

The Progress of Indonesia-Brunei Darussalam 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to analyze the progress of Indonesia-Brunei Darussalam 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation(JCBC) after 2018. This research focused on the important points that are being highlighted at the JCBC meetings of two countries, which is the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers in Brunei Darussalam and economic cooperation such as investment and tourism sector between two countries. The study uses qualitative methods and a descriptive techniques to reveal that after the 4th JCBC in 2018 the Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) regarding the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers have not been actualized because Indonesia and Brunei are still in the stage of making improvements. In the fields of economic cooperation, Brunei Darussalam has said that they have prepared funds of US \$ 10 billion or around Rp145 trillion to invest in Indonesia precisely in the area of Central Kalimantan meanwhile, in tourism Indonesia has gained increasing transactions at the International tourism event that take place in Brunei Darussalam on 2018 and 2019, and also both countries have succeeded in actualizing the connectivity by providing direct flights from Bandar Seri Begawan to Balikpapan, Kalimantan.

KEYWORDS: *Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation, investment, tourism, Indonesian migrant workers*

I. INTRODUCTION

Globalization can intensify relations in certain fields. There are several ideas related to Globalization itself, and it is mentioned in Scholte's book that there are ideas where Globalization is interpreted as Internazionalization which relating to International Relations (Scholte, 2005, pp. 55-56). For Indonesia, the impact of globalization makes international relations easier so that our country has good relations with other countries which later enable a good Bilateral Cooperation between Indonesia and the partner country. The definition of Bilateral Cooperation itself is, all forms of mutual relations between two countries that are manifested in the form of agreements (Perwita & Yani, 2005, p. 42).

One of the countries, that has good relations with Indonesia is Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam is a country with an Absolute Monarchy system of government and has firmness in carrying out Islamic law related to the implementation of government and in the lives of its people, Brunei Darussalam is located on the North West coast of Borneo, and the capital of Brunei is Bandar Seri Begawan meanwhile the Head of Government of Brunei is Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (Sidik, 2011, para. 1-9). Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN). Aside from both countries are included as ASEAN members, the two countries also have a good relationship for a long time and held a 4th Joint Commission which discussed about their Bilateral Cooperation last July, 2018 at the Pancasila Building in Jakarta and attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi and Minister of Foreign Relations and Trade II Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Haji Erywan Pehin Yusof (Retno, 2018, para. 1-3).

The Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation(JCBC) between Brunei and Indonesia has been running since January 1, 1984 ("Kerjasama Bilateral RI-Brunei Darussalam", 2010, para. 3) and the latest meeting was held back in 2018. The 4th JCBC meeting pointed out some matters related to placement and protection of Indonesian workers in Brunei Darussalam, as well as economic cooperation such as investment and tourism which will be actualize in the forthcoming year. In the field of economic cooperation, Indonesia – Brunei Darussalam agreed to improve business-to-business relations because it is important to increase economic cooperation between the two parties. Also, there are points related to increasing cooperation in tourism, not only about destinations but also investment especially for the ten new Bali discussed between the Sultan of Brunei and the President of Indonesia and will be followed up as soon as possible ("RI-Brunei Gelar Pertemuan Komisi Bersama Kerja Sama", 2018, para 7-11). Looking into some points that are highlighted in the meeting, obviously Indonesia has

its own national interest in each matters so the actualization of 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation between two countries should be having a progress in the forthcoming years, that is why the purposes of this research paper are to identify the actualization of 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation between Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam after 2018, and also analyze the progress regarding the placement and protection of Indonesian workers in Brunei Darussalam, as well as economic cooperation such as investment, and tourism after 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation in 2018.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW & CONCEPT

There are quite several scholars that have been researching about bilateral cooperation. One of the research paper defines the bilateral cooperation between India and Indonesia from time to time and the need to immediately re-actualize bilateral relations, especially in this era of globalization, because India is no longer a backward country but is referred to as the "new hegemonic power" in its region because India is far more advanced in various aspects compared to its neighbors. This study also provides an explanation that bilateral cooperation that will be realized needs to be based on the history of Indonesia-India relations. This research succeeds in elaborating on some challenges that could hinder the re-actualization of bilateral cooperation between India and Indonesia (Yumitro, 2014).

