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INDONESIA AND SOUTH KOREA'S HEALTH DIPLOMACY IN HANDLING COVID-19 CASES: CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Health diplomacy has become a crucial topic in dealing with global challenges such as pandemics. This research aims to analyze Indonesia's health diplomacy efforts through bilateral cooperation with South Korea in the context of the pandemic, using a constructivist approach as the analytical framework. Constructivism emphasizes the role of shared norms, identities and views in shaping the dynamics of international relations. This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach, exploring data from various sources such as official documents, news reports, books, journals, websites and other supporting documents. The research results indicate that Indonesia-South Korea health diplomacy during the COVID-19 pandemic is reflected in intensive cooperation which includes information exchange, medical assistance and research collaboration. The pandemic has given rise to the need for global coordination, and in this context, constructivism helps understand how new norms regarding global health cooperation are evolving. From a constructivist perspective, Indonesia-South Korea health diplomacy shows a complex interaction between norms and identity. Both of them campaigned for the principles of cooperation, solidarity and openness, which emerged in response to the pressures of the pandemic. Health diplomacy also shapes their identities as reliable partners in dealing with health crises. These norms and identities continually change and interact through social processes, and constructivism helps in tracking these dynamics. Overall, this research illustrates that Indonesia-South Korea health diplomacy in the pandemic is a complex phenomenon and rich in meaning. A constructivist approach helps analyze how norms, identities, and social interactions shape diplomatic relations in the context of a global health crisis. Thus, this research provides in-depth insight into how countries can build health cooperation through constructive diplomatic efforts, as well as face emerging challenges in a productive way.

Keywords: Health Diplomacy, Bilateral Cooperation, Constructivism, Indonesia, South Korea

Abstrak

Diplomasi kesehatan telah menjadi topik krusial dalam menghadapi tantangan global seperti pandemi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis upaya diplomasi kesehatan Indonesia melalui kerjasama bilateral dengan Korea Selatan dalam konteks pandemi, dengan pendekatan konstruktivisme sebagai kerangka analisis. Konstruktivisme menekankan peran norma, identitas, dan pandangan bersama dalam membentuk dinamika hubungan internasional. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus, menggali data dari berbagai sumber seperti dokumen resmi, laporan berita, buku, jurnal, situs web serta dokumen pendukung lainnya. Hasil penelitian mengindikasikan bahwa diplomasi kesehatan Indonesia-Korea Selatan selama pandemi COVID-19 tercermin dalam kerjasama intensif yang mencakup pertukaran informasi, bantuan medis, dan kolaborasi penelitian. Pandemi telah memunculkan kebutuhan akan koordinasi global, dan dalam konteks ini, konstruktivisme membantu memahami bagaimana norma baru mengenai kerjasama kesehatan global berkembang. Dari perspektif konstruktivisme, diplomasi kesehatan Indonesia-Korea Selatan memperlihatkan adanya interaksi yang kompleks antara norma dan identitas. Keduanya mengampanyekan prinsip-prinsip kerjasama, solidaritas, dan keterbukaan, yang muncul sebagai respons terhadap tekanan pandemi. Diplomasi kesehatan juga membentuk identitas keduanya sebagai mitra yang dapat diandalkan dalam menghadapi krisis kesehatan. Norma dan identitas ini terus berubah dan berinteraksi melalui proses sosial, dan konstruktivisme membantu dalam melacak dinamika tersebut. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini mengilustrasikan bahwa diplomasi kesehatan Indonesia-Korea Selatan dalam pandemi merupakan fenomena yang kompleks dan kaya akan makna. Pendekatan konstruktivisme membantu menganalisis bagaimana norma, identitas, dan interaksi sosial membentuk hubungan diplomatik dalam konteks krisis kesehatan global. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini memberikan wawasan yang mendalam tentang bagaimana negara-negara dapat membangun kerjasama kesehatan melalui upaya diplomasi yang konstruktif, serta menghadapi tantangan yang muncul dengan cara yang produktif.

