

Indonesia's Role in Digital Diplomacy Through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD)

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Abstract

Developed countries and developing countries have now implemented digital diplomacy for the benefit of their foreign policy. Digital diplomacy is very important considering the massive development of technology. Indonesia as a developing country initiated the holding of the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy forum for 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Where it is located regionally or regionally adjacent and has similar interests. In this study, researchers focused more on Indonesia's digital diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy. The author's analysis uses qualitative research methods by prioritizing literature studies or library research and is aligned with the theory of digital diplomacy and the theory of regionalism. The results of this study indicate that 1) Digital diplomacy is carried out by Indonesia to follow world digital technology; 2) Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy is an effort made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in building national forces through digital diplomacy meetings and the Asia Pacific region is a top priority in Indonesian regionalism politics; 3) Indonesian Digital Diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy is held as a follow-up to the International Seminar and International Conference on Digital Diplomacy. So that RCDD is in accordance with the objectives in the use of digital technology and increasing the contribution of Indonesia's foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

Keywords: *Digital Diplomacy, Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy, Asia Pacific, Indonesian Digital Diplomacy*

Abstrak

Negara maju maupun negara berkembang kini telah menerapkan diplomasi digital untuk kepentingan kebijakan luar negerinya. Diplomasi digital sangat penting mengingat masifnya perkembangan teknologi. Indonesia sebagai negara berkembang menginisiasi penyelenggaraan forum *Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy* untuk 16 negara yang berada di kawasan Asia-Pasifik. Di mana letaknya secara regional atau kawasan berdekatan dan memiliki kepentingan yang sama. Dalam penelitian ini peneliti lebih berfokus pada diplomasi digital Indonesia melalui *Regional Conference On Digital Diplomacy*. Analisa penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan mengutamakan studi literatur atau *library research* dan diselaraskan dengan teori diplomasi digital dan teori regionalisme. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa 1) Diplomasi digital dilakukan Indonesia untuk mengikuti teknologi digital dunia; 2) *Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy* adalah upaya yang dilakukan oleh Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia dalam membangun kekuatan nasional melalui pertemuan diplomasi digital dan kawasan Asia Pasifik adalah prioritas utama dalam politik regionalisme Indonesia; 3) Diplomasi Digital Indonesia melalui *Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy* diselenggarakan sebagai tindak lanjut dari *International Seminar and International Conference on Digital Diplomacy*. Sehingga RCDD sesuai tujuan dalam pemanfaatan teknologi digital dan peningkatan kontribusi politik luar negeri Indonesia di kawasan Asia-Pasifik.

Kata kunci: Diplomasi Digital, *Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy*, Asia Pasifik, Diplomasi Digital Indonesia

Introduction

Advances in information technology in the digital era as it is today are closely related to everyday life, one of which is the internet. The Internet for the first time appeared in America in the 1960s. Understanding the Internet is a network in communication that has the function of connecting accurately and quickly from one electronic media to another. If viewed from year to year the internet has developed increasingly sophisticated. So that the internet easily and quickly spreads throughout the world (Adani, 2020).

Many countries are competing to improve the internet network in their country. Because one of the uses of the internet for digitization is to improve the quality and quantity of human life in various aspects, including international relations. The existence of technology changes the way of diplomacy more effectively and efficiently (Taufiqurohman, 2021). So many developed and developing countries are developing bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral cooperation relations through digital diplomacy.

Countries in the world, including Indonesia, are at the stage of the industrial revolution 4.0. This is indicated by the existence of connectivity throughout the world that is integrated with the system, namely information technology and the internet.

Therefore, countries must adjust in establishing diplomatic relations by means of digital diplomacy. In conducting digital diplomacy, Ambassadors and Diplomats are encouraged to have social media (Dennis, 2021). Social media can be used to interact and provide information to the wider community.

In a study conducted by the Gadjah Mada University Center for Digital Society, Indonesia was ranked 9th out of 203 countries in digital diplomacy activities. The results of the study were taken from the number of internet network users in Indonesia, namely 132.7 million in 2016 which was taken from data from the Asosiasi Penyelenggara Jasa Internet Indonesia (APJII) (Taufiqurohman, 2021). These results were obtained from community surveys throughout the islands in Indonesia.

