

Regional Diplomacy as a Study-Based Policy to Enhance the Capacity of the Research and Development Institutions in West Java

RMT Nurhasan Affandi^{1*}, Windy Dermawan², Ivan Darmawan³, Yusa Djujandi⁴

¹²Department of International Relations, Universitas Padjadjaran

³Department of Government Science, Universitas Padjadjaran

³Department of Political Science, Universitas Padjadjaran

*Korespondensi: affandi@unpad.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This paper intends to review the possibility of research and development institutions in West Java to enhance their capacity on the study of regional diplomacy as a study-based policy. It can be said that, up to this point, the concern and action of the research and development institutions in West Java has never or yet to mention regional diplomacy, let alone studying or even cultivating the regional diplomacy towards (becoming) a study-based policy. Is it because the main task and function of the research and development institute in West Java is only to serve the internal needs or interests of the organization or corporation or the relevant regional apparatus? Is that important for the research and development institutions in West Java to care about and take part in the regional diplomacy in order for it to become a study-based policy? Is it possible that this concern and action will push the research and development institutions to enhance their capacity so that they will give strategic significance to the regional diplomacy in West Java, both at the provincial and municipal levels? The things intriguing this curiosity are analyzed with the dynamics of the research and development institutions in West Java; as well as the direction of diplomacy efforts in West Java; and the following relations between them. For this reason, the conceptualization of regional diplomacy needs to be built adequately. This research uses qualitative methods and data collection techniques through interviews with a number of relevant informants from the government, community or private sector, as well as the university in West Java. It is also enriched by document or literature studies including virtual library sources. The results of this research indicate that the existence of research and development institutions in West Java is still yet to be optimal when assessed in the context of regional diplomacy there, referring to the policy-based studies in its meaning. In addition, research and development institutions in West Java tend to prioritize their functions limited to the regional regulations in providing administrative facilitation or recording institutions. Nevertheless, they are also aware of the importance of increasing the capacity or capability of research and development institutions in order to be strategic enough for the regional diplomacy.

Keywords: research and development, research-based policy, diplomacy, management capability, action capacity, paradiplomacy, West Java.

INTRODUCTION

A number of research and development institutions that were (merely) formed were not only in the national scope, as part or in the form of ministries, but also in the regional governance and/or society in Indonesia. It is not difficult to suspect that it is quite understandable if the regions show the impression of "recentralization" in the process of decentralization, especially regarding joint work and partnerships with foreign parties (Sainz, 2008). Such an impression may be considering the regulatory changes regarding local government and perhaps concerning the attitude of the regions tending to wait for orders from the center rather than taking the initiative or being proactive in developing their creativity and innovation (Grydehøj, 2013). Many parties highly put their hope in the research and development institutions in the regions, either separately or as part of a development planning agency. However, even after the establishment of research and innovation bodies, either at national or regional level, this belief or hope has not been properly realized. As stated in Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, for example, the functions of research and development institutions include facilitation, consultation, education, training, and of course, research and development in

achieving regional development. In that context, the research and development institutions should also be able to be creative innovatively and innovate creatively, not only in the dimension of governance, but also in the dimension of society. For example, to maintain and promote development, they may explore local and global, or, domestic and international sources harmonizing the spirit of the times. In other words, the research and development institutions may also put the focus on contemporary creativity and innovation in their various actions or within their outputs, outcomes, and findings. Even it is possible for them to prepare for adapting with the changes in circumstance after or because of the global pandemic, along with foreign opportunities and constraints that have challenged Indonesia's revival ethos, both at national and sub-national level, especially through regional diplomacy.