Kata kunci: Diplomasi Kesehatan, Kerjasama Bilateral, Konstruktivisme, Indonesia, Korea Selatan

Introduction

One aspect of modern national life that cannot be separated is international relations. To progress and develop, the nations of the world need each other, this is because the distribution of the world's natural resources is unequal and human resources continue to grow. Therefore, diplomatic bilateral relations between countries is an alternative to resolve this problem. Current international relations really emphasize the values of friendship and peace, in contrast to the past few years which only emphasized aggressive militant interactions (Setiawan et al., 2022). Bilateral relations between nations are an aspect of international relations that cannot be separated. For every nation involved in this interaction, of course there will be opportunities as well as challenges. Bilateral relations are interactions between two countries that build relationships and establish cooperation aimed at mutually benefiting both parties, generally in the business fields of trade, health, economics, transportation, culture and scientific development. Bilateral cooperative relations between the two countries began with the signing of an agreement which will be used as a reference in more organized cooperation in the future (Hidayat et al., 2022).

The world was hit by an extraordinary disaster at the end of 2019, namely a health crisis caused by the emergence of an infection that spread rapidly and also had fatal consequences. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV 2) is the cause of this disease, which affects the respiratory system and is known as coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19). This virus was first discovered in Wuhan, Hubei Province, in December 2019 (Margono et al., 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic has become a significant global concern because of its widespread transmission in various regions of the world. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic. The latest data update provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) on September 13 2023, reported a total of 770,563,467 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with a recorded death toll of 6,957,216 people or (0.9%) (WHO, 2023). In the latest update on October 30 2023, Indonesia reported a total of 6,811,945 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 161,870 people dying and 6,641,275 people having recovered (Kemenkes RI, 2022).

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global case that cannot be overcome individually. Cooperation between countries is needed to jointly suppress the

spread of COVID-19. With the prevalence rate continuing to rise, followed by a significant death rate, world governments are quick to address this by prioritizing preventive measures to prevent the risk of disability and death as well as reducing the additional costs of curative measures for COVID-19. Providing vaccination is a preventive measure that is quite effective in preventing infectious diseases including coronavirus disease 19 (Sitorus & Rahmadi, 2021). Indonesia is still experiencing difficulties in developing individual vaccinations, so bilateral cooperation with other countries is needed to meet Indonesia's vaccine needs. Bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea has been established since 1986. Bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea was previously more dominant in the economic and industrial fields. After the pandemic, bilateral relations between Indonesia and South Korea experienced significant changes. Health diplomacy, which was previously limited to one or two areas, has since had a significant impact on the health problems that occur and how to resolve the COVID-19 problem (Setiawan, Afflanty, et al., 2021).

Bilateral cooperation in the health sector between Indonesia and South Korea presents various interesting topics for

discussion, such as exchange of information and experience, humanitarian assistance, research collaboration, training of health workers which of course has a positive impact on both countries (R. A. Dewi & Santoso, 2022). The Indonesian state cannot overcome the economic and health crisis that is occurring without cooperation from other countries, in this case diplomatic cooperation can strengthen the country in providing resources and improving the economy (Purbantina & Hapsari, 2020). So researchers are interested in conducting research to examine health diplomacy efforts between Indonesia and South Korea during the administration of President Joko Widodo, which aims to gain information on bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea in resolving health problems during the pandemic.

