. This activity aims to promote the capacity and experience of various institutions in Indonesia in the field of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in handling various natural disasters in Indonesia to participating countries as well as a forum for the exchange of experiences and ideas among Indonesia with participating countries.³³ International Workshop

²⁸ Lilik S. Supriatin and Martono, "Dampak Perubahan Iklim (El Nino, La Nina, Tinggi Muka Laut) Pada Perikanan Tambak di Pesisir Cilacap," *Seminar Nasional Peran Geospasial dalam Membingkai NKRI 2016*: 165 – 172, 170.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 166.

³⁰ Reni Susanti, "Kekeringan 139 Hektar Sawah di Jawa Barat Gagal Panen," regional.kompas.com (14 September 2017) diakses pada 15 April 2018, <https://regional.kompas.com/read/2017/09/14/23003971/kekeringan-139-hektar-sawah-di-jawa-barat-gagal-panen>.

³¹ Directorate of Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia, "Kerjasama Teknik RI-Fiji 2017". Presented at a meeting of consolidation of research cooperation plan in the Pacific region on 30 October 2017 at Sensa Hotel Bandung.

³² The Jakarta Post., *Loc. Cit.*

³³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia "International Workshop on Enhancing South-South Cooperation Roles on Disaster Risk Management in Asia Pacific: Focusing on Climate Change Adaptation", kemlu.go.id, (2008, October 14). Accessed January 28, 2018 at <https://www.kemlu.go.id/id/berita/siaran-pers/Pages/International-Workshop-on-Enhancing->

on Disaster Risk Management Focusing on Strategic Planning on South-South Cooperation has also been implemented. This activity is a collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with UN-ESCAP, UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (Asia-Pacific), and Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC). The workshop was attended by disaster risk management practitioners from Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The result of the workshop was the establishment of the South-South Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan for 2009-2011.³⁴

Training about ecotourism has also been provided by Indonesia to several Pacific Islands Countries. The training is intended to share Indonesia's experience in managing the potential of ecotourism to countries in the Pacific region. This training includes discussing the development of ecotourism in the Pacific region; learning and best practices of Indonesia; principles and practices of ecotourism in the islands; climate change and its impact on tourism; as well as mitigation of natural disasters in ecotourism areas.³⁵ Humanitarian assistance has also been delivered by Indonesia to Vanuatu and Fiji as a response to overcome the impact of Pam and Winston cyclones. In 2015, Indonesia provided humanitarian aid worth to US \$ 2 million consisting of foodstuffs, medicines, tents, blankets, power generators, folding beds, and personal hygiene kits. In addition, Indonesia

sent an integrated team to conduct a post-disaster needs assessment in several areas of Vanuatu as an impact of Pam Cyclone.³⁶ Then, in 2016, the Government of Indonesia provided assistance of 5 million USD in order to assist Fiji in addressing the impact of Winston Cyclone.³⁷ In an annual press statement, Retno Marsudi said that Indonesia continues to strengthen its involvement in the Pacific through capacity building training and humanitarian assistance, especially when countries in the region are hit by natural disasters, as a form of solidarity as world citizen and Pacific nation.³⁸ Indonesia's presence in the Pacific region can be seen as an effort to build an empathy and solidarity that is based on cultural bonding and sharing burden. Despite political considerations, the assistance provided by Indonesia shows the importance of Indonesia for PICs as well as a form of solidarity to the Melanesian people in order to win the hearts and minds of people in the PICs. However, Indonesia should put more attention to this region especially in relation to the issue of Indonesia sovereignty in Papua.

The Importance of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Between Indonesia and Pacific Island Countries

Conducting relations between Indonesia and Pacific Islands Countries is part of the implementation of Indonesia's look east policy. The implementation of Indonesia's foreign policy has two main aspects, to achieve national interests and to contribute to solving the global

South-South-Cooperation-Roles-on-Disaster-Risk-Management-in-Asi.aspx

³⁴Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia, "Kerjasama Teknik Memperkuat Kemitraan", *Tabloiddiplomasi.org* (2009, August 19). Accessed January 23, 2018 at <http://www.tabloiddiplomasi.org/index.php/2009/08/19/kerjasama-teknik-memperkuat-kemitraan/>

³⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia, "International Training Program on Ecotourism for Pacific Countries, Kemlu.go.id. (2011, April 26). Accessed January 31, 2018 at <https://www.kemlu.go.id/id/berita/siaran-pers/Pages/International-Training-Program-on-Ecotourism-for-Pacific-Countries-Yogyakarta-25-April-4-Mei-2011.aspx>

³⁶Abba Gabrillin, "Kirim Bantuan ke Vanuatu, Kemenlu RI Galang Solidaritas Antarnegara", *Kompas.com* (2015, April 4). Accessed December 5, 2017

<http://nasional.kompas.com/read/2015/04/04/19182621/Kirim.Bantuan.ke.Vanuatu.Kemenlu.RI.Galang.Solidaritas.Antarnegara>

³⁷Humas Polkam, "Mennkoplhukam: Indonesia Akan Konsisten Hadir di Pasifik Selatan", *Polkam.go.id* (2016, April 1). Accessed January 3, 2018 at <https://polkam.go.id/mennkoplhukam-indonesia-akan-konsisten-hadir-di-pasifik-selatan/>

