

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Backgrounds

1. Reasons for Choosing a Title

Until now, Yogyakarta is known as the Special Region of Yogyakarta because according to history, Yogyakarta was the transitional capital of Indonesia at that time. Another term is student city, where in the Special Region of Yogyakarta educational facilities are spread in the form of state and private schools, from play group level to college/university. No half-hearted Special Region of Yogyakarta can be categorized as the educational standard after the city of Jakarta.

The Special Region of Yogyakarta is called a city of culture because it is seen from the high artistic value contained in the diversity of traditional arts and building architecture and even city planning. Apart from that, many famous writers, cultural figures, artists and musicians were born in Yogyakarta. Its natural beauty and various historical relics have become tourist destinations for local and foreign tourists after Bali.

The large number of potentials that exist in the Special Region of Yogyakarta is a significant opportunity for establishing cooperative relations with foreign and domestic parties. As a province which is divided into four districts and one city in accordance with state laws governing regional autonomy, the Yogyakarta Special Region province gives freedom to its sub-regions to regulate its government.

Non-State actors including Regional Governments have the right to establish diplomatic relations with various parties with various considerations from the Central Government. This is a model of transnational relations which does not pay attention to geographical boundaries and is peaceful.

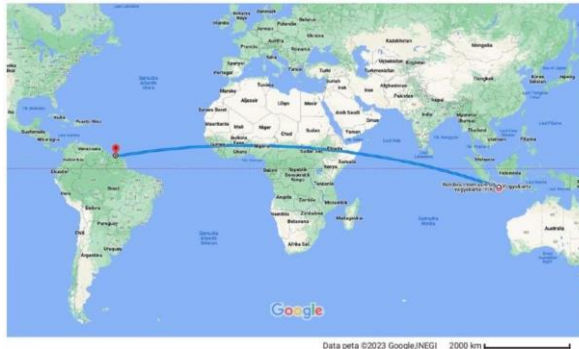
One thing that also marks the increasingly unavoidable existence of transnational relations is foreign cooperation at the sub-bilateral cooperation level, namely the sister city/sister province program. Sister city/sister province is a partnership relationship between two cities or between a province and a state based on mutual wishes, interests and benefits (Susilo, 2014).

One of the realities of this transnational relationship in the form of sister city cooperation is the collaboration between the Yogyakarta city government, Indonesia and the Commewijne District government in Suriname. This collaboration has been going on since early 2011 until now.

2. Background of the problem

In the era of globalization, cooperative activities are a demand and need to be carried out because in the global dimension, one country/region and other countries/regions are related and no one country/region is able to solve its own problems to meet the needs of society which are always developing, are very complex, and dynamic.

In line with the above, Law No. 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government pays attention to mutually beneficial inter-regional cooperation both domestically and abroad as stated in article 42 paragraph (1) letter g wherein "The DPRD has the task of and the authority to give approval to international cooperation plans carried out by regional governments" and article 195 paragraph (2) wherein: "In order to improve community welfare, regions can enter into cooperation with other regions based on considerations of efficiency and mutual benefit." Based on the matters above, the Yogyakarta City Government welcomes the offer of the Commewijne District Government, Republic of Suriname to increase the cooperation that has been carried out so far to become a sister city cooperation with equal administrative status and many similar characteristics between the two regions in terms of culture and improving relations between communities. Even though there are differences in terms of government, where Commewijne has a District administration form with the regional head being a District Commissioner, however, Commewijne's position in the government administration structure in Suriname is equivalent to the position of a city in the government administration structure in Indonesia, so that the position between the Yogyakarta City Government and the Government Commewijne district is parallel. This is in accordance with article 5, Permendagri number 3 of 2008 concerning guidelines for implementing regional government cooperation with foreign parties, namely that in a regional/city cooperation, the two regions that will collaborate must have the same administrative status.



