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Assessing the Paradiplomacy of Regional Governments in Indonesia: The Case of Banten Province

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ABSTRACT

The development of international cooperation has undergone dynamic evolution, with active involvement from local governments that extends beyond the central government's authority. For this purpose, paradiplomacy has been widely applied by local governments in Indonesia. However, several, including the Province of Banten, have not fully optimized its implementation. Despite having significant potential for participating in international cooperation, the execution of paradiplomacy in Banten has not yet reached the expected level. This research aims to explain the implementation of paradiplomacy in the Province of Banten and to identify the factors influencing its ineffectiveness. The research applies a qualitative descriptive approach and uses case studies and document analysis to gain an in-depth understanding of paradiplomacy implementation. Data collection involves library research and field observations. The research finds that two factors contribute to the ineffectiveness of paradiplomacy in Banten, including legal ambiguities in the regulations governing paradiplomacy and the absence of a multi-level paradiplomacy system in Banten. Revitalizing these factors can enhance the effectiveness of Banten's paradiplomacy.

KEYWORDS

Paradiplomacy; Soft Power; Sub-state governments

INTRODUCTION

International cooperation and diplomacy are essential elements in international relations. However, with the passage of time, this cooperation increasingly involves entities below the national level, such as local or provincial governments. In Indonesia, the role of regional governments in foreign cooperation began to emerge after the enactment of the Regional Government Law in 1999 ([Indonesia, 2014](#)). This law was subsequently revised in 2004 and 2014 to regulate the authority of regional governments in conducting foreign cooperation ([Mukti, 2020](#)).

With the enactment of the regional autonomy law, regional governments in Indonesia can carry out foreign policy and diplomacy to promote the potential of their respective regions. Although the implementation of foreign policy is basically the task of the central government, the involvement of local governments as sub-state actors can support the success of Indonesia's diplomacy. Local governments can capitalize on their role in improving people's welfare. By implementing the right foreign policy, local governments can attract investment, open opportunities for cooperation with foreign countries, and promote superior products and regional tourism. Thus, local governments can contribute to improving people's welfare at the local level ([Windiani, 2013](#)). In this context, sub-state actors such as local governments have the potential to become an important part of Indonesia's overall diplomatic efforts.

Government decentralization improves services to the community by utilizing local government understanding of the needs of their region ([Fathun, 2018](#)). Local governments can play an active role in managing the region, including in foreign cooperation. This opportunity can be utilized to establish cooperation with other parties who have similar status, such as in sister city relations, to improve community development and welfare ([Rachmat et al., 2017](#)). Through decentralization, local governments in Indonesia have greater opportunities to play a role in foreign cooperation and expand their regional relations.

The sister city cooperation established among various cities and provinces in Indonesia is essentially symbolic and lacks continuity. It is primarily conducted at an elite level, neglecting to address the everyday aspects of people's lives. Even though regional foreign cooperation should ideally focus on benefiting the local population ([Rachmat et al., 2017](#)). Local governments have the authority to engage in international relations to deepen their economic and diplomatic influence abroad as international actors, although with certain limitations ([Duran, 2016](#)).

Paradiplomacy, in the context of international relations, has become an increasingly important topic in recent years. This concept refers to the efforts made by subnational entities, such as local or provincial governments, to engage in international relations and diplomacy, even though diplomacy is typically under the purview of the central government. In the Indonesian context, regional autonomy laws have provided

opportunities for local governments to implement foreign policies to promote the potential of their respective regions. Banten Province, as one of Indonesia's strategically located regions, holds significant potential to implement paradiplomacy as a tool for its development and the welfare of its people.

The implementation of paradiplomacy at the regional government level presents both challenges and opportunities that need to be carefully considered. In this context, Banten Province, as one of Indonesia's strategic regions, plays a vital role. The province boasts a strategic position as the gateway to Java Island from Sumatra and shares a direct border with the capital, Jakarta. Banten Province possesses various assets, including the largest international airport in Indonesia and the Port of Merak, making it a strategic region. However, the province also faces several development challenges, such as flooding and waste management. One potential solution is through international cooperation, as seen in the practices of Indonesian local governments implementing paradiplomacy. Thus, through paradiplomacy, it is hoped that the potential of Banten can be enhanced, and solutions can be sought for the issues it currently faces ([Syuryansyah, 2023](#)).