³⁸ The annual press statement of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia 2018

problems.³⁹ Indonesia's foreign policy can never be separated from its national interests. However, it does not mean that to achieve this national interest, Indonesia cannot contribute to global problems. The principle of free-active remains becoming the basis of Indonesia's foreign policy. At the practical level, relationships and cooperation with all countries are applied with the spirit of a million friends, zero enemy.⁴⁰ In the implementation of its foreign policy, Indonesia has a focus to become a bridge builder between various interests and positions in international level. In addition, Indonesia's role is also directed to be part of the solution to solve global problems.⁴¹ Indonesia's foreign policy also prioritizes issues of public interest such as environmental issues and South-South Cooperation. These two priority issues can basically work for hand in hand. This principle continues to be applied by Indonesia government in establishing relations with all countries including with countries in the Pacific Islands. In order to support the achievement of sustainable development goals and solve global challenges, Indonesia contributes to providing assistance for other developing countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

South-South Cooperation has been implemented since the beginning of Indonesian independence. Furthermore, Indonesia's cooperation with other developing countries was strengthened by the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement initiated by the Asian-African Conference in 1955.⁴² Then, the South-South Cooperation was developed with the support of development partners or called Triangular cooperation. This cooperation is a three-party cooperation between the state or

various development partners, Indonesia, and the beneficiary country⁴³. The terms of "South-South and Triangular Cooperation" is used in Indonesia to refer to all bilateral development activities (both South-South) and those involving development partners (Triangular).⁴⁴

Countries in the Pacific Islands, especially the South Pacific, which belong to the Melanesian Spearhead Group includes to the category of countries that become the priority of South-South and Triangular Cooperation assistance.⁴⁵ Pacific Islands countries are one of the region's most dependent on foreign aid, especially on development sector. The five largest donor countries in the Pacific region are Australia, the United States, China, New Zealand, and Japan.⁴⁶ Looking at the constellation in the Pacific region as well as in applying the balance of power, Indonesia has a great opportunity to increase its role in terms of providing technical assistance, particularly to mitigate disaster risk resulting from environmental problems in the Pacific region.

Disaster risk management is one of Indonesia's flagship program in the development sector in implementing SSTC. As described in the previous sub-chapter, Indonesia has provided training, technical assistance, as well as humanitarian assistance in addressing environmental issues for some countries in Pacific Islands. In 2016, the government of Indonesia allocated 75 million USD for realizing South-South Cooperation.⁴⁷ The importance of SSTC between Indonesia and PICs can be explained for several reasons. First, as mentioned in the first sub-section, Indonesia, and the Pacific Island countries have common challenges. As archipelagic countries, they have

³⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia, "Rencana Strategis Kemlu 2015-2019" (pp. 1) Jakarta: Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2015.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² UNDP Indonesia, "South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Indonesia" (December 16, 2015). Accessed January 28, 2018 at <http://www.id.undp.org/content/dam/indonesia/2015/brief/SSC-briefUNDPformat.pdf>

⁴³ Adirini Pujayanti, "Kerja Sama Selatan-Selatan dan Manfaatnya Bagi Indonesia" in *Jurnal Politika Volume 6 Issue 1*, 71. March 2015.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ UNDP Indonesia, *Loc. Cit.*

⁴⁶ Matthew Dornan & Jonathan Pryke, Foreign Aid to the Pacific: Trends and Developments in the Twenty-First Century in *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies Australia National University, Volume 4, Issue 3*, 386. September 2017.

⁴⁷ UNDP Indonesia, *Loc. Cit.*

some challenges in dealing with environmental issues. These countries are prone to disaster, therefore, they have an opportunity in conducting cooperation in facing environmental problems through SSTC. Second, countries in the Pacific Island are vulnerable to a number of natural disasters such as cyclones, droughts, floods, landslides and volcanic eruptions but these conditions are exacerbated by climate change. Despite high risks to environmental issues, small countries in the Pacific Islands still have very limited human resources as well as capacity to mitigate the disaster. This poses another challenge for countries in the Pacific Islands as they need some budget for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. Increasing Indonesia's status from developing country to middle income country (MIC) and also as a member of G20, Indonesia has a role and obligation to support and achieve development goals in the country and also in PICs. Third, Indonesia assist and strengthen its role in the PICs through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This cooperation can also be useful to reduce the dependence of Pacific countries to developed countries. Indonesia has provided a number of technical assistance to countries in the Pacific region in environment sector in order to reduce the risk of disaster as well as climate change. As a country with common environmental threats and part of the Pacific, Indonesia continues to be a development partner for Pacific countries. Last but not least, a wide range of assistance, both technical and humanitarian assistance provided by Indonesia through the SSTC framework for the Pacific Island countries can be seen from two sides. The collaboration between Indonesia and PICs is not only seen as a development partner but also as an effort to improve the capacity and experience of various institutions in Indonesia and PICs in managing disaster risk and climate change. This collaboration is a joint effort to overcome various environmental challenges. In addition, this cooperation can be seen as a forum for sharing experiences, ideas, and technologies. Furthermore, SSTC can be a powerful tool to win the hearts and minds of

people in PICs, particularly in relation to the issue of Indonesia sovereignty in Papua . This is also supported by strengthening the closer relations through more intense of working-level visits and meetings by the Government.

Conclusion

Environmental security problems such as disasters which can be exacerbated by the phenomenon of climate change continue to be a challenge for countries in the Pacific Islands. These challenges also increase with the limitation of human resources as well as their capacity in mitigating the disasters. Indonesia as one of the closest neighbor to this region has also common challenges. As a developing country that has been classified as a middle income country and has various experiences in dealing with disasters, sending humanitarian aid to a number of affected countries, and having advanced technology in early warning and monitoring system, through the South-South and Triangular Framework, Indonesia has included Pacific Island Countries as a priority to receive development assistance in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation sector. Various assistance has been provided by Indonesia to PICs. This collaboration is important to improve capacity and experiences, to share ideas and technologies in addressing environmental security challenges, to support sustainable development in PICs by reducing disaster risk by the provision of technical assistance, to strengthen a closer relation between Indonesia and PICs, and to demonstrate that Indonesia is part of Pacific Islands region.

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