Theoretical Framework

Constructivism Theory

Constructivism theory according to Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, 1998 is that social norms have a strong influence on the actions and policies of countries. He highlights how norms, such as humanitarian norms or nuclear nonproliferation norms, can shape the policies and behavior of states in the international system. Constructivism theory

in International Relations discusses social concepts and norms such as human rights and environmental concerns (Suparlan, 2019). With the world becoming more interconnected and democratic, this theory aims to explain how socio-cultural conditions change in the world of politics and their relationship with diplomacy carried out by several countries. Constructivist theory is used to find out the actual situation, such as violence, gender problems, racial conflicts (Sugrah, 2020). Constructivism not only explains things, but also understands the problems that occur. This theory originates from social theory which explains how social science can help international relations students understand the importance of norms and identity in global politics. Constructivism theory also explores how ideas, interests, and norms are related (Utami, 2016). The focus in this theory is how constitutional understanding relates to international politics, especially how states develop and contract, as well as how to discuss laws and standards (Supardan, 2016). Using ideas as structural elements, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between ideas and material forces as a result of how actors manipulate real-world materials, and emphasizing the relationship between how agents create structures and how structures create agents are examples of

constructivism. Hence, constructivism is a social theory that focuses on the conceptual relationship between agents and structures (Saputro & Pakpahan, 2021).

Constructivism refers to "social facts" such as sovereignty, rights, or money that are not based on physical reality but are given significance and realism by communities acting in accordance with them. The notion of "social facts" is closely related to this construction of reality, or what we often call "objective reality" (Utami, 2016). This presence influences how we classify them and how we treat them. Social constructivism is constantly faced with the questions of when norms change, what causes changes in norms, how actors accept these changes in norms, and whether or not actors persuade or force others to accept new standards. This theory makes various points regarding the growth of sovereignty and how it impacts laws and standards within a state. To generalize substantive claims, it is important to identify key actors, their motivations and capabilities, and important features of the normative framework. For example, to understand rebel organizations, we must understand their worldview, their driving forces, and the normative elements of their social structure. The same applies to creating conventions, concepts and relationships based on the goals and

identities of war participants, whether seeking peace or respect for human rights (Masgumelar & Mustafa, 2021).

Bilateral Cooperation Concept

Cooperation between two countries that aims to advance common interests is called bilateral cooperation (Ardiansya, 2022). Bilateral focuses on political and cultural exchanges between two countries for example, signing agreements, exchanging ambassadors, or state visits. Political, cultural, educational and economic cooperation between two countries is referred to as bilateral cooperation. Bilateral cooperation is the norm in international cooperation. Most cooperative exchanges occur when two countries simultaneously address issues or interests that are similar to each other. International organizations and agreements serve as physical representations of other forms of collaboration practiced by individual countries. International cooperation covers a wide range of areas, including ideology, politics, social and cultural norms, the environment, and military and security (Marsyanti Kawab, 2023).

Bilateral cooperation is defined as efforts made by the governments of two independent countries to work together to solve a problem that affects both through

discussions, agreements and other means (Paryadi, 2020). The relationship between two countries that influence each other or the emergence of a reciprocal relationship that is manifested in the form of cooperation. Based on the extent to which the mutual benefits obtained through this cooperation can support the conception of the interests of unilateral and bilateral actions. For example, the interests of several countries in the United Nations (UN) organization mandate that cooperation between members of the organization be carried out on the basis of recognition of the national sovereignty of each country. Therefore, bilateral cooperation is impossible if a country can achieve its goals on its own. Given that each country relies on the other to advance its own internal interests, it is believed that cooperation will be successful (Lesmana et al., 2023).

Soft Diplomacy

One of the key factors in a country's development is its diplomatic connections. A country's diplomatic contacts with other countries will make it easier and give them more possibilities to pursue their national interests and needs. Because no country can meet its own needs, diplomatic relations are another aspect of international life that cannot be separated. Diplomacy is an

international relationship between countries that is taken into account and has a good impact on each country. Diplomacy can be defined as a country's relationship with other countries in a simple definition. In the KBBI it is stated that diplomacy is the implementation of official relations between one country and another. G.R. Berridge (2010) defines diplomacy as political actions taken by actors to achieve their goals and defend their interests through negotiations without the use of force, disinformation, or the legal system. So it can be concluded that, diplomatic relations between nations is the implementation of international relations between countries which includes negotiations that can strengthen world peace carried out by representatives of countries who are currently known as ambassadors or diplomats (Ardiansya, 2022).