Another research paper by Thontowi (2011) address the bilateral cooperation between the government of Indonesia and Malaysia regarding the management border, both countries have signed the MoU to solve the territorial border problem, turns out even with the MoU in real life the government of Indonesia facing difficulties because the central and local government not as keen as they should to gain progress and achieved the objective of the MoU between two countries which preventing conflict on the territorial border as well as control the border area. Those two research paper are similar to this research paper. The similarity comes from the topic about bilateral cooperation that Indonesia has done with neighbor countries and how important it is to achieved the objectives of the cooperation.

The concept of bilateral cooperation itself comes from the understanding of international cooperation, Holsti (1993) said international cooperation is formed from a combination of diversity of problems national, regional or global emerging and requires more attention to one country and each government approaches one another then bring up the problem-solving proposal, bargain, or discuss an issue, gather written evidence for justify one proposal or another and end the negotiations with an agreement or understanding that satisfies all parties. Kartasmita (1997) said that "international cooperation is a necessity as a result of interdependence and relationships the increasing complexity of human life in the international community" (p.19). Bilateral Cooperation according to Krisna (1993) described as the relationship that affects each other or occurs reciprocal relationship between two parties or two countries. From all of the explanation, it is clear that in order to form a bilateral cooperation every country including Indonesia has its respective goals, therefore Indonesia will formulates policies relating to the interests of the State and discuss with the other partner country which is Brunei Darussalam, and this paper will identify the progress of the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation between those two countries.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study uses qualitative considerations, namely social research that has the nature of dependence on special beliefs. Biography, and special discussion in the framework of identifying research topics in order to get directions to emerge potential questions that can be answered through research (Neuman, 2017). In addition to using a qualitative approach the researcher uses descriptive techniques. Data was collected through primary resource by interviewing the Head of Southeast Asia Sub Directorate II in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and secondary resources both print and electronic media such as journal articles, news, and books.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Head of Southeast Asia Sub Directorate II in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, "Bilateral Cooperation was established based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as the basis for binding cooperation and commitment of the two countries to form a bilateral forum at the level of foreign ministers, and regular consultation forums are held." (B.Basrul, primary resource, 16 May 2019). Based on that, it is clear that 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation consist of binding cooperation and commitment regarding important matters that are concerning to both countries.

First matter that we are going to discuss is about the placement and protection of Indonesian workers in Brunei Darussalam. Data from April 2010 the number of Indonesian workers in Brunei Darussalam are 44,504 people, thus Indonesia becoming one of the most foreign migrant workers in Brunei Darussalam alongside Malaysia and the Philippines ("Info Negara Tujuan TKI : Brunei Darussalam", 2015). In 2018, Indonesia Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi said that "the number of Indonesian citizens living and working in Brunei. Based on data from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, involving 83,000 people from a total of 417 thousand residents of Brunei are Indonesian citizens." (Suastha, 2018). The large number or Indonesian

workers in Brunei Darussalam caused by high demand for labor needs and large number of work sectors in the country, in order to fulfill those Brunei Darussalam must relies on foreign workers including Indonesian workers. Based on 2010 data, the employment sectors that most require labor in Brunei are the service sector, construction, industry, and also retail trade (“Info Negara Tujuan TKI : Brunei Darussalam”, 2015).