Digital diplomacy has become the state of Indonesia as part of the transformation of its diplomacy strategy in 2017. The Indonesian government uses various methods, such as using social media such as Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. In supporting Indonesia's digital diplomacy, the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi formed a forum named the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD) in 2019. The Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD) is the first forum for digital diplomacy in the region initiated by

Indonesian government (Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019a).

This forum shows that the international community has realized the potential for developing diplomacy through digital. The RCDD was attended by 16 Asia-Pacific countries consisting of ten Southeast Asian countries, namely Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, the Philippines. Six countries outside ASEAN, there is one country from South Asia, namely India, three countries from East Asia, namely Japan, China and the Republic of Korea, as well as two countries in the Pacific region, namely Australia and New Zealand. Each of these countries sent ministers and stakeholders to attend the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy in Jakarta (Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019b).

The cooperation carried out by countries in the Asia-Pacific region is not only cooperation in the economic field. However, there is also cooperation in the field of digital diplomacy that is echoed by Indonesia. Indonesia's geographical location which is at the point of intersection between Asia and the Pacific makes Indonesia a bridge connecting the two regions. This strategic location has consequences, namely Indonesia's responsibility to play a more active role in efforts to maintain and maintain stability in the region. In Indonesia's foreign policy, countries

in the Pacific region are the main priority of Indonesian regionalism politics in addition to ASEAN (Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019a)

With the COVID-19 pandemic, digital diplomacy is increasingly needed by every country in the world. This can be seen through diplomatic activities, for example in virtual meetings, campaigning and educating about diplomacy using social media, and utilizing technology to increase international trade (Dennis, 2021). Thus, state leaders do not need to attend international meetings in person, because they can record their speeches and then send them or they can be delivered virtually (Pramudyani & Santoso, 2021). This can also support the efforts of the WHO (World Health Organizations) in an effort to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Digital diplomacy is very important nowadays, but there are also many obstacles, one of which is in the financial sector. The financial sector is one of the industrial sectors that is experiencing developments in information and communication technology. The banking industry relies on ICT to provide services to customers such as sms banking, mobile banking and internet banking which have been around for several years. People are already used to using these services. As technology develops, startups are experiencing growth in Indonesia, many startups are

developing technology-based financial service applications. So that the fintech industry in Indonesia is increasingly diverse, namely payments, funding, digital banking, capital markets, insurtech and fintech support (Latifah, 2019).

According to Amer, Barberis, and Buckley that fintech is the use of technology to provide financial solutions. But in short, fintech is a form of implementing and utilizing technology to improve banking and financial services. Various innovations that have been made by startup players in the fintech industry are aimed at answering customer needs and adjusting to customer behavior trends. This shift shows that people's needs are no longer served only through traditional (face-to-face) financial services and with strict rules, but demand services that can be accessed online, as well as with easier rules (Latifah, 2019).

Obstacles or challenges in the development of product innovations based on digital technology platforms for the financial sector in Indonesia, one of which is Indonesia's condition as an archipelagic country with diverse cultures. The existing fintech platform already has innovation and good business processes, but there is no localized value in society, it is still general in nature so it needs to be developed with an end to end business cycle policy related to Indonesia's locality value. The development of a fintech platform is not always packaged on a large scale, it also

needs to be on a local scale so that the facilities provided can better suit the needs of local communities (Latifah, 2019).

A previous study entitled "Efforts to Protect Indonesian Citizens by the Government of Indonesia Through a Digital Diplomacy Approach 2014-2019" by Tryas Dharossa and Teuku Rezasyah stated that Indonesia's digital diplomacy is one of the foreign policies in protecting Indonesian citizens abroad. Because many Indonesian citizens are victims of violence abroad, especially in Malaysia. The Indonesian government uses digital media to make it easier to serve and protect Indonesian citizens, such as making it easier to match data for every Indonesian citizen who goes abroad and making it easier for Indonesian citizens to complain and see the progress of solving problems being faced (Dharossa & Rezasyah, 2020). Based on the explanation above, this research focuses more on Indonesia's Digital Diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD). This research was taken because there are no researchers who have taken the object of the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy and the data for this research from various years.

Theoretical Framework

Digital Diplomacy Theory

Diplomacy is the main medium for dealing with international problems in order to

achieve world peace. According to Ernest Sataw, the word diplomacy was used by Burke for the first time to show his expertise and success in carrying out international relations and negotiations in 1796 (Setiawan, 2016). The definition of diplomacy according to Sumaryo Suryokusumo is a political activity that is part of international activities and has mutual and complex influence, which involves the existence of governments and international organizations to achieve the desired goals through representatives or other official organizations (Suryokusumo, 2004).