Foreign cooperation, especially through paradiplomacy, has become an increasingly popular strategy used by local governments in Indonesia to maximize their potential and seek solutions to the issues they face. Since 2007, the Government of Banten Province has initiated cooperation with several foreign provinces through the signing of Letters of Intent (LoI). This includes partnerships with Incheon, South Korea, on February 6, 2007, in various fields such as the economy, tourism, science and technology, education, and culture. Furthermore, LoI has also been signed with Zhejiang, the People's Republic of China, on September 21, 2021, covering investment, trade, tourism, education, agriculture, culture, youth, and sports. The Government of South Tangerang City has also established relations with the Government of Timrå Municipality in Sweden in areas related to youth, entrepreneurship, the environment, education, social welfare, and civil society. Meanwhile, the Government of South Tangerang City has collaborated with Daejeon City in South Korea in various aspects, including education, culture, sports, the economy, the environment, information technology, and biotechnology ([Bantenprov, 2022](#)).

Although there have been significant efforts in the form of signing LoIs, many of these collaborations have stalled at that stage. In some cases, they have only reached the level of signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) without subsequent realization or implementation of the agreements. This indicates that the implementation of the paradiplomacy concept in Banten Province has not reached its true potential. Therefore, this research aims to explain the implementation of the paradiplomacy concept in Banten Province, which is perceived as suboptimal, and to identify the influencing factors. The importance of this research lies in providing a better understanding of the practical experiences of paradiplomacy in Banten Province, enabling local governments and relevant parties to identify ways to improve implementation and achieve better results. Furthermore,

this research can offer deeper insights into the role of local governments in diplomacy and international relations, as well as how it can be a crucial part of Indonesia's overall diplomatic efforts.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on foreign cooperation by regional governments, also known as paradiplomacy, has been conducted extensively. In the study by ([Novialdi & Rasanjani, 2020](#)). titled "Optimizing the Ability of Aceh Province in Paradiplomacy, Cooperation between local governments in the country and abroad is also important to expand networks and take advantage of the exchange of knowledge and experience. Local governments must pay attention to national interests and ensure that the steps taken are consistent with the foreign policy of the country. Collaboration between the central government, local governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia is very important in achieving common goals and maintaining a balance between local and national interests. By having a global vision and taking proactive steps to take advantage of globalization opportunities, local governments can play an active role in the global economy and drive the growth of their region.

In the era of globalization, local governments could play an active role in the global economy by establishing relationships with outsiders, such as business partners, investors, and governments from other countries. Local governments need to have diplomatic skills and take advantage of opportunities for bilateral cooperation, foreign investment, and cultural exchanges. To succeed, they must have an in-depth understanding of global dynamics and economic trends and be able to adapt and take strategic steps to increase their regional competitiveness ([Magone, 2006](#)).

International cooperation carried out by local governments or paradiplomacy is a new phenomenon in international relations. In the 1980s, the term "paradiplomacy" was introduced by Panaytios Soldatos, combining "parallel diplomacy" to refer to foreign policy being carried out by a central non-government entity. Another term used is "microdiplomacy" by Ivo Duchacek ([Mukti et al., 2019](#)). Since its inception, the European Working Council has made the practice of paradiplomacy an important aspect as a tool to encourage regional presence to be actively engaged to build international cooperation ([Cornago, 1999](#)).

The political actions of sub-state entities and sub-state diplomatic activities have attracted significant attention from academics and practitioners. We can see this phenomenon with the increasing number and diversity of academic and policy literature related to the topic of paradiplomacy ([Duran, 2016](#)). Paradiplomacy provides opportunities for sub-state entities to play an active role in conservation efforts at the regional level, which in turn can strengthen cooperation between countries and achieve more effective results in protecting the environment and natural resources. Although challenges may arise in coordinating efforts between sub-state entities and national governments, paradiplomacy

has great potential to enrich conservation agendas and expand the reach of regional policies ([Cornago, 1999](#)). In simple terms, para-diplomacy is an instrument for promoting regional identity ([Munir et al., 2022](#)).