Let's just assume that from diplomacy to paradiplomacy to regional diplomacy, it is a series of creative innovations in reasoning and/or ideas. Furthermore, when a nation-state or national government provides opportunities (i.e engagement, involvement, participation) in foreign relations and cooperation, there is nothing wrong with regional actors becoming supporting performers (helping break through deadlocks or even accelerating progress) based on the management capability and capacity of possible diplomatic action. For this reason, public entities, organizations, corporations, or even local individuals can do it as well. This phenomenon has become a consideration of multitrack diplomacy or multilayer diplomacy (Holmes, 2020), cultural diplomacy, and public diplomacy; with or without being preceded by the localization process (Dodd, 2011; Hadiz, 2010; Michelmann & Hocking, 1995; Wang, 2006) to criticize whether or not localization is necessary. Meanwhile, the question is how to arrange governance that can be considered proper for that, whether the region is at the local, subnational, regional, global, or multilevel level (Dickson, 2014). Of course, it should also be considered by looking at the boundaries of central and non-central (decentralized) governance, along with the similarities or differences between unitary and federal references (Barros & Marinana, 2010). For this reason, regional diplomacy should not be judged only from the negative image when it undermines or competes with the national government. In the overall evaluation there is also a constructive side in that they assist the implementation of national policies. This might be compared to the growth triangle areas developed by Indonesia in the ASEAN context (Tang & Thant, 1994) or by observing the regional country metaphor. It may also be approached in terms of macro-regions and micro-regions (De Lombaerde, 2010; Dubois et al., 2009; Rossi, 1998), or in terms of decentralization and localization of foreign policy (Michelmann & Hocking, 1995).

Without neglecting the existing knowledge gap, the regional diplomacy can also be seen as a regional policy. But related to experience in West Java or other regions, there is a data or a fact that regional policies regarding foreign relations and or cooperation have not been based on previous studies so far. If the regional foreign relations or cooperation is the result, then the diplomacy is the process; along with the management capability and diplomatic action capacity which as a whole is a matter of diplomacy. According to that logic, regional diplomacy and its results so far have not been sufficient to be called as a study-based regional policy. Can such a matter also be interpreted towards the capacity of research and development institutions in related regions? The pre-field study assessment noted that the research and development institutions in the regions had also not considered that their actions could refer to regional foreign relations and/or regional foreign cooperation as opportunities to increase and promote creativity and innovation.

Started from that assumption, this paper tries to see the possibilities that is needed or possible to be done, such as "capacity building" based on the interests or needs they are responsible for (Sá, 2008). Nevertheless, the great desire in the research is to discover the contributive function of the research and development institutions in West Java towards (which has the potential to be processed into) a diplomacy modeling at provincial or municipal level, leading to the regional diplomacy models in Indonesia. If relying on the wide and varied frame of reference/experience of the regions, it seems that this modeling is only sufficient at the West Java level. However, it is not impossible to derive it to the district/city level or to be projected to become a generalization in Indonesia. This is an interesting challenge for students of diplomacy studies in particular or students of International Relations studies in general, even for students of Foreign Policy studies as well by reaching out to linkage politics in a broad sense between local wisdom and global policy. It is possible that the contributive function of research and development institutions is also quite potential in their efforts to grow, develop, and advance the regional diplomacy. It seems that West Java's progress in regional diplomacy needs to be constructed so that it is functional for districts/cities in its territory to participate in utilizing various

foreign resources both in the development of each region in West Java and within the framework of Indonesia's national development equity. In particular, regional diplomacy in West Java is also quite proper to help the success of Indonesia's revival after the global Covid-19 pandemic.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Talking about this, there are many things that should be conceptualized first, such as research and development institutions by detailing the concepts of each words: institutions, research, and development. Likewise, in conceptualizing the institution, there should also be the location of its existence whether in community organizations, private corporations, or in a government. The second is about regional diplomacy, by detailing the scope or elements of what is meant by both diplomacy and region. Between these two conceptions there is a matter of policy, but it doesn't need to be played as an intervening variable. In this paper, not all of conceptual details are explained but only the most important selected to limit the boundaries of study or concern. For example, the research and development institutions studied are not exclusive to regional apparatuses, but it needs confirmation or clarification for comparison from those found in private corporations and their community organizations.