In relations between nations, basically diplomacy is implemented starting from the beginning of a country that will establish bilateral relations with other countries until the two parties establish the next relationship (Nurika, 2017). In carrying out diplomacy, a country needs a diplomatic representative. The diplomatic representative has an important task, namely to make, create and formulate changes to international regulations regarding the types and norms that give shape to the international system (Setiawan, 2016).

In international relations diplomacy is a major study in the study of international relations. In the traditional approach, it means an art in negotiating with other countries. In the current development of diplomacy, some experts say that diplomacy has left its traditional side, namely state domination. Changing the nature of diplomacy which is

directed to the management of relations between the state or the state with other actors (Effendi, 2013). According to Sir Victor Wellesley, diplomacy is not a policy or regulation, but an attempt to influence the policies or regulations and views of other countries. The policy is used to determine tactics, strategy and diplomacy (Plano & Olton, 1988).

Diplomacy that uses the internet or digital devices is called digital diplomacy. Digital diplomacy arises from the existence of social media implemented by diplomats in various countries, both at embassies and consulates (Wangke, 2020). Digital diplomacy is a tool that grows within the framework of the concept of public diplomacy (Dwikardana et al., 2017). Lewis defines digital diplomacy as diplomatic efforts using digital tools carried out by diplomats, such as social media to interact with the public (Adesina, 2017). And according to Fergus Hanson, digital diplomacy is the use of the internet, communication and information technology to achieve diplomatic goals (Adesina, 2016).

Digital diplomacy has complemented the means of foreign policy that has a traditional nature with new tools or instruments that are innovative and adapted by utilizing networks and technology. So international practice shows that competent use of digital diplomacy can provide benefits for those involved in it. This diplomacy also

provides many benefits for the wider community, namely being able to fight extremism, improve the regional economy, encourage innovation, empower and protect the community (Wangke, 2020).

The direction of digital diplomacy is the use of social media, websites, and communication and information technology carried out by the state for the purpose of diplomatic activities, foreign policy and foreign policy issues. The practice of digital diplomacy is used to reach companies, non-state actors and the wider community (Bjola & Holmes, 2015).

Internet technology gave rise to the theory of disruption or disruptive. The word disruptive in English comes from the word "disrupt" which according to Oxford's definition is a problem that disrupts or forcibly replaces an event, activity, or process that has been running for a long time. When innovation occurs, if it cannot be delivered properly (diffuse), it can invite unpreparedness which is detrimental to various parties, such as one of which is continuous disruption by forcing system changes or threatening human existence with the presence of more modern and sophisticated technology in the era of the industrial revolution. 4.0 (Yu & Hang, C, 2010)

From the explanation above, the author will use the theory of digital diplomacy. The author analyzes Indonesia's Digital Diplomacy

Through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy based on digital diplomacy theory, namely the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi using digital diplomacy for foreign policy by taking advantage of opportunities to achieve the country's interests by increasing and establishing digital cooperation and can provide convenience to the Government especially Diplomats or Ambassadors in carrying out their duties through social media and official systems created by the Indonesian Government itself such as the WNI Portal and Save Travel for Indonesian citizens abroad, so that they can provide benefits and benefits to the state and society.

Regionalism Theory

Regionalism is often a part of international relations where there is a division of actors based on the region (Acharya & Johnston, 2007). The emergence of regionalism as a response to the global inability to achieve universal solidarity, so regionalism was developed as an alternative to solving problems that cannot be solved globally (Triwahyuni, 2010). Experts define regionalism into several topics such as geography, environment, economy, and politics which are contained in one region

which then form norms or values in practice globally (Syahdani, 2021).

Regionalism has the meaning of relations between countries or between groups that have interests in the region in order to achieve certain goals (Anwar, 1996). According to Manfield, regionalism is the relationship between geography, policies and the economy owned by a country with other countries (Manfield & Milner, 1999). So regionalism is the relationship between countries in order to create cooperation to achieve common interests (Octaviarie, 2017). According to Prof. Budi Winarno, regionalism is a regional classification identified from geographical proximity, trade, culture, communication and profitable economic dependence and participation in international organizations (Winarno, 2011).