In carrying out paradiplomacy Michael Keating (2000) focuses on the capacity of local governments in conducting foreign cooperation to optimize the results of cooperation between the two so as not to lose orientation in conducting cooperation. In this study, Keating also believes that the role of institutions is very important in supporting activities. Each region has its own interests to achieve its 'regional interest' so that the role of a leader who is highly committed to advancing the region is indispensable ([Keating, 2000](#)).

As for the other participation given to local authorities or autonomous regions in international participation, Stephen Wolff also said that this shows that the basic idea of state sovereignty has changed fundamentally. The Westphalian system that gives full sovereignty to the central government must be prepared to share power in its international activities together with local authorities ([Mukti, 2015](#)).

During the Cold War, countries dominated international relations according to Westphalian principles. This principle limits the role of subnational entities. However, after the Cold War, views on international relations changed due to globalization, technological developments, and transnational issues ([Clemente, 2018](#)). Subnational entities are aware of their roles and interests in a global context ([Joenniemi & Sergunin, 2014](#)).

Scholars are starting to see that the philosophy governing center-regional relations is no longer effective in dealing with global challenges such as climate change, migration, international trade, and cross-border security ([Dickson, 2014](#)). Subnational entities increasingly believe that they need to have direct access to international relations and engage in cross-border cooperation to protect and advance their interests ([Bursens & Deforche, 2010](#)). After the Cold War, subnational entities were increasingly active in international relations. They forge sister city relationships, partnerships, and cross-border cooperation to exchange knowledge and resources ([Alavarez, 2020](#)). The Westphalian Principles remain the foundation of the international system, but subnational entities have an increasingly important role to play in meeting global challenges.

In recent decades, there have been significant changes in world architecture. The removal of state boundaries and the denationalization of society has opened opportunities for non-state actors, such as regional entities and interest groups, to participate in global governance ([Utomo, 2020](#); [Utomo, 2019](#)). This transformation creates a more elastic, multi-level governance structure, in which entities can run their own domestic politics at the regional level while also cooperating across borders at the global level. Non-state actors continue to have a significant influence on global decision-making processes ([Magone, 2006](#)).

Canada has tended to give provinces a significant role in trade negotiations, particularly through the C-Trade forum ([Paquin, 2022](#)). During the CETA negotiations, the

Government of Canada also reached an agreement with the United States on the issue of 'Buy America' or state government procurement, initiated trade negotiations with India, entered into a trade agreement with South Korea, joined the TPP negotiations and completed USMCA or NAFTA 2.0 negotiations with Mexico and the United States ([Paquin, 2018](#)).

Furthermore, research conducted by Xifra, entitled "Building sport countries' overseas identity and reputation: A case study of public paradiplomacy" shows how Catalonia, a Spanish autonomous region with its own government, has succeeded in developing public relations activities to build their international reputation in the field of sports. to strengthen regional identity and reputation through sports ([Xifra, 2009](#)). According to Wang, national reputation is a clear indication of the strength of a nation ([Wang, 2006](#)), and as stated by Mercer, this reputation reflects and influences a country's position in the global arena ([Mercer, 1996](#)). Non-central governments like Catalonia build their identity and reputation through public diplomacy. In the case of Catalonia, despite having a different language and culture, the country's sporting image especially after the 1992 Olympics became the main indicator of the success of Catalan soft power ([Xifra, 2009](#)).

Meanwhile, research on paradiplomacy in Asia shows that there are new patterns of behavior from local governments in conducting foreign cooperation. The pattern of paradiplomacy practices in Asian countries is clearly different from countries in Europe and North America ([Surwandono & Maksum, 2020](#)). Paradiplomacy in Asia reflects the unique dynamics and special factors in the regional context. Asian countries have diverse cultures, histories, and political systems, which have influenced the way local governments interact with international actors. The pattern of paradiplomacy in Asia is often influenced by national political dynamics, foreign policies of the central government, and the relationship between local governments and the central government ([Novialdi et al., 2022](#)).