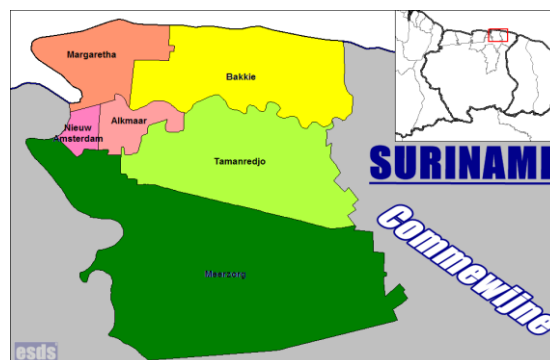
(Figure 1.(Distance between Yogyakarta City, Indonesia and Commewijne District, Suriname, nd))

Geographically, the two countries are relatively far apart and it is likely that transportation costs will require quite a bit to move goods and services. Indonesia is in Southeast Asia, while Suriname is a country in South America and has a majority population of Javanese descendants especially in The Commewijne District, and is relatively stable from economic, political and security aspects.

This has become a model of transnational relations where cooperative relations are now peaceful and do not pay attention to geographical boundaries. The Special Region of Yogyakarta, which has the status of a provincial region, is planning for its region to become the education center of Indonesia and even Asia. In this case, contributions in the field of education for the City of Yogyakarta have an important role, for example with the existence of universities and several other educational institutions. Therefore, the city of Yogyakarta is required to develop its infrastructure and superstructure. With these various developments, it is hoped that it will be able to balance the efforts of the Provincial Government in realizing the vision and mission of the city of Yogyakarta for 2017-2022.

This sector needs serious attention from each city government as a place of learning for the next generation who will control the wheels of the next government because with reliable and competent human resources, the sustainability and progress of the city can be achieved. Growth in various sectors can be said to be successful when the city has a stepping stone (partner city). Both cities can reflect on each other to what extent the accelerated growth has been achieved.

Nowadays, more and more local governments wish to establish cooperative relations in the form of sister provinces/states/prefectures and sister cities at home and abroad. Transnational relations have been established between Indonesia and Suriname since the arrival of Javanese immigrants to Suriname in 1890. The two countries maintain cultural relations, and to improve these relations, Indonesia opened a Commissioner's Office in 1951 and upgraded it to a Consulate General in 1964. Bilateral relations between the two countries were officially marked by the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Paramaribo on January 23, 1976. Seeing from this experience the Yogyakarta city government agreed on sister city cooperation with the Commewijne district. The signing of the MoU on cooperation was officially signed on April 4, 2011 at the Paramaribo Commewijne district office as a follow-up to the letter of intent (LoI) which was agreed on November 11, 2009.



(Figure 2.(Map of Commewijne District, Suriname., nd))

Commewijne is an area of Paramaribo in Suriname where the majority of the population is Javanese. Foreign Minister Lakin said that bilateral relations between Suriname and Indonesia continue to be close and are improving. The relationship itself cannot be separated from historical factors, where in 1890 many Javanese arrived in Suriname.

Currently, around 15 percent of Surinamese citizens are of Javanese descent and several of them hold cabinet positions. Meanwhile, this cultural influence is also felt strongly in the daily lives of the Surinamese people. Relations between the two countries have been closely intertwined, the most prominent collaboration is socio-cultural, tourism, people-to-people contact and employment. As calculated, the bilateral trade value between Indonesia and Suriname is US\$ 5.6 million, resulting in a surplus to Indonesia of US\$ 5.4 million which is expected to be further increased. In this regard, Suriname will not be the final destination for Indonesian export products but will provide access to wider markets in the Caribbean and Europe. Since 1974 there have been 16 Surinamese citizenship scholarship recipients and eight Masters program participants through the Developing Countries Partnership (KNB). And there are also several collaborations that have been planned that have not been implemented until now, such as sending teachers or exchanging teachers from both parties.

B. Formulation of the problem

Based on the background of the problem described above, the problem formulation can be made as follows:

1. Why is the Yogyakarta City government entering into a sister city cooperative relationship with the Commewijne District government?