Diplomacy is increasingly important as a tool in international relations in an increasingly complex era of globalization. Hard diplomacy has become a common practice, in which countries use military, economic, and political power to achieve their national goals. However, there is an approach that is increasingly gaining attention in the diplomatic environment, namely soft diplomacy. Soft diplomacy is defined as a way for a country to achieve its

national interests through a social and cultural approach (S. P. Dewi & Auliyah, 2022). Soft diplomacy refers to the use of non-coercive and persuasive strategies to influence other parties. This approach involves using soft power, such as culture, values, education, and public diplomacy, to create better relationships between countries and their societies. The main goal of soft diplomacy is to achieve cooperation, understanding and mutual understanding through constructive dialogue (Dewa Gede Sudika Mangku & Ni Nyoman Larasari, 2022). In soft diplomacy, countries try to build positive relations through exchanges of culture, arts, music, sports, education and tourism. This strategy involves presenting positive aspects of a country to the international community to influence their perceptions. Indonesia's soft diplomacy in the health sector has become an integral part of the country's diplomatic efforts to promote international cooperation in improving public health and welfare, especially during the pandemic. Indonesia has taken various steps in implementing soft diplomacy in various countries, one of which is South Korea, both bilaterally and through multilateral cooperation to overcome the problem of the COVID-19 pandemic that has occurred (Fazry et al., 2022).

Method

This research is qualitative research with descriptive methods. Qualitative research is research that aims to fully understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc., these phenomena are described in words and language, in certain natural contexts, using natural methods (Fazry et al., 2022). The focus of qualitative research is on quality rather than quantity, and information collected to support research can come from interviews, direct observation, and government documents, as well as surveys and previous research. In qualitative research, the method is more important than the final findings. This is because if the process is observed, the relationships between the components under investigation will become clearer. Meanwhile, descriptive research does not compare or explore relationships between variables; rather it aims to provide answers to questions about the existence of independent variables, either in one variable or several (stand-alone variables) (Fazry et al., 2022).

Data collection techniques are the most important stage in this research, where the research data collected will be used to test theories or provide answers to formulated questions. The research was

conducted using documentation studies as a data collection method. Documentation study is a method for collecting data, such as relevant books, regulations, activity reports, and other important data that is relevant and supports research. The data collected and discussed in this research is secondary data originating from books, journals, websites and news related to research.

Discussion

Domestic Health Policy in the Time of COVID-19

Activities carried out by the community and economic actors are greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or the spread of the corona virus, especially in the manufacturing and tourism industries. The government was forced to implement various appeals to maintain social distance or also known as social distancing until the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in various regions starting in the city of Jakarta on April 10 2020. This is because the number of people infected with the corona virus continues to increase every day, forcing the government to act quickly. There is little doubt that this situation affects the economy of every level of society, food security in every region and other problems. These doubts arise because there is world economic disruption. Fiscal

and monetary policies are used by the Indonesian government to encourage economic growth and advance economic development (Purbantina & Hapsari, 2020).

National income levels, employment opportunities, national investment, and the distribution of national income can all be affected by fiscal policy. Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani projects that state revenue will decrease by 10% due to the negative impact of COVID-19. The decline in revenue due to the COVID-19 outbreak will largely affect tax revenues. With a bad economy, support for tax benefits, and lower income tax rates resulting in a decrease in state tax revenues, this impact certainly requires policies to resolve any existing problems. The financial system is threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, as evidenced by the reduction in a number of domestic economic activities. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the expenditure side. It is hoped that solving problems related to COVID-19 will not burden the state budget deficit too much. Therefore, planning and policies are needed that can control the country's economy (Nugrahaningsih & Suwarso, 2021). On the other hand, policies from a health perspective must also continue to be implemented, preventing the spread of COVID-19 is the main goal. Strict surveillance and monitoring in the field is

needed to precisely track and possibly anticipate the adaptation, evolution, transmission, and pathogenicity of the COVID-19 virus. There must also be guidelines for disease control and prevention, because COVID-19 was new at that time, this is very important because these factors will affect mortality and prognosis (Margono et al., 2021).