In addition, another meaning of regionalism is a set of ideas that identify geography and social space for regional projects or can also be defined as an awareness in building identity so as to form a special region (Underhill & Stubbs, 2006). According to Edward D. Mansfield and Helen V. Milner regionalism is divided into two types, the first based on geographical proximity which can be interpreted as cooperation and coordination in the political and economic sectors carried out by countries because they are located close together. Second, regionalism cooperation in

which the government is based on non-geographical factors (Syahdani, 2021).

The development of regional studies has both positive and negative impacts on regionalism. The positive impact is that it makes small countries have opportunities for self-promotion and can develop their capabilities in regional forums. And the negative impact, according to Fawcett, is the emergence of chaos, regional instability and terrorism (Syahdani, 2021). Regionalism also has characteristics in classifying regions, namely countries that join the region have geographical proximity, these countries have sociocultural similarities, there are similarities in political attitudes and behavior such as in international organizations, similarities in membership of international organizations (Mustafa, 2013).

From the explanation above, this study uses the theory of regionalism to be able to analyze the implementation of Indonesian Digital Diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy based on the theory of regionalism, namely by holding a Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy by the Government of Indonesia which involves countries that are geographically in the region. Asia-Pacific. The countries involved have mutual interests for digital diplomacy in their countries so that the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD) forum makes it possible to produce cooperation in various

fields between countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Method

In this study, researchers used qualitative research methods. This study explains and provides related understanding of how Indonesia's Digital Diplomacy is through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD). Sources of data in this study using primary data (main) and secondary data (second). The primary data in this study were taken from the official website of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs such as twitter, instagram and youtube, the official website of the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD). As well as for secondary data in this study using journals, previous research, and articles on social media. The object of this research is the Indonesian government, especially the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which carries out its digital diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD) forum.

Data collection techniques researchers will use data collection techniques through library research or library research, namely by reading several books, journals, previous research, as well as valid data sources such as articles in online media. The data analysis technique that will be used by researchers is data reduction where researchers focus on finding and collecting data and analyzing how

Indonesia's Digital Diplomacy is through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD). Then the presentation of the data in this study, the researcher compiling data on Indonesia's digital diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD) using narrative texts from various sources on youtube and the official website of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then compiled in detail in order to give a certain meaning. Meanwhile, for data verification, researchers must provide accurate supporting evidence so that the data can be verified and can be concluded with credibility.

Discussion

Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy

Regionalism is concerned with international relations. Regionalism is the relationship between countries or between groups that have interests in the region in order to achieve certain goals (Anwar, 1996). The existence of regionalism that forms a regional area, made the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi to organize an Asia-Pacific regional forum named the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD), held on 10-11 September 2019 in Jakarta with the theme "Digital Diplomacy: Challenges and Opportunities", but before the RCDD was held, in 2018 the International Seminar on Digital Diplomacy was held which was also held in Jakarta, on 12 July 2018 (Kementerian

Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019c). The two forums carried the theme of digital diplomacy internationally and regionally.

The conference can host governments and stakeholders in the region to discuss opportunities and challenges on how diplomats and stakeholders use information and communication technology which is useful for communicating and recommending a policy. The Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy also allows for future cooperation in reducing the gap between technology and digital in the Asia Pacific region (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019c).

In a discussion forum, of course, it has a purpose in its implementation. RCDD also has a goal, namely to promote the exchange of ideas, experiences and seek opportunities for future cooperation in the field of digital diplomacy between countries in the region through discussion facilities. The discussion facility contains discussions on how to apply digital diplomacy in the region, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can also share their experiences and knowledge in using digital technology for diplomacy, government representatives and experts can discuss opportunities, challenges, the future and the use of different instruments. effectively, as well as the private sector, practitioners, representatives of government and civil society to be able to explore the potential for collaboration and support in

regional cooperation to increase tangible targets in digital diplomacy. The conference will also introduce opportunities for digital collaboration between the private sector and enable participants to use digital assets as a subject in digital diplomacy (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019b).

In addition to having the aim of the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy, it also produces a summary called the Jakarta Message which contains, first, the acknowledgment of the importance of digital diplomacy and commitment in building messages and digital diplomacy cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including calls to build a community free from information. false or untrue. Second, the plan for sustainable cooperation between the government, the private sector, and other stakeholders in building a regional network that is useful for increasing the use of digital technology in diplomacy (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019b). The result is cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in digital diplomacy.