C. Theoretical framework

To answer the problems above, several concepts and theories are used as follows:

1. Paradiplomacy

Diplomacy is the art of using conversation, negotiation and other non-violent techniques to influence the choices and actions of other countries or multilateral organizations (Encyclopedia, 2019). Diplomacy often refers to the conduct of international relations by trained diplomats who pay close attention to the various issues and topics raised by both parties (Barston, Modern diplomacy, (2006)). Between two or more countries, the practice of diplomacy is beneficial. International diplomacy today is a tactic used by countries to advance their national interests. Cooperation in the fields of business, education and culture can advance diplomatic relations (Mukti, Paradiplomacy of Foreign Cooperation by Regional Governments in Indonesia, , 2013). Diplomacy is usually only carried out between diplomats of two countries, but if there is also diplomacy carried out by regional governments, this is called Paradiplomacy (Balzacq, Global Diplomacy: An Introduction to Theory and Practice, 2020). The practice of "sub-state" entities engaging in foreign affairs and having the ability to do so is known as paradiplomacy (Mukti, Paradiplomacy Politics in Indonesia's Border Areas, 2022).

The paradiplomacy concept that is often used is the sister city concept. Sister cities, or twin cities, are the idea of collaboration between two cities, provinces or countries with different geographical locations and government systems with the aim of fostering sustainable social, cultural and economic relations between citizens. Sister cities are generally defined as the existence of two cities that are officially connected to each other for a specific purpose, such as fostering friendship, peace, or mutual understanding among their residents. The aim of the sister city concept is to create partnerships that will help each region meet certain demands, such as those related to city management, business ventures, trade, education, culture and other joint ventures with regional twin cities. With the Minister of Home Affairs Circular No. 193/1652/PUOD dated 26 April 1993 concerning Procedures for Fostering Cooperation Relations Between Cities and Between Provinces Domestically and Abroad, the concept of sister cities is becoming widely known in Indonesia.

The implementation of the sister city concept in accordance with Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 25 of 2020 (article 9) has stages that must be passed by both regions, namely:

- 1) Initiative Exploration
- 2) Statement of Intent to Cooperate
- 3) Preparation of Cooperation Plans
- 4) DPRD approval
- 5) Verification
- 6) Preparation of draft Collaboration Text
- 7) Discussion of Collaboration Text

- 8) Minister's Approval
- 9) Signing of Cooperation Paper
- 10) Implementation

Cities and provinces in Indonesia have implemented the sister and twin city concept because of the many similarities in technology, culture, history and education with other cities or provinces abroad. An example of implementing sister cities in Indonesia is the cities of Yogyakarta and Paramaribo in Suriname.

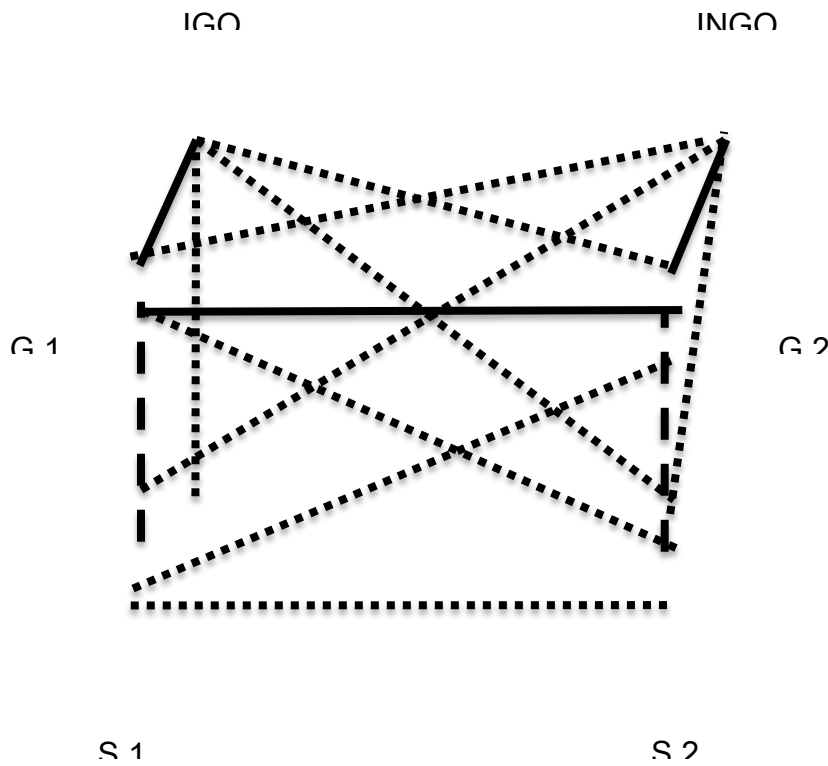
2. Transnational Relations

Changes in the international political constellation from political issues of defense and security in relations between countries have shifted to economic issues requiring countries in the world to collaborate with various countries. Now international cooperation has expanded and is not only limited to governments and countries but also involves non-state actors.