The conceptualization concerning regional diplomacy in this paper is also based on previous studies. At least, there are three derivation options that can be reviewed. First, the issue of regional diplomacy most often involves the cooperation using the term "sister city" and "sister province" even other terminology is also available (i.e. twinning town). Second, the issue of regional diplomacy is often related to "paradiplomacy" but without emphasizing local government actors as the main concern. Third, the issue of regional diplomacy is expanding with derivations according to the specificity of "foreign relations" and the generality of "international cooperation", and afterwards confusion arises between foreign relations, foreign cooperation, foreign policy, paradiplomacy, multitrack diplomacy, and regional components i.e. actors of sub-state, sub-national, or local actors; or terms such as non-central and decentralized actors to simultaneously refer to the phenomenon of decentralization. This confusion often occurs in the implementation of general theory to specific phenomena.

Considering those terms above, this paper uses the paradigm of pluralism, a thinking framework facilitating the emergence of various possible actors in world politics and concerning the relationship between various unique actors, as the thinkers of the English School have long recognized. Pluralism in the sense of political philosophy also allows recognition and affirmation of diversity in political systems in the coexistence of various interests or needs, beliefs or faiths, and lifestyles. Pluralism encourages community members to accommodate a wide diversity by organizing the construction or reform of social institutions to balance interests and needs in the society life. The emergence of pluralism in the study of International Relations is motivated by the increasing complexity of social life. This opens the door to international relations for various non-state actors and challenges the conventional understanding of diplomacy in international relations conducted only by the statecraft. Pluralists also argue that various non-state activities continue to erode barriers between domestic affairs and international affairs.

Furthermore, while compiling an understanding of regional diplomacy which is expected to be a study-based policy, this paper also uses the concept of capacity building or development. It may tend to the review towards the action capacity and management capability contained in the implementation of regional diplomacy; it may also be possible to reason paradiplomacy as a capacity building strategy (Joenniemi & Sergunin, 2014). However, the local aspects of regional diplomacy itself are interpretively a transformation in the idea that the central government also has limitations in solving local problems that are typical or specific to some issues in certain regions let alone a long-distance or trans-local issue in relevant with its relevancy with functions of diplomacy and their relation to the work of non-central actors abroad or even on the international stage. That is the reason that, decentralization by the subnational actors will take different forms, according to the diversity of non-central actors such as provinces, states, prefectures, municipalities, districts or non-governmental organizations, social institutions or community organizations, and corporations.

This form of distribution is about what becomes the basis of participation in international relations in the external (action) spheres. With decentralization, state actors can do this within the boundaries of regions as sub-state actors. Referring to the function of the new diplomacy as well as the expansion of its actors, diplomacy will change towards transformative development in an inclusive manner for various actors to take part in

diplomatic practices. Discussions on the use of regional terms can be found in various forms and in their descriptive aspects. But fundamentally, a region is a right constructed by society or as a result of social construction (Dickson, 2014).

The term of 'daerah' in Indonesian is compared with the word "region" (in English) which is often used in many scientific disciplines. It often causes confusion or provokes various assumptions and multiple interpretations, depending on the point of view. The "region" can be divided into three with the widest level, which the first is the region as the united region of a number of countries gathered in a group or association of countries as they are close geographically. Another level is the territory of a country or nation-state. For this research, the Southeast Asian region includes Indonesia, so in other words, Indonesia is a member country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). For this research as well, the Province of West Java is part of the Indonesian territory, hence since Indonesia is part of Southeast Asia, West Java is also a subregion of Southeast Asia (Dickson, 2014). Such reasoning is constructed in the study of paradiplomacy as macro-region and micro-region, including the growth triangles such as Sijori (Singapore, Johor, Riau), or metaphorical theorizing of regional countries; as well as other examples in the European or Mediterranean scope (Duran, 2015).

