

COMPLETION REPORT

Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation: Marine Pollution Prevention, Infrastructure Development, and Counter-Armed Robbery against ships

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Almost half of the world's trading goods and oil supply pass through key Indonesian straits including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, the Strait of Sunda and the Strait of Lombok. Nevertheless, the transport of goods is not trouble free. Indonesia is facing challenges in three key maritime areas: marine pollution prevention, maritime infrastructure development, and counter-armed robbery against ships. This research offers a fresh perspective on how Indonesia deals with these problems through cooperation with Japan by analysing Indonesian government documents, and elite interviews in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. As part of this research we had also conducted content analysis over 900 articles published by *Jakarta Post* and *Kompas*, two leading newspapers in Indonesia, from January 1st, 2007 to February 28th, 2017. This research shows that the Indonesian government and media continue to view Japan as a valuable partner in maritime cooperation. Japan is seen as a long standing cooperation partner in marine pollution prevention and control, and counter-sea robbery. Cooperation between the two countries in marine pollution has begun in 1960s. Japan has offered sustainable supports in the form of funding, technologies, research, technical experts and training to address marine pollution in the Straits of Malacca and various parts of Indonesia.

Indonesia-Japan cooperation to counter sea robbery has also started many years before armed robbery attacks in Indonesian waters began to draw international attention following the 9/11 attacks. Although Indonesia refused to participate in the Japan led the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia, Indonesia has cooperated intensively with Japan at bilateral level. The two countries are expanding their cooperation efforts to address armed robbery against ships and piracy in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, the Indian Ocean, and the Gulf of Aden.

The development of maritime infrastructure and connectivity by building up deep-seaports and shipping industry is one of the key pillars of the Indonesia's Maritime Axis concept. Japan is portrayed by Indonesian government officials, documents and media as a suitable partner in this area since Japan is the home of world's major ports and its port system is well connected to the country's economic supply chains. Japanese built project is also associated with the term "safety". Despite there is a widespread perception that China and Japan are engaging in a tight investment race in Indonesia, the data from the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board shows that the value of Japan's investment in Indonesia's infrastructure sector was five time higher than those of China. Our research also points to better performance of Japan infrastructure investment projects in Indonesia in comparison to those carried out by China. Yet, this knowledge is merely discussed in passing in public. Building upon this research we advise that to improve cooperation between Indonesia and Japan, and enhance public knowledge regarding the two countries collaboration in maritime affairs there is a need for regular discussion on the matters that involve academics, decision makers and members of the public.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

1. Suzie Sudarman, MA, “Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation: Marine Pollution Prevention, Infrastructure Development, and Counter-Armed Robbery against Ships,” a workshop organised at the Universitas Indonesia, 14 March 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia.

2. We organised a larger workshop in collaboration with the American Studies Center, Universitas Indonesia and the Indonesian Institute of Advanced International Studies (INADIS) involving a number of speakers including an expert of Japan’s foreign policy from the Universitas Indonesia, Dr. Asra Virgianita, and a high government official from the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. This workshop was attended by 25 participants including Ismail, an official from the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; Professor Bonar Pasaribu from the Bogor Agriculture Institute, and Mr. Yosuke Noda, First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan, Jakarta

This workshop was held in Aryaduta Hotel, 7 June 2018. List of presenters and their title of presentation during this workshop includes:

2.1 Suzie Sudarman, MA, the American Studies Center, Universitas Indonesia “Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation: Marine Pollution Prevention, Infrastructure Development, and Counter-Armed Robbery against Ships.”

2.2 Dr. Asra Virgianita, the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia, “Assessing Japanese Aid Performance to Indonesia.”

2.3 R. Tomi Supratomo Ssi, MSi, Head of Programme, the Directorate General of Ocean Management, the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, *Pembangunan Sentra Kelautan dan Perikanan Terpadu di Pulau-Pulau Kecil Terluar dan Kawasan Perbatasan* [The Development of Ocean and Fisheries Centres in Outlying Islands and Borders].

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

Senia Febrica and Suzie Sudarman. (2018). “Analysing Indonesian Media and Government Representation of China,” *Journal of the British Association of Chinese Studies* 8:2, pp. 89-119.

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