Following up on the results of digital diplomacy cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in RCDD, at the 2020 Minister of Foreign Affairs Annual Press Statement. Australia signed a Statement of Intent (SPK) on digital cooperation and the development of trilateral cooperation. The development of trilateral cooperation is cooperation,

especially the International Development Cooperation Fund Institution (LDKPI). As Indonesia's new commitment that aims to provide support in world development to reduce poverty and social inequality (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2020).

Meanwhile, the SPK regarding digital diplomacy cooperation for Indonesia can put forward steps in the development of digital diplomacy and can increase the dexterity of Indonesia's digital diplomacy and increase collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region. For Australia, this collaboration is a form of commitment between the two countries in sharing experiences and best practices on how to use information technology in the world of diplomacy. In the event, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also exhibited artificial intelligence (AI) technology to map the activities of Indonesian diplomats abroad in social media (Mawangi & Sinaga, 2020).

The 2021 International Conference on Digital Diplomacy (ICDD) is a continuation of the 2019 Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD), which has a wider reach involving countries outside the Asia-Pacific. ICDD is a forum or place for promotion and broadening of ideas and experiences, and can be an opportunity for cooperation in the field of digital diplomacy with other countries in the world (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019b). ICDD was held in Bali on

16 November 2021 virtually because at that time there was an outbreak of the Covid 19 virus that was happening all over the world. ICDD was attended by 21 countries in the world, such as the United States, South Africa, England, Finland, Chile, Fiji, China, Republic of Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, India, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines and Malaysia each country sent its representatives (Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019b). So that the entire world community is aware of the discussion forum, the organizers, namely the Government of Indonesia, share or upload ICDD event moments through the official YouTube platform of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and there is also an Instagram platform which captures the moment in the form of short photos and videos.

At the RCDD conference, a digital technology exhibition will also be held on 10-11 September 2019. This exhibition will involve Indonesian unicorns, start-ups and other potential partners who will participate in exhibitions and exhibitions open to the public.

Indonesia's Digital Diplomacy Through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy

1. Indonesian Digital Diplomacy

Internet users always increase every year, so the overseas survey agency Hootsuite every

year always makes data about internet users. For survey data in the world in 2019 there were 4.388 billion internet users and 3.484 billion social media users. And data for Indonesia, there are 150 million internet users and 150 million social media users (Riyanto, 2019). Indonesia is one of the countries that use the internet the most because it is seen from the number 4th most populous population in the world after China, India, and the United States.

Therefore, digital diplomacy can be an important activity for Indonesia by paying attention to the large number of social media users in the country (Fuad, 2021). The importance of digital diplomacy for Indonesia is explained in the Minister of Foreign Affairs Regulation No. 2 of 2016. The revised 2017 Decree of the Minister of Foreign Affairs means that Indonesia places digital diplomacy as a tool for information dissemination as well as a much more strategic function (Kurniawati et al., 2020). So the social media created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2010 must change its practice as a tool to build understanding and trust on several issues (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019b). All of this is done to support the Indonesian government in its foreign policy.

Awareness of the important role of digital diplomacy was stated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Jokowi, that Indonesia's digital diplomacy will be

strengthened by its contribution to the international community, one of which is through social media, namely Twitter. Jokowi, through the platform, interacted with the Australian Prime Minister, in a post about thanking Jakartans while he was in Indonesia to discuss investment, trade and jobs. Digital diplomacy will be an important instrument in strengthening Indonesia's diplomacy (Syaifani & Qubba, 2017).

The President of Indonesia also follows social media trends, he has many social media such as twitter, facebook, youtube and instagram making it easier to connect with the public. President Jokowi also called for his government institutions to have social media. This is a good step for Indonesia in starting its country's digital diplomacy. The convenience of the existence of technology can be utilized as well as possible by Indonesia in order to realize middlepowership (Syaifani & Qubba, 2017).

In its application, diplomacy has opportunities according to research from a lecturer in International Relations at Parahyangan University, Bandung, there are three opportunities. First, it can continue to encourage information disclosure, meaning that the use of digital media by the public can provide a world perception of a democratic Indonesia. Second, public participation, especially millennials or young people. Millennials are the highest internet users and

they have creative ideas, energy and productivity. Therefore, if the government involves millennials, it is possible to advance Indonesia's digital diplomacy. Third, bring up solutions and innovations. Which means that social media can be a means of exchanging ideas, opinions and information, especially in the world of diplomacy (Dennis, 2021).