Centralized countries tend to have tight political control, so subnational governments in these countries have little chance of achieving political independence by gaining support from the international community ([Chatterji & Saha, 2017](#)). Subnational governments tend to depend on the central government in foreign affairs and require approval or coordination from the central government. This impedes the political independence of subnational governments in establishing direct relations with the international community or seeking international support. They must operate within a foreign policy framework set by the central government, which may not always suit their interests. Therefore, subnational governments in centralized countries often have limitations in developing independent international relations or obtaining direct support from the international community ([Nganje, 2014](#)).

In an article written by Munir et al, underlined the importance of more in-depth research on paradiplomacy in Asian countries. This research can provide a better understanding of the practice of paradiplomacy by regional governments in Asia and its

development potential. By developing this research, Asian countries can increase the effectiveness of their international relations through paradiplomacy. This can also help build theoretical foundations and research models specific to paradiplomacy in Asia ([Munir et al., 2022](#)).

Recent literature on China's paradiplomacy shows that the power of foreign affairs in China's provinces has increased. However, the provincial government remains cautious in conducting foreign involvement and will not violate the implemented foreign agendas. Concerns about protodiplomacy forced the central government to develop a nationalist education movement aimed at strengthening Chinese national identity. This new national identity reinforces existing political values and emphasizes national unity in China, although so far Chinese provincial leaders are generally not interested or do not yet have the capacity to exercise protodiplomacy ([Liu & Song, 2020](#)).

Furthermore, Dhawan's research in India shows differences in the results of economic development between Indian states, with the southern and western states being more successful than the northern and eastern states. Korean investment in India tends to be concentrated in the southern and western states. The opening up of India's economy and the prominent role of regional parties in the central government have implicated the chief minister of state in foreign affairs. Several chief ministers have led business delegations abroad, and foreign diplomats communicate directly with them. Despite increasing Korean investor interest, overall investment and bilateral trade with India remain limited. The efforts of India's state level leaders will be key in enhancing bilateral economic relations in the future ([Dhawan, 2019](#)).

Paradiplomacy is a public diplomacy relationship at the provincial or regional level ([Jackson, 2018](#)). Provinces such as Guangdong and Yunnan in China have become important players in international relations through cooperation with foreign countries within the framework of the Belt and Road initiative initiated by the Chinese government. Beijing gives special powers to these provinces to carry out international activities. The provinces are also trying to expand their external autonomy by changing the narrative set by the national government ([Liu & Song, 2020](#)). This gives them space to take their own initiative in international relations, sometimes at odds with the official position of the central government. An empirical analysis of China reveals the nature and characteristics of China's paradiplomacy and uses a comparative approach to understand the differences between the provinces in the context of international relations. Overall, Guangdong and Yunnan are important players in China's cooperation with foreign countries through the BRI, and China represents an interesting dynamic of paradiplomacy for further study ([Liu & Song, 2021](#)).

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach and document analysis to understand the application of paradiplomacy. According to [Gerring \(2017\)](#), qualitative data

is commonly used in exploratory research, especially when the study is focused on limited cases. Qualitative methods are used because the goal of this research is to gain a deep understanding of the factors that influence the success and failure of paradiplomacy, as well as the root causes of these failures. The research design is based on a case study approach, as outlined by [Denzin and Lincoln \(1994\)](#). Case study research aims to explore as much information about a case as possible to study and understand it in-depth, leading to conclusive insights. In this research, the author will present several cases of paradiplomacy implementation in Indonesia as lessons for analyzing the application of paradiplomacy in Banten.

The data collection technique used includes literature review. According to Jeffrey W. Knopf, a literature review involves investigating to identify, search, and evaluate various articles, books, theses, dissertations, and other relevant sources related to specific issues, particular theories, or research central to our focus ([Knopf, 2006](#)). In this context, the researcher gathers documents related to paradiplomacy, such as cooperation agreements, activity reports, policy documents, and other relevant resources concerning the research topic. These documents are then analyzed in-depth to identify the factors that influence the success and failure of paradiplomacy implementation in Banten. The data analysis technique used in this research is qualitative analysis. Data is analyzed by identifying patterns, themes, and relationships among the factors influencing the success and failure of paradiplomacy. This analysis is conducted using an inductive approach, where findings emerging from the data are used to construct a comprehensive conceptual framework. The results of this research provide insights into the technical and non-technical factors that affect the success and failure of paradiplomacy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Paradiplomacy in Indonesia

An initial study by Sidik Jatmika in 2001 regarding the role and authority of local governments in foreign cooperation in Indonesia, focused on implementing Law no. 22 of 1999 concerning regional government or regional autonomy. This study explains that autonomous regions as new actors in international relations need to coordinate well with the central government to gain legitimacy in establishing foreign cooperation with foreign parties, both 'governmental' and 'non-governmental' ([Jatmika, 2001](#)).