Transnational is defined by Richard Falk as "the movement of goods, information and ideas across national boundaries without direct participation or control by government actors" (Falk, A study of the future world, 1990). Transnational relations are a form of ongoing pattern of international cooperation where these relations appear to be increasingly weakening and the role of state actors is being shifted by non-state actors and geographical boundaries are starting to be no longer considered. Non-state actors in international cooperative relations can take the form of tribal, ethnic, or separatist groups within the country. Various economic interest groups and multinational companies and even parts of the central government bureaucracy.

Sister city cooperation is international cooperation carried out by non-state actors, namely actors who are parts of the central government bureaucracy, which can be city or state, provincial and also district governments that have been given authority or autonomy rights as part of the central government bureaucracy.

Picture
Transnational Interaction & Politics Between Countries **Invalid source specified.**



Information :

- : Inter State Politics
- : Domestic Politics
- - - - -** : Transnational Relations
-** : Non-Inter Government

G : Government

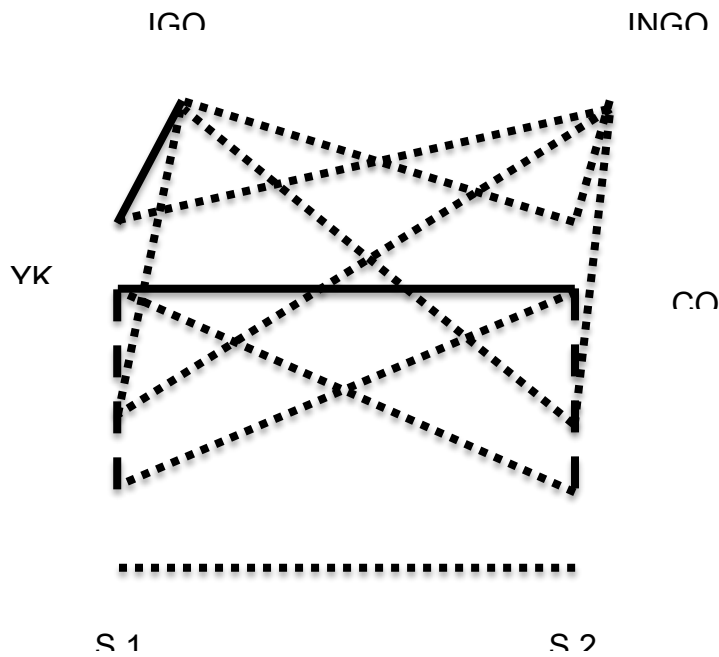
S : Society

IGO : Intergovernmental Organization

c:

organizations, show massive participation. By using the dotted line, it is evident that individuals from one nation can maintain diplomatic relations with citizens from other nations. Government organizations and non-governmental organizations can have direct contact with the people of a country without going through central government intermediaries.

Picture
Transnational Interaction & Politics Between Countries



Information :

- : Inter State Politics
- : Domestic Politics
- - - - -** : Transnational Relations
-** : Yoovakarta Citv

CO : Commewijne District

S : Society

IGO : Intergovernmental Organization

INGO : Non-Inter Government

Based on the picture above, the position of this collaboration is between the regional government and the local government, namely the Yogyakarta City government and the Commewejne City Government. This was marked by the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Yogyakarta City Government and the Commewejne City Government on April 4, 2011 at the Paramaribo Commewijne district office.

In implementing the sister city program between the City of Yogyakarta and district of Commewijne, other non-state actors are involved as actors in this activity, including a number of government departments or agencies related to the fields of cooperation from both parties. These parties are composed of industrial craft entrepreneurs from Yogyakarta and Commewejne, and several universities including their students. The role of these parties can be seen in the implementation of the cooperation program every year. Practically, this sister city collaboration is an international collaboration whose activity scale dominates at the city, district and provincial levels from both parties, focusing attention on the fields of education, tourism, culture, trade, agriculture and human resource development.