Looking at the large number of Indonesian workers in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesian government have an obligation to make sure that Indonesian workers in Brunei are safe and being protected that is why the MoU between Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam regarding the placement and protection of Indonesian workers are becoming one of the important points at the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral, and the MoU will be finished at the end of 2018 (Suastha, 2018). Aside from that according to Indonesia Minister of Labour, Ida Fauziyah “accordance with Law Number 18 Year 2017 concerning the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PPMI Law), that we place the workforce if we have an MoU, or the placement country has a good protection system for migrant workers” (Sitorus, 2019). But in 2019, according to our primary resource the MoU of the placement and protecting Indonesian workers are still pending (B.Basrul, primary resource, 16 May 2019). It is quite disappointing if remembering the issue should have been a priority and there are clear regulation about MoU in Indonesia law of labour (PPMI Law), but the good news is Indonesia government does not stay silent and they are keep fighting to finished the MoU and as to why the MoU was delayed was because it is still constrained by the contribution of detailed aspects, such as employment contracts and cost structures have not yet been agreed (Binapenta & PKK, 2019).

Even though the MoU is still constrained, Indonesia government has been successfully fight for the Indonesian workers in many unpaid migrant workers case that happened in Brunei Darussalam, one of them is fighting for the labour financial rights that were not previously paid by employers to Indonesian Migrant Workers, The Indonesian Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan managed to save Rp 3.5 billion or BND 345,366 (Brunei Darussalam Dollars), on previous year which is 2018 The Indonesian Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan managed to save Rp 2.99 billion or BND 293,277 (Brunei Darussalam Dollars) (“KBRI Berhasil Selamatkan Hak Finansial Pekerja Migran Indonesia di Brunnei Darussalam”, 2019). The establishment of MoU regarding Indonesian workers placement and protection can also increase the economic cooperation between two parties because as the Brunei Darussalam Minister of Foreign Affairs, Erywan has said that “Indonesian workers have also contributed to Brunei's economic growth” (Suastha, 2018), and not only robust the Brunei’s economic but the migrant workers has also robust Indonesia economic growth.

for Indonesia economic cooperation, back in 2018 Brunei Darussalam shows their interest in providing investment to Indonesia fortunately Indonesia has been working on the tourism sector project which is called “10 New Bali’s”, the 10 New Bali’s project is an idea initiated by President Joko Widodo. The ten priority tourist destinations include Lake Toba, Belitung, Tanjung Lesung, Thousand Islands, Borobudur Temple, Mount Bromo, Mandalika Lombok, Komodo Island, Wakatobi National Park, and Morotai (Suastha, 2018). According to our primary resource in the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation “Indonesia offers investment opportunities in tourism to Brunei Darussalam because we are developing 10 of Beyond Bali's top destinations, one of them is Mandalika. Now, what we are inviting is related to Brunei investors in order to be able to invest in infrastructure in the tourism sector.” (B.Basrul, primary resource, 16 May 2019).

Brunei Darussalam company Multipro Resources SDN BHD already plans to invest in Central Kalimantan. They have prepared a minimum fund of US \$ 10 billion or around Rp145 trillion to be planted in Central Kalimantan, this investments will benefit not only the Brunei Darussalam, and the Indonesian government but also the surrounding community, the things that constrained the investment is waiting for the legal signing between both countries and Brunei’s also open to the possibility of additional investment offered by the government but before agreed on the investment the Brunei Darussalam technical team will be analyzing the investment location first (“Pebisnis Brunei Siap Tanam Investasi Rp145 T di Kalimantan, 2019). Brunei’s statement regarding its readiness to invest in Indonesia with a large number of funds should be followed up by two governments so that the development and objectives that are expected by the two countries can be achieved, and the openness to investment offers in the tourism sector should become the advantage for Indonesia because as our primary resource said that Indonesia is expecting Brunei to invest in 10 New Bali’s projects.