In carrying out international cooperation between Regional Governments in Indonesia and other countries it is regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2019. Regional governments can establish cooperation with foreign countries if there are diplomatic relations between the regional government and the destination country. In addition, it is also important to achieve equal administrative status in international cooperation, so that local governments in Indonesia can partner with

local governments of other countries that have the same status, for example provinces with provinces or districts with districts ([Syuryansyah, 2023](#)).

The practice of paradiplomacy as a foreign policy by local governments in Indonesia has been carried out. However, there is a gap between active and passive local governments in the practice of paradiplomacy ([Surwandono & Maksum, 2020](#)). The results of the analysis of the architecture of paradiplomacy conducted by Surwandono in the constitutional dimension in Indonesia using the content analysis method show that the architecture of Indonesian paradiplomacy is still dominated by administrative, procedural, and technical aspects, which hinder the ability of regional governments to progressively accelerate paradiplomacy to achieve local and national interests. However, paradiplomacy in border areas in Indonesia, especially in the Riau Archipelago and West Kalimantan, has been relatively successful ([Surwandono & Maksum, 2018](#)).

Kuznetsov has defined the main motives for paradiplomacy: economic, cultural, political ([Chan, 2019](#)). In research conducted by [Issundari et al \(2021\)](#), showed that since 1985 Yogyakarta has established foreign relations with various cultural cooperation activities. This relationship began with closeness to Kyoto Prefecture, Japan, and was later strengthened through various collaborations and programs, such as children's painting (1999-2006), Yogyakarta-Kyoto art mission collaboration (2006), cultural heritage education (2000-2004), and educational scholarships. Apart from that, Yogyakarta also carries out other cultural paradiplomacy, such as the 2018 Jogja International Batik Biennale (JIBB), which contributes to positioning the identity of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, through its cultural diversity ([Issundari et al., 2021](#)).

In research conducted by Dharmajaya, it shows that the agriculture, fisheries, tourism, culture, and education sectors are the focus in sister collaboration between West Java and South Australia ([Dharmajaya & Raharyo, 2019](#)). Subsequent research shows that the Semarang regional government seeks to build international relations to promote culture, political autonomy, and communal characteristics. Semarang uses its locality to enhance urban development and has managed to maintain its local identity in an era of globalization and modernization. Semarang is an example for the development of Central Java, and its success can be an inspiration for locality initiatives in the area. Decentralization has supported paradiplomacy as a priority for local governments in recent times ([Susiatiningsih et al., 2018](#)).

Furthermore, the Surabaya City Government implemented energy diplomacy to support national energy goals with a focus on the energy needs of the local community. The process of energy diplomacy involves local mechanisms, coordination with provincial and central governments, and involves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of partner countries, namely Kitakyushu. This energy diplomacy is supported by legislative institutions, academics, and business circles in the city of Surabaya, with the main aim of providing direct benefits to all of society ([Rudiany et al., 2021](#)).

In 2022, it was found that the implementation of paradiplomacy by a figure named Putri had notable outcomes. Research indicates that many cities in Indonesia have established sister city partnerships with cities in other countries. However, it was observed that information about these collaborations is not readily available in an integrated manner or presented on a dedicated webpage specifically dedicated to sister cities on the respective city's website. This lack of centralized information or dedicated pages on sister cities suggests that the dissemination and communication of the collaborative efforts between sister cities might be limited. It hinders public awareness and accessibility to information about the partnerships, potentially impeding the development and progress of paradiplomatic initiatives. To enhance the effectiveness of paradiplomacy and promote greater transparency, it is recommended for cities to establish a dedicated webpage or section on their official websites that provides comprehensive information about their sister city collaborations. This centralized platform would allow citizens and stakeholders to easily access and stay informed about the progress and activities of these partnerships, fostering stronger connections and mutual understanding between the cities involved. The findings also indicate that the implementation of e-government in several cities or districts in Indonesia is still focused on improving the quality of public services ([Putri, 2022](#)).