In addition, for Indonesia digital diplomacy has four benefits, namely first, spreading messages for peace. Second, as a tool in strengthening economic cooperation. Third, as a tool to protect citizens, and fourth, as a tool to advance development. These benefits are also reflected in the dynamics of Indonesia in digital diplomacy at the United Nations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has made Indonesia take advantage of digital technology to improve services and protection for Indonesian citizens abroad and to respond to challenges in contemporary international relations (Anshori, 2020).

Achmad Ramadhan from the Information and Media Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia said that recently the practice of digital diplomacy was being intensified. In 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs used digital to protect Indonesian Citizens (WNI) abroad, namely by launching the Safe Travel application platform which is based on a multi-platform basis. Previously, digital utilization had been carried out by the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs through websites and social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. Not only in an emergency, the application is designed with the concept of being safe and fun, containing practical information needed by Indonesian citizens. In this free downloadable application, Indonesian citizens will get complete information about various countries in the world, contact information for Indonesian Representatives, laws and regulations that apply in each country, local currency, places of worship, tourist sites, and culinary information. There is also another important feature, namely the emergency button (panic button). In an emergency, Indonesian citizens who are abroad can use the emergency button feature to send photos, record videos, contact the nearest RI Representative and send the location of the incident and that the concept of the Safe Travel application is like social media (Wulandari, 2018).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' commitment to activating digital diplomacy was again demonstrated through educational activities in the form of a seminar entitled "Digital Diplomacy" which was held today, July 12 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building in Jakarta. At the international seminar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs collaborated with Pulse Lab Jakarta and DiploFoundation. The seminar was attended by the diplomatic corps, representatives of

Ministries and Institutions, civil society organizations and private organizations. The seminar discussed various successful experiences and challenges of digital diplomacy, to the influence of digital diplomacy on diplomatic activities. Including, a number of discussions on examples of daily interactions and future challenges facing digital diplomacy. On that occasion, Jovan Kurbalija, Director of DiploFoundation, spoke broadly about various digital diplomacy experiences that utilize social networking sites. According to him, in the digital era, the use of social media for diplomacy has become a necessity. Almost all global leaders today have Facebook and Twitter accounts and use them as channels for diplomacy (Wulandari, 2018).

2. Indonesian Initiatives in the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy

RCDD is an initiative of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a follow-up to the holding of the International Seminar on Digital Diplomacy. The first RCDD forum in the field of digital diplomacy (Rahayu, 2019). The purpose of holding RCDD is to become a place for the government and interested parties in the region to discuss opportunities and challenges on how diplomats and interested parties use information and communication technology for communication and provide policy recommendations. The forum, which is named the Regional Conference on Digital

Diplomacy, can be a way of future cooperation in reducing the gap between technology and digital in the Asia-Pacific region (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2019a). Considering that countries in the Asia-Pacific region are developed and developing countries, of course differences can lead to inequalities in technology and information.

Indonesia's involvement in the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy shows that it is one of the countries that utilizes information and communication technology for diplomacy. Indonesia has realized digital transformation in the field of diplomacy, this is an important factor so that it does not lag behind other countries and stays abreast of technological developments (Anshori, 2020). As stated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi, when she said in the press that the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy (RCDD) was considered very important for Indonesia and other countries in the region, following that diplomacy was now not carried out in a conventional way. Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi also said that with digital diplomacy, it is hoped that it can spread messages of peace from foreign policy, as well as to support diplomacy in the economic field and as an effort to protect Indonesian citizens (Mandasari, 2019). Therefore, digital diplomacy is a tool to facilitate countries in establishing cooperation with other countries in related fields different. Within the Asia-

Pacific region, Indonesia also cooperates in other fields, such as economy, health, industry, education, defense and security.

Conclusion

In the research conducted by Indonesian Digital Diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy, it can be concluded that first, digital diplomacy is carried out by Indonesia to adapt the development of digital technology in the world. Second, the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy is an effort made by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in building national strength through digital diplomacy meetings and this forum is held because the Pacific region is a top priority in the politics of regionalism in Indonesia. Third, Indonesia's Digital Diplomacy through the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy as a follow-up to the International Seminar on Digital Diplomacy and the International Conference on Digital Diplomacy which were built through digital bilateral diplomacy before and after the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy forum was held. Thus RCDD has resulted in cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in digital diplomacy. So that the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy is held according to the objectives of utilizing digital technology and increasing the

contribution of Indonesia's foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

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