Indonesia's initial policy was to impose international travel restrictions starting January 27 2020. A total of 238 Indonesian citizens were also evacuated from Wuhan simultaneously by Indonesia. Indonesia implemented several rules and procedures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic after learning of the first infected cases and realizing how dire the situation was. One of these policies and actions includes designating 100 public hospitals throughout Indonesia as referral hospitals on March 3 2020. To deal with the increasing number of COVID-19 patients, Indonesia increased the number of referral hospitals to 227 on March 8 2020. However, the COVID pandemic -19 remains a problem, and despite these efforts the number of victims continues to rise rapidly (Hirawan & Verselita, 2020). The Indonesian government also enforces a social segregation policy for the community and offers health protocol guidelines, such as wearing masks, washing hands, avoiding

crowded areas, maintaining a safe distance, consuming a balanced diet, managing comorbid diseases, paying attention to vulnerable populations, and living a clean and healthy lifestyle. However, in practice, many people ignore the safety instructions given in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from that, the President of the Republic of Indonesia has also made a decision regarding the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19. Guidelines for COVID-19 in Indonesia were released by the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19 in Indonesia at the end of March 2020. In order to educate the public about steps to reduce the impact and death rate, this guide is intended for medical personnel and the general public. Protocols for rapid testing using RDTs, laboratory tests, patient management, and outreach/communication tools are all covered in the guidelines. The government implemented the PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) policy after concerns that COVID-19 cases would not decrease. Government Regulation Number 21 of 2020 which regulates PSBB in the context of accelerating the handling of coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19). In the PSBB implemented in Indonesia, there are several things that are restricted, such as, activities at schools and workplaces, activities in public spaces, socio-cultural

activities, and the operation of public transportation are prohibited during the PSBB (Triwibowo & Martha, 2021).

The COVID-19 outbreak has not only disrupted the local social environment, it has also sparked fear among medical personnel who are at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. The health service group is the group most at risk of being exposed to COVID-19. In addition, the infrastructure and facilities obtained do not support health workers, such as in places where the population is left behind in remote areas with a health system that is still limited in access to health services. Doctors, nurses and all other staff members in hospitals and healthcare facilities who are at risk of contracting the virus are also on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. Health care providers are placing greater emphasis on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of accident prevention and infection control strategies in their workplaces (Yunanda, 2020). Indonesian diplomacy is used to resolve existing problems such as diplomacy on personal protective equipment and training for medical personnel. Apart from vaccine diplomacy, Indonesia's bilateral cooperation with South Korea also discusses personal protective equipment and training for medical personnel to prevent increased transmission

of COVID-19 among health workers considering the vulnerability of this group (Setiawan, Affianty, et al., 2021).

Indonesia's Health Diplomacy with South Korea in the Time of COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, international diplomatic relations experienced a significant transformation. The COVID-19 pandemic, which spread to almost all countries in 2020 and lasted until 2021, has been upgraded to the status of a global health emergency as a result of the stressful situation on the international stage. The majority of the effects of this pandemic are on the health of a country's population. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant deaths in several countries. As a result, almost all governments are actively involved in providing health facilities and personnel. Bu Retno Marsudi, Indonesia's foreign minister, outlined three refocusing initiatives for the country's diplomatic service priorities. The main priority is protecting Indonesian citizens, the second priority is assisting the government in managing the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The third priority is supporting global peace and stability. Regarding its contribution to global stability, Foreign Minister Retno said that Indonesia also sponsored the first UN General Assembly resolution on COVID-