The author describes how state transformation encourages active regional participation in paradiplomacy in Indonesia ([Luerdi, 2021](#)). This can be seen as a form of state compromise with increasing global demands, forcing them to delegate power. On the other hand, paradiplomacy is a way for regions to assert their local identity in the era of globalization through collaboration with specific foreign partners ([Utomo, 2022](#)).

By making effective use of paradiplomacy, regions in Indonesia can promote their interests and potential at the international level. However, it is important to continue to coordinate with the central government and maintain consistency with national foreign policy ([Milani et al., 2011](#)). Further research can improve this paper by focusing on case studies in authoritarian countries that have not experienced a similar transformation. The condition of democracy and the delegation of power is an important factor in the transformation of the country. In addition, research can analyse the influence of leader characteristics on regional ability to internationalize, including the selection of partners and relevant global issues in cooperation.

Implementation of Paradiplomacy in Banten

The implementation of paradiplomacy in Banten Province has been an effort that began in 2007. The provincial government has signed Letters of Intent (LOIs) with several provinces or municipalities in other countries, including Incheon, South Korea, Zhejiang, China, Timra, Sweden, and Daejeon, South Korea. The cooperation agreements cover various fields such as the economy, tourism, science and technology (Iptek), education, culture,

investment, trade, agriculture, youth, sports, the environment, as well as information technology and biotechnology.

Although these collaborations mark an important initial step in expanding Banten Province's international relations network, there are significant issues that need to be addressed. Many collaborations only extend to the signing of LOIs or MoUs without being followed by actual implementation or the realization of the commitments. This indicates that there are challenges in translating good intentions into concrete actions to achieve tangible benefits from this international cooperation. The implementation of paradiplomacy in Banten Province often stalls at the stage of signing MOUs without significant progress, due to several reasons that can be outlined as follows:

1. Limited Coordination Between Local and Central Government

The lack of effective coordination between the Banten provincial government and the central government is a major obstacle in implementing paradiplomacy. Without clear support and guidance from the central government, the implementation of paradiplomacy practices may face hindrances and uncertainties.

Weak coordination between local governments negatively impacts local communities and programs. It is important for local governments to coordinate effectively and efficiently to optimize their potential. Through good coordination, they can combine resources, experience and expertise for programs that have a positive impact on society, such as natural resource management, infrastructure development, public services, and local economic sectors ([Mukti et al., 2019](#)).

The role of local governments in international diplomacy in Indonesia is still limited due to the tendency of state-centre diplomacy. However, local governments have an important role to play in promoting local interests at the global level. Through cooperation with subnational entities in other countries, they can exchange knowledge, experience, and resources to advance their local agendas at the international level ([Zadeh & Kirmanj, 2017](#)).

In this regard, it is important for local governments to strengthen their own internal coordination and build networks of cooperation with external parties, including the central government, international organizations, and non-state actors ([Hubbert, 2020](#)). Thus, they can expand their roles in international diplomacy and promote their local interests on the global stage.

2. Lack of Understanding in Selecting Paradiplomacy Partners

One of the emerging issues is the lack of in-depth understanding among the government officials in Banten when it comes to choosing suitable paradiplomacy partners. It is crucial to have a well-directed strategy in selecting regions or entities that share cultural similarities or compatible goals.

Cultural paradiplomacy itself is a significant aspect in strengthening international relations in the era of globalization. Emphasizing culture in international cooperation can be a powerful tool in introducing and expanding mutual understanding among various world cultures. Therefore, it is important to understand and respect cultural differences and ensure that cultural paradiplomacy practices align with local values.