3. Regional Autonomy Concept

The term regional autonomy comes from the Greek, *autonomus/autonomia*, which means self-decision (self-ruling) (Jatmika, *Regional Autonomy: An International Relations Perspective*, 2001). The term regional autonomy contains the following meanings:

- 1) Autonomy is a condition or characteristic of not being controlled by other parties or external forces.
- 2) Autonomy is a form of self-government, namely the right to rule or determine one's own destiny (the right of self-government, self-determination).
- 3) The government itself is respected, recognized and guaranteed that there is no control by other parties over regional functions (local internal affairs) or over minorities of a nation.
- 4) Autonomous governments have supremacy/domination of power (supremacy of authority) or law (rule) which is fully implemented by regional power holders.

Diplomatic relations are within the framework of transnational and political interactions between countries where diplomatic relations are usually carried out by state actors and individuals. In Indonesia, there is regional autonomy as referred to in Law No. 22 of 1999 article 7 paragraphs 1 and 2 regarding diplomatic relations that can be carried out by regional governments which can be explained in the pattern of international relations which are transnational in nature.

4. Sister City concept

According to Sidik Jatmika in his book *Regional Autonomy from an International Relations Perspective* provides an understanding of sister city cooperative relationships, namely:

"Sister city cooperative relations are implemented between district, city and administrative city governments and city governments at the same level abroad. "The cooperative relationship in question must be equipped with a permanent and planned activity program, both regarding the fields to be collaborated, the goals to be achieved, the cost contribution of each party, and the length of time required for the collaborative activity program (Jatmika, *Regional Autonomy: An International Relations Perspective*, 2001)."

Basically, both Level I and Level II Regional Governments can propose beneficial foreign cooperation relations to support development programs and help increase the prosperity and welfare of the people as long as they do not harm public order and security, domestic political stability, and the maintenance of national personality.

The factors that influence the success of sister city cooperation are as follows:

- 1) The existence of equality/same position and administrative status;
- 2) The existence of similarities in size/area and function;
- 3) There are similar characteristics;
- 4) There are similarities in problems; And
- 5) The existence of complementary conditions between the two parties in the fields of economics, trade, etc. so that it can encourage the flow of goods and services; exchange of visits from officials, businessmen and other missions from both countries (Permendagri No. 193/1652/PUOD, 2001).

D. Hypothesis

Based on the description above, the author has the following hypothesis, namely the reasons for the Yogyakarta City government collaborating with the Commewijne District as follows:

- 1) There is equality of position and administrative status between the city of Yogyakarta and the Commewijne district.
- 2) There are similar characteristics in traditional Javanese culture between the city of Yogyakarta and the Commewijne district
- 3) There are similar problems faced by both, including tourism, education and science and technology and others between the city of Yogyakarta and the Commewijne district.
- 4) and in the Constitution, Regional Governments have the freedom to establish cooperative relations with local and foreign parties.

E. Objective

1. Writing purpose

The directions and targets that will be the aim of this writing are as follows:

- 1) Analyze the factors that influence the achievement of the MoU on sister city cooperation between the cities of Yogyakarta and Commewijne District.
- 2) Answering the main problem and testing the hypothesis proposed by the author.
- 3) Applying the theory that has been obtained in college and pouring it into a societal phenomenon. So that the author can describe the existing phenomenon.
- 4) As one of the requirements for obtaining a bachelor's degree in International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Muhammadiyah University, Yogyakarta.

F. Benefits of Activities

1. For Students

- 1) Students can gain work skills, supported by students' ability to be more creative and innovative in the field of knowledge obtained from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta.
- 2) Students can find out the working mechanisms of the relevant agencies. To be able to serve as a reference for other students, so that they not only become educated but also skilled personnel.
- 3) Can train students to analyze real problems while allowing students to directly obtain empirical data that occurs.

2. For the Yogyakarta City Regional Secretariat Legal Bureau

- 1) Can carry out a form of social responsibility to society.
- 2) Obtain contributions of thought and energy in order to improve service performance.

3. For the International Relations Study Program

- 1) Expanding the collaboration network with other related agencies and institutions.
- 2) Increasing the relevance of the curriculum of various educational programs in the International Relations Study Program to the world of work.
- 3) Obtain input material for improving or expanding collaboration between students, lecturers, universities and related agencies.