

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background

In the current globalization, relations between countries are an inseparable part. Globalization describes a process of action towards a global society that is integrated in the world of international society (Carlsnaes Walter, 2013). Globalization has led to increased cooperation through initiatives like sister cities. Local governments are becoming prominent international actors in this era. This trend is evidenced by numerous international agreements between local governments worldwide. Therefore, Indonesia and other regions can expect similar growth in such cooperative efforts facilitated by local governments.

Sister city cooperation, also known as international cooperation, involves collaboration between cities from different countries. The concept originated in Europe in the 1920s and gained momentum over the years. In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower initiated the "American Sister City Program," further promoting this form of cooperation (Salam, 2004). Similarly, Indonesia adopted the concept in 1960, exemplified by the partnership between Bandung and Braunschweig, Germany, marked by a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Sister city cooperation is one of the results of international collaboration between cities of two countries to convey the development, progress and economic growth of each city. For example, for sister city Bandung and Suwon, on August 5th, 1996, the Director General of Foreign Affairs, signed the LOI (Letter of Intent) at the Indonesian Embassy in Seoul. Continuing on August 25th, 1997, in the city of Suwon, Republic of South Korea, the two cities signed an MoU, represented by the Mayor of Bandung Wahyu Hamijaya, and the Mayor of Suwon, Sim Jae Douk, which was then handed over between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the two cities. In August 2018, a meeting was held between the Mayor of Bandung and the South Korean Ambassador in the State Room at Bandung City Hall, Wastukencana street, who were ready to implement the collaboration.

Judging from the scope of cooperation between Bandung City and Suwon City, there is cooperation in several fields, namely: Trade, Youth and Sports, and Investment, Economy, Tourism, Education, and so on (Arsip Bagian Kerjasama Kota Bandung, 1997). The sister city cooperation program becomes official when two cities sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU). It signifies a long-term partnership between communities in different countries. Indonesia and South Korea, specifically Bandung and Suwon, have established official sister city relations through agreements signed by their elected officials. This formal recognition underscores the commitment of both cities to engage in sustained collaboration and mutual development.

In this sister city collaboration, economic collaboration is a critical aspect of sister city partnerships, highlighted in the cooperation between Bandung and Suwon. Education is another significant focus of their collaboration. Bandung has a longstanding reputation as an educational hub dating back to the mid-19th century, with a variety of educational institutions established since the Dutch colonial era. This historical foundation underscores Bandung's commitment to education across all levels, making it a natural focus for collaboration with Suwon in their sister city relationship.

No less important, at the end of the 19th century, more and more schools were established to accommodate and provide facilities and infrastructure, including the HIS Dutch School, ELS European Elementary School, Mulo Middle School, AMS High School, and HBS Advanced School, and other private schools. The peak of the growth of these schools was the Technishe Hoogeschool High School which fell on July 3rd, 1920, which later became known as the Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). Education in Bandung demonstrates consistent development and improvement annually. This is evidenced by various initiatives such as free school services, facilities, and scholarships for underprivileged students. In the 2009 budget year, these efforts included increased school fee waivers for the needy, free schooling programs in elementary and junior high schools, and educational assistance for teachers. These initiatives highlight Bandung's proactive approach in enhancing education accessibility and quality, contributing positively to the community's educational landscape.

With the background of the sister city cooperation that has been described, the researcher examined the sister city of Bandung for the reason that this sister city relationship really provides big benefits for the city of Bandung in the cooperation program. Moreover, Bandung itself is one of the cities in Indonesia that has the second sister city cooperation in Indonesia after the city of Jakarta. Seeing that the reason the city

of Suwon wants to collaborate with Bandung is because the characteristics of the two cities are almost the same and also because there are many heritage buildings and cultural creativity. International cooperation under the sister city concept emphasizes facilities as a priority in every program or activity. This principle applies broadly across various fields of cooperation. The cooperation between Bandung and Suwon from 1997 to 2015 faced challenges but was revitalized in 2018 through renewed implementation efforts, supported by their MoU. This partnership successfully implemented beneficial programs, such as Suwon's donation of 20,000 Kf80 masks to Bandung during the Covid-19 pandemic, enhancing health security and illustrating the practical benefits of sister city collaborations.

Based on the statement above, the researcher took the initiative to conduct an internship as well as conduct research on how to implement the Bandung - Suwon sister city collaboration in improving the quality of education in the city of Bandung. In this research, we will further explore the implementation of sister city cooperation carried out by Bandung and Suwon which covers various aspects, including the role, preparation process and coordination carried out by the two cities in building relationships and the efforts made to ensure the success of the work, and also considering the challenges that both parties may face in carrying out sister city cooperation. A deeper understanding of how the development and improvement of the quality of education in the city of Bandung has become a real positive barometer from year to year following the sister city collaboration between Bandung - Suwon, including through free school services and facilities and scholarship assistance for underprivileged students.

B. Purpose of Internship

1. An internship at the Bandung City Regional People's Representative Council provides an opportunity for the author to gain practical experience in international relations which is very relevant to the major taken by the author.
2. An in-depth understanding of sister city cooperation carried out by the cities of Bandung and Suwon gave the author new experiences to understand this cooperation more deeply, such as learning about the goals and roles in international cooperation.
3. Facilitate professional networks that can build professional networks with council members who act as local governments who are directly involved in sister city collaboration which is beneficial in careers and further studies.
4. This internship can help the author understand the importance of international cooperation in overcoming issues.
5. Increase the author's understanding as an international relations student regarding the relationship between theories and so as to provide opportunities for students to participate in society.

C. Benefits of Internship

It is hoped that the internship program held by this university can lead to positive things and will have a good impact on all parties involved such as students, institution or companies, as well as the internship organizers or universities.

1. Benefits for the International Relations Study Program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

- a. The creation of mutually beneficial cooperative relationships between both parties, namely being able to place students to gain experience in the relevant institution.
- b. As a means of obtaining information about the general process of international relations in the surrounding area, especially on the quality of education through the implementation of the Bandung-Suwon sister city collaboration.
- c. The internship report can become an audit related to the quality of teaching given to students as well as looking at the perspective and treatment of institution or companies towards prospective workers.

2. Benefits for Bandung City Regional People's Representative Council

- a. A means to connect agencies and the university for further collaboration, both academic and non-academic.
- b. Students and youth are an important part of the population who have a big role in the country's future. With student stakeholders in the Bandung City Regional People's Representative Council, the younger generation can be better represented in the political decision - making process.

- c. The presence of students can encourage higher public participation, especially from students and youth, who may have previously felt that politics was an area far from them.
- d. Students who carry out internships can help in carrying out office tasks in work units.

3. Benefits for Student

- a. The student can apply theoretical knowledge into the world of practice so as to develop working knowledge according to her scientific background.
- b. The student can train her abilities to become individuals who are independent, responsible, disciplined, orderly, work in teams, solve problems and make decisions at work.
- c. It can make the student more open to the fact that the world of work is the real world and requires the student to continue to develop their knowledge and skills in order to survive through quite tight competition.
- d. Internships at the Bandung City Regional People's Representative Council can help the student develop communication and diplomacy skills, especially in interacting with Bandung City Regional People's Representative Council members, staff and local communities.
- e. Internships at the Bandung City Regional People's Representative Council allow the student to gain a better understanding of local level politics and government. The student can observe directly how local policies are created, implemented and evaluated, especially regarding the Bandung-Suwon sister city collaboration.