

Indonesia - Russia Bilateral Relations: Efforts To Enhance Digital Economy And Tourism Investment Cooperation

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Abstract

Indonesia and Russia's bilateral relations still need to be improved and strengthened in all sectors. Both countries agreed in Jakarta in 2021 to enhance and strengthen bilateral cooperation in politics, law, and security. The commitment to further cooperation made by the two major countries in the Asia Pacific aimed at creating peace and maintaining regional and global security stability. This study aims to elaborate how Indonesia's bilateral relations with Russia enhanced are related to the efforts of both generating digital economic cooperation and attracting foreign investment in Indonesia's leading tourist destinations. This study utilizes the concept of dynamic bilateral relations and the implementation of foreign economic policies. The researchers use qualitative research methods with explanatory writing techniques analyzing the data and information obtained. The liberal approach to mutually beneficial international cooperation is further elaborated and analyzed, particularly in understanding how each country's strategic decisions have an impact on sustaining regional economic growth. The digital economy cooperation built by the two countries still needs to be strengthened to attract more incoming Russian investors in the tourism industry. This research reveals that international cooperation has been carried out by the Indonesian government and stakeholders related to tourism management destinations is done through bilateral cooperation, regional cooperation, and multilateral cooperation. It still needs clear strategies that should be implemented tactically as a strategic effort by the Indonesian government and related stakeholders to sharpen the construction of the national digital economy in the sustainable, inclusive, and quality tourism sector in driving and supporting national economic growth.

Keywords: bilateral relations, digital economy, tourism investment, Indonesia, Russia

Abstrak

Hubungan bilateral Indonesia dan Rusia masih perlu ditingkatkan dan diperkuat di segala bidang. Kedua negara sepakat di Jakarta pada 2021 untuk meningkatkan dan memperkuat kerja sama bilateral di bidang ekonomi, politik, hukum, dan keamanan. Komitmen kerjasama lebih lanjut yang dilakukan oleh kedua negara besar di Asia Pasifik tersebut bertujuan menciptakan perdamaian dan menjaga stabilitas keamanan regional dan global. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengelaborasi bagaimana peningkatan hubungan bilateral Indonesia dengan Rusia terkait dengan upaya untuk menghasilkan kerjasama ekonomi digital dan menarik investasi asing di destinasi wisata unggulan tanah air. Penelitian ini menggunakan konsep hubungan bilateral yang dinamis dan implementasi kebijakan ekonomi luar negeri. Peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan teknik eksplanatori dalam menganalisis data dan informasi yang diperoleh. Pendekatan liberal untuk kerjasama internasional yang saling menguntungkan dijelaskan dan dianalisis, terutama dalam memahami bagaimana keputusan strategis masing-masing negara berdampak pada keberlanjutan pertumbuhan ekonomi regional. Kerja sama ekonomi digital yang dibangun kedua negara perlu semakin diperkuat untuk menarik lebih banyak investor Rusia memasuki industri pariwisata Indonesia. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa kerjasama internasional Indonesia dengan pemangku kepentingan terkait pengelolaan destinasi dilakukan melalui kerjasama bilateral, kerjasama regional, dan kerjasama multilateral. Masih diperlukan strategi jelas yang sebaiknya dilaksanakan secara taktis sebagai upaya strategis pemerintah Indonesia bersama pemangku kepentingan terkait dalam mempertajam konstruksi ekonomi digital nasional di sektor pariwisata berkelanjutan, inklusif, dan berkualitas dalam mendorong dan mendukung pertumbuhan ekonomi nasional.

Kata Kunci: hubungan bilateral, ekonomi digital, investasi pariwisata, Indonesia, Rusia

Introduction

Russia is not a threatening state-actor of international peace and stability (Sumsky et al, 2012, p. 48). Asia-Pacific region unlike Europe does not have any organization with a mandate to seek comprehensive solutions to political, economic or security problems. Like it or not, Russia has a flexible position on a new regional architecture, holding that a future pan-Pacific system must have a niche for Russia's involvement. In research from a scholar (Simon, 2008, p. 264), Southeast Asian states have originated most Asian regional organizations, and Southeast Asian procedures acquired through ASEAN determine their process. Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos are well-known as Russia closest friends in Southeast Asia, particularly in providing military weapons (Kurlantzick, 2022). Additionally, Moscow in recent years also maintain its strategic relations with others regional actor such Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia as well.