Apart from that, the specific meaning of the region for the regional diplomacy refers to its continuity as a geographical entity, which can be traced based on historical, economic, linguistic or cultural aspects. In such a context, physical characteristics, characteristics of human impact (human geography), and characteristics of human interaction with the natural environment (environmental geography) become very important. It includes concerning the process of dividing it, constructed by the community and the surrounding environment according to custom, culture, code of conduct or identity (Grydehøj, 2014).

There are many variations of terminology, physical size, administrative structure, and historical sequences regarding the region in Europe, America, Africa, and in Asia. These diplomatic actors in Indonesia are known as provinces, cities and districts with their various units of representation. Apart from that, there were also (used to be) some areas that are in between, such as residencies and *kawedanaan*, or sub-local units with various names and possible to be involved in a global network through the global perspectives. Participation of sub-national entities in various arenas in foreign countries is a new opportunity to increase while optimizing the achievement of national interests and/or regional needs. The least of this is when these subnational entities have the opportunity to pursue foreign relations which may also influence foreign policy (McMillan, 2012). It is in this case that foreign relations need to be distinguished from international relations which are tend to focus on relations between countries.

RESEARCH METHOD

This paper is a part of the research results based on the qualitative principles and methods along with analytical-descriptive techniques. Overall the aim of the research is to review what are the meanings and or interpretations of the research and development institutions in West Java. This review is then processed to explain the strategic aspects of research and development institutions in West Java for policy formulation (and decision making) based on the studies or research. Furthermore, this explanation leads to the strategic meaning of research and development institutions for study-based policies regarding regional diplomacy. It is in this context that the study focuses on the possibility of the research and development institutions in West Java to increase their capacity.

The data collection covers the diverse regional elements, especially within the scope of research purpose of the research and development institutions and regional diplomacy. The typology starts from the options of actors or regional elements, i.e. *governmental*, *societal*, and *college*. Then it considers the options of *polity*, *entity*, and *community*, as well as the options of agencies or institutions, organizations, corporations, and individuals. Also, it covers the options of the source person(s) according to their field, expertise, character, position, professionalism, and trustworthiness. The last is the options of field or location, interpreted physically, virtually, or textually in a flexible sense.

Researchers uses data collection methods with the direct interview techniques, as well as written answers based on a list of questions, both conducted offline and online. The number of the research and development institutions planned before, includes the representations in 9 provinces, 9 central regions and 28

other regions including inter-provincial border areas and comparison (control) areas taken from the Province of DKI Jakarta. It is complemented by the representatives of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and the Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA) as well as local government associations (i.e. provincial, district, and city). But at this stage, apart from at the provincial level, only 20 options have responded and spread across 11 districts/cities. In data collection, the researchers also chose document study techniques or literature studies along with virtual library sources. Meanwhile, during the socialization, short talks were held with a number of regional apparatus leaders. The literatures used in searches stage include electronic books, journal articles, previous research reports and notes, as well as internet information on websites of local government and multinational or transnational corporations. It is also supplemented by the minutes of ceremonies, talks or negotiations, memorandums of understanding, international agreements and others. The data collection and processing or discussion refers to the collaboration with undergraduate and postgraduate students, assisted by several alumni in a multidisciplinary manner.

These options of data collection and review were carried out in the initial exploration which we hope will be continued and deepened in the coming years of research. In order to prove the credibility and validity of the selected data or sources (person), other method options are attempted as a triangulation process. Only a small portion has been confirmed and/or clarified by one foreign informant, one (municipal) diplomatic practitioner, one global activist (volunteer), and two representatives of the diaspora. This research analyzes data in several stages, both descriptive, explanatory and comparative to interpretation before drawing conclusions and taking notes.