19 entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019" with five other countries (Mukrimaa et al., 2016). Health diplomacy is carried out through the Ministry of Health. According to Oscar Primadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, Indonesia has signed 22 Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for health cooperation with friendly countries in 2021, from 3 MOUs in 2016. As a follow-up to the MOU Memorandum of Understanding, the Joint Action Plan (JAP) was created. , Plan of Action (POA), and implementation of the Joint Working Group (JWG) as well as various implementation activities to suppress COVID-19. In order to combat the pandemic that hit the nation and resulted in deaths and weakening economic performance, Indonesia carried out global health diplomacy to obtain assistance and participate in international forums to resolve this global health problem (Setiawan et al., 2022).

Various studies have been carried out regarding Indonesia's foreign policy in relation to international health diplomacy, especially in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on, I Gede Wahyu Wicaksana (2020) examines Indonesia's problems with health diplomacy during the pandemic era of the Joko Widodo-Maruf Amin government. Despite the fact that the

public health agenda has been recognized as an important component in international relations, Wicaksana found that Indonesia's implementation of its foreign policy regarding the COVID-19 pandemic is still not significant. The performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is hampered by domestic problems, especially the marginalization of diplomacy in managing national crises. along with the structural and practical weaknesses of the Indonesian diplomatic system (Putri, 2020). There is also previous research by Albert Triwibowo (2020) explaining the special role of diplomacy in the COVID-19 pandemic, including for Indonesia. According to reports, Indonesia cannot carry out rapid tests due to its size and large population. Indonesia is working with China and South Korea to overcome this. Indonesia is also actively promoting resolutions at the UN General Assembly. Leadership in ASEAN is reportedly less involved in COVID-19 matters than in the UN. At the 2019 ASEAN Coronavirus Disease Summit, ASEAN issued a Declaration but had difficulty raising money to fight COVID-19 (Silalahi & Ginting, 2020). Furthermore, research by Jessica Martha (2020) underlines the need for Indonesia to use public diplomacy strategies similar to those used by South Korea, Taiwan and Georgia. Promoting ideals that can strengthen a

country's stability, foster mutual understanding, resolve miscommunication, and improve reputation are the hallmarks of public diplomacy. Understanding events, strengthening networks, and making deals and agreements with other countries are all ways of public diplomacy that can help efforts to resolve the situation caused by COVID-19 (Hidayat et al., 2022). In several previous studies above, it explains how Indonesia participates and uses foreign policy tools, such as diplomacy, to advance its national interests in an unstable international environment during the coronavirus outbreak. However, it is impossible to separate Indonesia's foreign policy in the medical sector from the fact that Indonesia relies on other countries' health technology, especially in immunization campaigns and procurement. In this research, the concepts of global diplomacy, global health conditions, and how global health is controlled through diplomacy are mapped first before examining how global health diplomacy during this pandemic (Jatmaika et al., 2022).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries around the world, including Indonesia and South Korea, were involved in various health diplomacy efforts to overcome this global health crisis. Health diplomacy includes various collaborative

and coordinative steps to overcome the challenges faced by each country as well as share knowledge, resources and experience in handling the pandemic (Hidayat et al., 2022). The following are several aspects of health diplomacy between Indonesia and South Korea during the COVID-19 period:

1. Exchange of Information and Experience: Both countries can share information regarding health policies, test and trace strategies, treatment, and mitigation measures that have been taken. This helped individual countries gain new insights and improve their response to the pandemic.
2. Humanitarian Assistance: In an effort of global solidarity, South Korea can provide humanitarian assistance to Indonesia, such as providing medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medicines and other medical equipment needed to handle COVID-19.
3. Research Collaboration: Both countries can work together on scientific research to develop new treatments, vaccines or therapies for COVID-19. This can involve the exchange of scientists, data and research resources.
4. Training Health Workers: South Korea has good experience in dealing

with the MERS pandemic in 2015. The country can help train Indonesian health workers in patient management, infection prevention, and other best practices.