The next point that being highlighted in the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation is to increase the tourism sector in both countries and to do that Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam need to intensify connectivity cooperation because, without adequate connectivity or transportation links between the two countries, tourism will not develop quickly. The good news is Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam have successfully intensified the connectivity between both countries because one of the Indonesian airlines, Sriwijaya Air, have signed an MoU with the Syarikat Kejuruteraan Bumiputra Belait Sdn Bhd Industrial Corporation to open charter flights from Bandar Seri Begawan to Balikpapan, Kalimantan. Aside from that, since the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation, Indonesia effort to actualize the tourism sector can be seen in several International tourism event that has been done after the joint meeting in 2018. The international tourism event which is called "Indonesian Tourism Table Top Sales Mission", the event is being held in Hotel Radisson, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

According to the Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Sujatmiko "the Indonesian Tourism Table Top Sales Mission in 2018 has succeeded in getting 675 transactions from 9 sellers and 20 buyers. The transaction was worth BND 360,000 (equivalent to Rp 3,951,000,000)" (Ramdhani, 2018). Seeing the success achieved during the Indonesian Tourism Table Top Sales Mission event back in 2018, Indonesia once again made an international event titled "Indonesia Sales Mission for Branding & Priority Destination" on July 10, 2019, at the Rizqun Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan and the event has succeeded in getting 1,865 transactions with a total potential transaction amount of BND 667,539 or IDR 6.92 Billion. Those number of transactions are bigger than the obtained transactions back in 2018. In addition to the event, Indonesia also held the Wonderful Indonesia Travel Fair on July 12-14, 2019 at The Gadong Mall, Bandar Seri Begawan, and the good news is that the charm of "Wonderful Indonesia" has succeeded in stealing the attention of Brunei citizens ("Pesona "Wonderful Indonesia" Curi Perhatian Warga Brunei", 2019).

The Indonesia Sales Mission for Branding & Priority Destination event was participated by 13 travel agents from Indonesia and 20 travel agents from Brunei Darussalam, this event is useful for Indonesia and Brunei because both countries can complement each other in developing the Tourism Industry because not only tourism sectors are important to Indonesia but Tourism development (Tourism Industry) are also Brunei Darussalam's largest investment, number 2 after oil and gas ("Pesona "Wonderful Indonesia" Curi Perhatian Warga Brunei", 2019).

V. CONCLUSION

The 4th Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between Indonesia and Brunei has important points related to the placement and protection of Indonesian workers in Brunei Darussalam, as well as economic cooperation such as investment, and tourism that should be actualized. After analyzing and identifying the progress of the highlighted points in the meeting, I conclude that:

1. The placement and protection of Indonesian workers have not been actualized because Indonesia and Brunei are still in the stage of making improvements to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to Indonesian migrant workers. Even so, the progress has begun to rise because Brunei has promised to immediately finished the MoU that Indonesia desired and Brunei is well aware that the MoU is important for both countries. Also, the Indonesian government has succeeded in fighting for the rights of migrant workers who have been unpaid for months. The success achieved by the Indonesian government can certainly be an experience to deal with similar cases in the forthcoming year so that even if the MoU has not been actualized yet, the Indonesian government still remembers their obligations to its citizens.
2. Economic cooperation between the two countries after the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation has progressed, both in the investment and tourism sectors. In the field of investment itself, Brunei has said that they have prepared funds of US \$ 10 billion or around Rp145 trillion to invest in Indonesia precisely in the area of Central Kalimantan given the distance from Kalimantan adjacent to Brunei Darussalam. In the field of tourism, Indonesia has gained increasing transactions at the International event held in Brunei Darussalam. In 2018, Indonesian Tourism Table Top Sales Mission in 2018 has succeeded in getting 675 transactions from 9 sellers and 20 buyers. The transaction was worth BND 360,000 (equivalent to Rp 3,951,000,000), then in 2019 the transaction increased to 1,865 transactions with a total transaction amount of BND 667,539 or IDR 6.92 Billion. In addition, to increase the economic activity the 4th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation has succeeded in actualizing connectivity between both countries because now Brunei and Indonesia have direct flights from Bandar Seri Begawan to Balikpapan, Kalimantan.

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