DISCUSSION

Dynamics of Research and Development Institutions in West Java

In short, the dynamics of research and development institutions in West Java are inseparable from the diversity of governance between regions, in their naming and regulation. In addition, it also relates to the conditional specificity of regions, that are geographical location, topographical and demographic characteristics, along with superior commodities, or priority scales set by the region in the series starting from visions, missions, objectives, strategies, programs and projects to actions. All of these are the "closest" circumstance for each research and development institution which then influences the diversity of formats, sizes, scopes, positions and space based on the value of the allocation and distribution of resources. As mentioned in the previous section, human factors, organizational factors, systemic factors, and institutional factors are interrelated to the point where current boundaries for research and development institutions in each region are created. A further dynamic is the diversity between the public and the private sector, between the collaborating "helix" elements, even within the scope of stakeholders. Finally, it also determines requests, orders, and demands for services (services) of existing research and development institutions. Of course, if the continuance is not or has not been knowledgeable about international sources, and is not or has not been familiar with foreign parties, how could the need arise for the services of research and development institutions within the scope of regional diplomacy? Even though regulations regarding regional foreign relations and/or regional foreign cooperation are already exist, research and development institutions in the regions are not or have not been empowered to pursue the possibilities of being regulated.

Is there an opportunity for deconstruction and can the logic be reversed? So, precisely because we don't know or recognize it (yet), the regional diplomacy can be introduced. Maybe it's not to directly organize but to prepare the capacity for action and the capability of diplomatic management to be possible. Maybe it's also just to know, recognize, study, research and develop basic pioneers towards regional foreign relations or cooperation, for example by knowing and recognizing the functions and roles of regions in energy security or food security or in global health and digital transformation. How the regions can be prepared for these things because it is impossible for the central government to rush alone and monopolize the matter just for the fear towards a one-way correlation between regional intelligence and regional fussiness (let alone the defiance of it). Another deconstruction is, instead, that the ignorance and unfamiliarity of the region about foreign countries is something we should be worried about. In that, it will neglect them and make them lazy to revive while entering the new normal or next normal and to share with the central government for the desire to recover faster and rise stronger for the sake of Indonesia's excellence.

Referring to the current order, research and development or in standard terms, namely, "*kelitbangan*" (in Indonesian) is an important unit of priority planning and development. Next there is a combination of research and development and planning and development. It is supposed to have a large capacity triggering and simulating the region with full empowerment of creativity and innovation. It is not only being on paper from the regulation sheet, but also being able to know and recognize themselves and others while understanding the mitigation to advance the region, including by utilizing foreign sources, together with foreign parties. This is somewhat unique in reasoning and means of diplomacy between self, other, and same (Duran, 2015) although it remains open to criticism that is aware of textual and contextual diversity in the scope of actors in International Relations and the specificity of regions in West Java (Kaliber, 2019; Kleinn, 2016; Tsygankov, 2008). However, the capacity of research and development institutions may also facilitate policy-based studies on regional diplomacy to instead help interpret and resolve the problem in diversity. Meanwhile, Indonesia is increasingly being considered as a heterogeneous nation with a level of resilience and growth commended in the sustainable global development. This achievement should also include regional synergy, with the (expected) strategic contribution from research and development institutions, especially for the policy-making process and study-based decision-making. Returning back to the basic function of research, that strategic contribution can also be considered as a possible result of experimental and theoretical endeavors especially on how research and development institutions are trying to update old knowledge or acquire new knowledge, in unraveling problems and reaching solutions (Romer, 1990).

Every policy formulated by the government certainly needs to be produced with good quality because no matter what, the policy which is in the public sphere should be applicable, adaptive, and capable of advancing opportunities for empowerment and the quality of its human resources. The evidence-based policy refers to policies based on evidence through in-depth studies or scientific research. This study or research is usually supported by using the best evidence as a basis for decision making. Currently, the research and development institutions in Indonesia generally and in West Java particularly still have limitations, both in terms of quality and quantity. But in the future it may have its own advantages as designed and planned through the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA). Then it is not impossible for the regions in West Java to fulfill strategic meaning for their diplomacy.