5. Exchange of Technological Expertise: South Korea has strong technological capabilities. The two countries could collaborate on developing technological solutions such as contact tracing apps or telemedicine platforms to help tackle the pandemic.
6. Vaccine Diplomacy: Joint efforts can be made to ensure fair and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine for developing countries like Indonesia, including supporting mass vaccination programs.
7. Health Diplomacy Forum: The authorities of the two countries can hold special meetings and forums on health diplomacy, where issues related to COVID-19 are discussed and concrete steps for cooperation can be formulated.

In a pandemic situation like this, international cooperation and solidarity are very important. Health diplomacy efforts between Indonesia and South Korea can help each country overcome the challenges faced by COVID-19 and build a strong cooperation framework to face global health threats in the future. The South

Korean Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia has symbolically handed over the first cargo of aid from the South Korean Government for the treatment of Covid-19 in Indonesia as part of the country's initiative to "Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation with South Korea in Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic." 300 items Disinfectant sprayers are a support package. To help the Indonesian government fight this outbreak, which has affected the entire world, the South Korean government has promised to provide in-kind support of USD \$500,000. In addition, BNPB also expressed its gratitude for the cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from that, Indonesia is also creating new opportunities to expand collaboration, including expanding the purchase of medical equipment that is urgently needed by both countries, such as PPE and ventilators (Triwibowo & Martha, 2021).

With the help of the South Korean government and the commercial sector, Indonesia and South Korea are fighting COVID-19 in Indonesia. Bilateral relations between the two countries are generally positive, especially in the commercial, export-import, and travel and tourism sectors. In January 2020, trade between the two Asian countries was worth US\$1,311 million. Indonesia provides electricity and

raw materials for South Korean businesses. For many companies in South Korea, one of the main investment destinations is Indonesia. The ninth largest investor in Indonesia in 2019 was Ginseng Country. In that year, South Korea generated a total of US\$1.1 billion (2,952 projects) in Indonesia, down 33% from the previous year's investment of US\$1.6 billion (2,412 projects) (Setiawan, Affianty, et al., 2021).

In terms of the "war" against the COVID-19 pandemic, of course this situation brings together countries in the world that are experiencing the same tragedy. This is demonstrated by better collaboration to stop the spread of the virus and reduce its negative impacts in the health, social and economic sectors. The big result of the diplomacy carried out was that the COVID-19 casualty curve was successfully suppressed by South Korea and Indonesia. The number of incidents occurring is much lower, with the number of recovered patients continuing to increase. Therefore, South Korea and Indonesia can be models in dealing with this pandemic effectively and continuing to develop themselves and carry out diplomacy to accelerate implementation. The South Korean government's ability to conduct rapid testing on a large scale is one of the most important things to do because it allows the government to monitor and

respond quickly to the spread of the coronavirus. This massive testing was also aided by the successful mass production of coronavirus test kits by two South Korean biotechnology companies, Kogene Biotech and Seegene. The two companies hope to work with companies in Indonesia to jointly make test kits. Bearing in mind that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will also be produced simultaneously; the raw materials will come from South Korea and the clothes will be sewn in Indonesia. Apart from COVID-19 test kits and rechargeable battery-powered sprayers, assistance was also provided to Indonesia. A total of 300 sprayers were sent to Indonesia. Technically, countries are increasingly ready to work together to fight the pandemic with the PPE and test kits that have been provided. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is the organization chosen by the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs to handle the technical implementation of aid distribution. LG Group will provide 50,000 COVID-19 diagnostic tools (RTPCR type) as part of South Korea's private sector, and Hyundai Motor has also donated 40,000 PPE to Indonesia. Together with the US and UAE, the South Korean government has designated Indonesia as one of the main export destinations for

medical and quarantine equipment (Purbantina & Hapsari, 2020).

