

## COMPLETION REPORT

The Review of Sister Province Cooperation between East Java Province and Osaka Prefecture:  
The East Java and Osaka Perspective

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The sister province cooperation between East Java Province and Osaka Prefecture is one of the oldest local government cooperation in both countries. This cooperation has been implementing for 30 years and enlarging in scopes. This cooperation is very important to support the development in both local government base on the common interest principle.

East Java province views that the cooperation can be focus on the trade and investment where East Java is the condusive place for investment from Osaka especially, including the availability of the skilled worker. While Osaka Prefecture sees that it needs to develop the human resources. Both of them have similar vision and perspective in the strengthening cooperation in SMEs sector. Osaka is the center of SMEs in Japan, while SMEs in East Java have been increasing rapidly in the last five years. SMEs sector can be the focus of the cooperation. They also agree that the sister province cooperation is very important for bilateral relations of their country. It is the back bone of the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Japan. The impact of the cooperation actually is also for both countries. Some similarities of East Java and Osaka as the bid and industrial area, where Surabaya and Osaka are port city is also the best potential for the cooperation.

But, there are also need some improvement in some program and also enlarging the scope of cooperation in some sectors. Some improvement that should to be consider are:

1. Some problems relate with trade and investment like infrastructure, informations, technical problem should be anticipate and solved as soon as possible.
2. The function of representative office should to be maximized in cooperation with Province or Prefecture government to enlarge the cooperation toward the city, municipality or town under the jurisdiction of East Java Province and Osaka Prefecture.
3. It is need to involving the local government under the provincial or prefectural level for sister city cooperation. Today, Surabaya has already had sister city cooperation with Kochi, Japan. East Java province and Osaka prefecture can be facilitator for this effort. In the next future, the visit should be followed by the leader of local governments. So the meeting is not only for business meeting but also LG-to-LG meeting (LG, Local Government) and if it possible they can develop a consortium of the cooperation like CLAIR in Japan.
4. It needs to improve the roles of the non-government actors, like NGOs, universities, even individual, in the cooperation. Of course the interests are different but if all of bodies can cooperate and coordinate each other so the

impact of the sister province cooperation will be wider.

5. Osaka Prefecture government should to establish the Osaka Center in East Java, and vice versa, especially for SMEs. It will be the center of information, business opportunities and promotion.

Finally, it needs to enlarge the scope of cooperation and involving many actors including non-government actors and local government under provincial and prefectural level. The cooperation in social, culture, education, tourism and others will increasing when many stakeholders from both area is connected. And one more important point is the coordination and sustainability of the program is one of key for successful cooperation.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Effendi, Tonny Dian (2014). Review of Sister Province Cooperation Between East Java Province-Indonesia and Prefecture Osaka-Japan. *Andalas Journal of International Studies, Volume 1 No 1 May 2014*. Department of International Relations, University of Andalas, Indonesia

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)