As a closing deconstruction, the dynamics of research and development institutions in the regions in West Java must change perceptually (first) and factually (later), depends on the elements (diplomatic actors) in the regions themselves. It is not the diversity that overwhelms the dynamics but the richness that can strengthen the resilience and growth of each and one another. As far as this perception is concerned, there is always hope for capacity building. While carrying out capacity building, there is nothing wrong with adding insight into regional diplomacy.

Directions of Diplomacy in West Java

In summary, based on data analysis and previous studies, it seems that the insights and experiences of the province of West Java (Alam et al., 2020; Dermawan et al., 2021) regarding regional diplomacy have been quite helpful (admittedly) to the central government. The progress of foreign relations and cooperation that it has carried out has been presented in various mass media, both local, national and international. Likewise, historical records of the progress of the Bandung city (Affandi et al., 2021) since starting to increasing relations following the collaboration of sister cities. But why it is not or has not been followed by many cities in West Java, needs a separate explanation. One or two regional diplomacies are indeed recorded, although without formal explanation from regional elements who did it, for example Garut (Shafiyah et al., 2022) or Pangandaran (Rahman & Affandi, 2022). But generally they are in the form of activities from regional elements to or in foreign countries without being intentional as diplomacy for regional foreign relations or foreign cooperation (yet). This may be because the region's own urge are still very limited, perhaps also because of the limited invitations or offers from potential international partners.

Research and development institutions in West Java also thrive in these conditions: very limited foreign aid, international grants, or partnerships and collaborations with foreign parties within the scope of implementing their main tasks and functions. Another problem is the lack of introduction (dissemination, education) of regional diplomacy for the governmental and non-governmental as well as social circles. The

general opinion also predicts that diplomatic policies in West Java tend to have a top-down and elitist pattern, reflecting on mere formal diplomacy. Meanwhile, the example of the Sukabumi Geopark construction with the partnership with Australia, or the construction of a park in Sumedang with the support of Japan, even the willingness of Austin, a city in the United States, to participate in planning Sister Cities with Cirebon, can be marked as a possible direction for each region's diplomatic endeavors. On the other hand, it can also be marked as a possibility to strengthen the capacity of research and development institutions in these regions towards preparing the basis for regional policies to initiate their diplomacy.

The direction of diplomatic endeavors in West Java can be viewed as a functional roadmap to guide where the attention and progress are headed. This speculatively questions on what, how, and why the regions prepare their regional diplomacy. These guidelines or predictions also apply to research and development institutions as they are challenged to anticipate answers about what and how and why. The results or points of anticipation should also be sufficient to design and plan policies based on studies on regional diplomacy. Meanwhile, the direction of diplomatic endeavors in West Java itself can be guessed through several examples such as the Citarum Harum program, the Rebana Triangle program, the Foreign Direct Investment program, as well as the Southeast Asia Creative Cities Forum and others.

Breaking down the examples of the regional diplomacy direction mentioned above, tourism and the creative economy are important choices to be managed, because they cover many (sub)sectors that are very promising and even allow creativity and low-cost economic innovation. That way, it can be relied upon to revive the economy in the new normal or next normal era, and it is even estimated that it will also be resilient in facing the (predicted) global crisis in 2023. The direction of regional diplomacy is not only an introduction and promotion in the global sphere but also continuing negotiations and bargaining direct or indirect investment considering West Java's success as a region among the most optimal in meeting investment targets in Indonesia. It is in this scope that the contribution of research and development institutions in West Java can be observed according to provincial and municipal levels. Will they only take care of themselves or will they then care and share with all areas in their territory, that is not necessarily an easy answer. However, it should be reconsidered that the direction of regional diplomacy may be perceived as a burden or as an opportunity especially for capacity building that can carry out facilitation for regional policies based on studies regarding regional diplomacy.