Governments in every country have been forced to take action to protect international finance through currency exchange programs as a result of the current pandemic conditions. The Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement (BCSA) agreement signed on March 5 2020 received appreciation from both Indonesia and South Korea. The platform is KRW10.7 trillion or IDR 115 trillion and is valid from March 6 2020 to March 5 2023 with the possibility of extension upon approval. Another financial plan, known as Local Currency Settlement with Appointed Cross Currency Dealer (LCS ACCD), is also being promoted by Indonesia. When trade transactions between two countries are settled in their own currencies and within their respective legal systems, it is referred to as bilateral trade settlement. To assist with LCS implementation by opening accounts in the partner country's own currency, the scheme requires the appointment of a Designated Cross-Currency Dealer, or bank. The aim of the LCS ACCD is to further increase the use of local currencies in trade settlement, thereby reducing pressure on the US Dollar against local currencies (Margono et al., 2021).

Together with South Korea, Indonesia is carrying out health diplomacy.

There is certainly one factor that needs to be taken into account in the health diplomacy carried out, namely because South Korea is a country that has a reputation for handling COVID-19 cases well. Based on data from January 3 to March 30 2020, 395,194 people have undergone blood tests, and another 13,531 are in the process. 372,002 people tested negative, 9,661 people were confirmed, 4,275 people were active, 5,228 people recovered, and 158 people died. South Korea learned from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak that the main thing that needs to be done to stop the spread of COVID-19 is social restrictions, although social isolation is not a lockdown, a quick response to the outbreak, mass rapidity, testing, contact tracing, and transparency in dissemination of information about COVID-19 (Silalahi & Ginting, 2020).

One way the government collaborates with foreign countries, international NGOs, NGOs and other private sectors to overcome health problems is through health diplomacy. According to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), global health diplomacy is essential to ensure public safety, promote economic growth, achieve security, and help low-income countries, according to Kickbusch (2013). Health

diplomacy is important because it considers factors other than health, such as political, economic and social impacts. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the relationships between governments, non-state actors, and parliaments when considering various national health policies. Because there are many health problems in the 21st century that require political and technological solutions, this health diplomacy seeks to increase awareness that health problems have a global dimension that transcends borders to improve relations with neighboring countries with health diplomacy (Purbantina & Hapsari, 2020). Overall, the aim of health diplomacy between Indonesia and South Korea during the COVID-19 pandemic is to support each other, exchange information and resources, and build a cooperative framework that is beneficial for handling this pandemic and overall public health (Nugrahaningsih & Suwarso, 2021).

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has inspired other countries to focus on health-related issues in their diplomacy, where previously diplomacy was often related to security, political, economic and commercial issues in various international environments. However, after the outbreak

of COVID-19, the main attention of ambassadors is now focused on health issues. International forums have developed into a place for discussion between many countries regarding national and global health maintenance. The use of international health diplomacy during the COVID-19 pandemic can be summed up in several ways. First, Indonesia uses multilateral forums to combine the concept of "health for all" and other global health diplomacy concepts. Indonesia's strong participation in global health governance is based, among other things, on Indonesia's foreign policy objectives to help realize world peace. Second, the UN is the main platform for getting assistance from other countries. Indonesia's diplomacy with South Korea during the pandemic had complex and varied dimensions, forming the basis for strong cooperation in various fields, not only in the health sector. Diplomacy between Indonesia and South Korea has experienced positive developments over the years. The two countries have succeeded in building a strategic partnership involving economic, socio-cultural, educational and scientific collaboration. Both have demonstrated active involvement through information exchange, medical assistance, and research collaboration. This reflects the strong commitment of both countries to jointly

overcome the global health crisis without ignoring geographical and cultural differences. Collaboration in providing medical equipment, vaccines and developing health technology is concrete evidence of progressive health diplomacy.

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