The selection of Daejeon, South Korea, as a partner in cultural paradiplomacy practices in Banten underscores the importance of considering the cultural characteristics alignment between the two regions involved in the cooperation. Criticism of the choice of Daejeon for cultural paradiplomacy practices in Banten arises due to its perceived mismatch with the existing cultural characteristics of the region. In the context of cultural paradiplomacy, maintaining alignment with the culture of the participating province or region is essential. As an alternative, Banten Province can take an example from the efforts made by Yogyakarta in strengthening its cultural identity. Yogyakarta is a good example of leveraging its cultural richness and history to promote itself at the international level, including through cultural cooperation. Choices like these can be more effective in ensuring that the culture and values aimed to be promoted through paradiplomacy genuinely reflect local cultural characteristics ([Issundari et al., 2021](#)).

3. Lack of Understanding of Paradiplomacy Procedures

Another reason why the provincial government of Banten is not actively engaged in international cooperation is due to a lack of understanding about the procedures and mechanisms involved in such cooperation. Foreign affairs legislation in Indonesia does not provide clear guidelines on the involvement of regional governments in foreign relations.

Misunderstanding of the procedures involved in the implementation of paradiplomacy can also contribute to stagnation. Regional governments need to comprehend the procedures, regulations, and necessary steps required to carry out paradiplomacy practices effectively.

Local governments do not really understand the steps of foreign cooperation, so they lack the confidence to practice paradiplomacy ([Harakan et al., 2021](#)). Therefore, it is important to include provisions explaining the role and authority of local governments in terms of foreign cooperation. Thus, the provincial government of Banten and other local governments will receive clear directions on how to carry out foreign cooperation and take advantage of existing opportunities for the benefit of their region. The author's suggestion is to amend the Indonesian Foreign Relations Law which has not changed since 1999. This amendment must pay attention to regulations regarding the role and involvement of non-government actors in diplomacy and foreign policy ([Oktadewi & Wahyu, 2018](#)).

First, in drafting amendments to the law, it is important to consider arrangements that allow regional or provincial governments to be actively involved in foreign relations in accordance with national interests. This could include empowering local or provincial

governments to establish direct relations with subnational entities in other countries, as well as forging cross-border partnerships and cooperation involving cultural, economic, and social aspects.

Second, the amendment needs to ensure that there is a clear framework for coordination and collaboration between the central government and regional or provincial governments in terms of foreign policy. This will enable regional or provincial governments to issue policies that suit their local needs and potential, while considering the overall national interest.

Third, involving regional or provincial governments in the process of drafting amendments to laws will create a better understanding of the needs and potential of each region. By considering local interests and cultural identity adequately, the resulting foreign policy will be more inclusive and able to promote national interests holistically.

Thus, through amendments to the Law on Indonesian Foreign Relations which pay attention to the role of regional or provincial governments, a legal framework that is more comprehensive and adaptive to changes in the dynamics of international relations can be created. This will enable non-governmental actors, including regional or provincial governments, to make a significant contribution to shaping foreign policy and advancing national interests.

CONCLUSION

Paradiplomacy has been a longstanding phenomenon in Europe and North America. Local governments in both regions have successfully utilized paradiplomacy to maximize their potential. On the other hand, the development of paradiplomacy in the Asian region has also shown positive progress, although not as optimal as in Europe and North America. This is caused by differences in the system of government in which most countries in Asia are unitary states, not federal states.

The development of paradiplomacy in Indonesia has also shown some successes. In the implementation of paradiplomacy by Banten Province, despite efforts such as the signing of Letters of Intent (LoI) with several provinces in other countries, there have been some failures hindering real progress in paradiplomacy cooperation. Weak coordination between the central government and regional governments, limited understanding of procedures and mechanisms, and cultural incompatibility with cooperation partners are some factors hindering progress.

To address these failures, it is important to consider amending Indonesia's foreign relations law, which has been in use since 1999. These amendments should include granting authority to regional governments or provinces to establish direct relations with subnational entities in other countries and engage in cross-border partnerships and cooperation involving cultural, economic, and social aspects. Furthermore, a clear framework for coordination and collaboration between the central government and regional governments

or provinces in foreign policy is needed. It is also essential to involve regional governments or provinces in the amendment process to ensure that local interests and cultural identity are adequately considered.

Thus, these amendments will create a more comprehensive and adaptive legal framework for the changing dynamics of international relations. This will enable regional governments or provinces to play a more active role in international diplomacy and advance national interests more effectively.

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