In practice, regional diplomacy involves various stakeholders and takes place in parallel or simultaneously, but coordination is still needed in order to be synergistic and achieve common goals. Another example as a direction for regional diplomacy is the English For Ulama program (Nurdyawati et al., 2022) which refers to the European public as the main target through England as its front door of diplomacy. With this program, the Ulamas are expected to play the role as diplomacy actors to spread and embody the positive image and Islamic values that are highly tolerant, peace-loving, friendly and cooperative towards the global public. But here is not just about a religious issue. But here it's not just a matter of religion, West Java also has diplomacy to introduce or even globalize the cultural values of the Pasundan area, while negating the construction of primordiality that undermines national unity and integrity, as this is the nation's wealth in strengthening the cultural security against the (global) popular culture instead.

Another challenge faced by West Java is the low level of innovation ecosystems in the region which may hinder the downstream and commercialization of research. This arises due to a lack of collaboration between parties or stakeholders including the collaboration of academics and practitioners upholding research activities. West Java has diverse research institutions, both with governmental and social elements. Universities in West Java are also growing and developing so it is an abundance of resources for research experts. This is where it needs the increased collaboration among actors from research institutions to improve the regional innovation ecosystem.

West Java is required to prepare for contributing and playing an active role in the domestic and international scope in order to achieve various regional goals and needs. Therefore, West Java needs to explore various possible actions done to achieve this goal. In addition, with the increasingly high demands of the contemporary world, such as globalization which encourages competition at the quality level of human resources and the level of economy and welfare, the flow of multi-sector democratization, as well as the rapidly growing role of social media, West Java can no longer position itself only as an administrative area. In order to make its

development successful, West Java needs to optimally establish foreign relations. This activity can be accommodated by regional diplomacy.

CONCLUSIONS AND NOTES

It can be concluded in this paper that there has not been much attention from research and development institutions in West Java towards policies based on studies regarding regional diplomacy. In this way, it is also understandable that their contribution is still very limited or almost non-existent for regional endeavors referring to foreign sources. Currently, the function of research and development institutions in West Java is relatively only serving requests, not being proactive or taking the initiative to design and plan studies, as a basis for policy considerations. In other words, their role is just quite simple, that is, as a mere administrative agency only when the study of certain issue is required to be (one of) regional considerations. However, it must be noted that the research and development institution itself is aware of policy making in the regions needing to refer to results from certain study. It was also noted that, even if a region is interested and/or intends to pursue regional foreign relations or cooperation, it certainly requires the basis of relevant study results.

Along with these thoughts and reasoning, the search for meaning from research and development institutions in West Java will lead to its strategic meaning, both that strive for and triggers regional creativity, especially the creativity and innovation for study-based regional policies, particularly regarding regional diplomacy. Fundamentally, the meaning of this strategy has been stated or implied in laws and regulations, as a mandate that needs to be strengthened in its implementation. Therefore the existence of regional research and development institutions in the governmental, societal as well as industrial spheres and universities, will gain added value with regional diplomacy studies in facing the inevitable Intermestic and Global networks.

Just to conclude, it must be reminded again that how research and development institutions in the regions wish to embody the characteristics of the Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA) cannot be delayed any longer. As far as the presuppositions in the research proposal provided, the stages of roles that can be reached by research and development institutions in the regions are not impossible. It is possible even in playing the significance of a credible think tank and policy brief, so as in improving the quality of public policy and the weight of its relevance to benefit the public. Furthermore, the regions should contribute to strengthening international steps taken by Indonesia, including through opportunities for foreign relations and cooperation. How the regions take advantage of these opportunities can also be pioneered, prepared, and given the basis of creative and innovative study results. One of the producers of pioneers, preparations, as well as the basis for regional engagement in interacting with foreign countries is research and development institutions. How this option will be exercised, of course, requires studies on regional diplomacy. The results of these studies will eventually become the basis for innovative policies on utilizing foreign sources for regional development that can balance the contemporary municipal, provincial, national and global circumstances.

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