

COMPLETION REPORT

A Comparative Study of Female Political Leaders' Initiative on Environmental Protection Policy in Indonesia and Japan: Case Study of Tri Rismaharini, Mayor of Surabaya and Yukiko Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture

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This research project examined the two female political leaders' initiative, Tri Rismaharini Mayor of Surabaya City in Indonesia (2010-2015) and Yukiko Kada Governor of Shiga Prefecture in Japan (2006-2014), on Environmental Protection Policy in Indonesia and Japan to cope with the climate change. By using gender perspective, this research positioned the two female as agent capable to initiate environment protection policy namely to deal with climate change issues.

This research discovers that Risma and Kada's commitment and initiatives on environment protection policy have been primarily driven by their individual capital especially educational background rather than political party they affiliated to. Interestingly, there is a different degree of gender influence behind Risma and Kada's commitment on environmental protection in which Risma's gender (motherhood) clearly shaped her attention on environment protection policy when she perceives herself as the mother for the entire City. On the other hand, in Kada's case, gender influence is in a weaker level because her expertise on water and agriculture preservation is more influential, despite the fact that she rarely emphasized her gender in political discourse or campaign.

This research shows that Risma prioritized program on rejuvenating abandoned parks and land across Surabaya City into green and comfortable area, and recycling waste with strong community based involvement model to deal with climate changes problems. Meanwhile, Yukiko Kada prioritized a coexistence model between Lake Biwa, people, and its surrounding nature (animals and plants) so that the effort to maintaining water quality of Lake Biwa and preservation of the surrounding ecosystem is not merely an act of protection environment per se.

This research confirmed that Risma was able to integrate gender perspectives in rejuvenating abandoned parks in Surabaya City by giving wider spaces and portion to women to take strategic role in rejuvenating parks and recycling waste, pays special attention to children's and youth's needs by providing many comfortable playgrounds in various parks to support qualified growth. While Yukiko Kada had tremendous role in fostering a new approach of 'coexistence' between Lake Biwa and people as well as its surrounding nature. This research confirmed that Risma's programs has delivered positive impact to the city including quality of children health, strengthening economic capacity of women, and improving awareness of men to caring the environment. Under Kada's leadership, the preservation of Lake Biwa and its surrounding area delivers positive effects such as the increasing quality of life, creating more community-based environment protection movement, and therefore ensuring the sustainable quality of natural resource and ecosystem for the sake of the future generation.

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