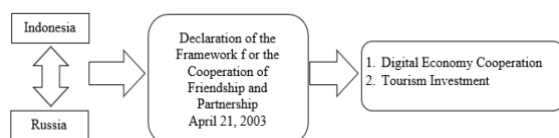
The end of the Cold War resulted in geopolitical changes in the international community in the early 1990s which was marked by the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which had an impact on the dynamics of relations between Indonesia and Russia

(Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2020). The Soviet Union was formed on December 30, 1922 and declared disbanded on December 25, 1991. On December 28, 1991 through a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Ali Alatas, addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Andrei V. Kozyrev, the Indonesian Government officially recognized the Russian Federation. as the legal successor of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, Indonesia and Russia will continue to improve strategic relations and sustainable cooperation.

Therefore, in Asia Pacific regions, most countries expect the US, China, and Russia presence actively to create a dynamic balanced inclusive regional architecture. Preventive diplomacy has been promoted sustainably by various regional actors. Even though, regulating imminent conflicts have had little success due to apprehensions that this may possibly provoke interference from large countries in particular regarding to their global politics ambitions extension worldwide. While in Southeast Asia, ASEAN member states which are in the centre of integration processes are suspicious and jealous about any attempts to create structures that may sideline them in regional integration.

Indonesia's bilateral relations with Russia are described as sustainable foreign relations in the political, economic, social, cultural, security, and defense-military fields (Manurung & Bainus, 2021, p. 77). Both scholars stated that Moscow perceives Jakarta one of the most important partners in Asia-Pacific region. While the current diplomatic relations have been traditionally built based on friendship and mutual trust which there are prerequisites for bringing bilateral ties to the level of strategic partnership (2021, p. 80). The relationship between the two friendly countries began on February 3, 1950 when the Soviet Union (now Russia Federation) has always supported Indonesia's presence since gaining independence on August 17, 1945, as a sovereign state in a number of international forums.

Figure 1. Indonesia-Russia Bilateral Relations



Source: constructed by Authors

In 2022, the expectation of the revival of the tourism industry to move forward is starting to come to light. The progress of vaccination which has started

in 2021 is quite satisfactory and gives optimism for the tourism industry to recover faster. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of the tourism industry as well as the behavior of consumers or tourists who have adapted to new normal conditions. The tourism industries players should be able to quickly adapt to the disruption of the new normal in order to survive and thrive.

The large potential for cooperation between Indonesia and Russia has so far encouraged digital economic cooperation and the promotion of Indonesian tourism sectors. Russia is one of the countries from which tourists visit Indonesia in 2021. Indonesia is also recognized worldwide as successful in recovering the tourism sector from the pandemic storm that hit the last two years. Indonesia's is known as the world largest archipelagic country previously had slumped its economy since early March 2020 due to the impact of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Indonesia was decided and set to host the 42nd World Tourism Day which held in Bali on 27 December 2022 (Kemenparekraf RI, 2022). The challenge of generating the economic growth of each country and the right strategy to develop more inclusive and sustainable tourism in the future need to be a concern for all countries.

Currently, Indonesian tourism has not fully recovered, even Bali is still in the process of recovering. The management of the country's leading destinations still needs the support of various relevant stakeholders, such as: state enterprises, private companies, and the local people around the destination. Indonesia, which is located on the equator, has many good tourist destinations, and during the global pandemic, people are encouraged to visit domestic tourist attractions. Therefore, by traveling within the country, the development of destinations in a number of tourist areas can be maintained, such as in Makassar, Manado, Rote, Raja Ampat, Komodo island, Aceh, Tarakan, and others.

Indonesia and Russia Relations: Optimizing Intense Cooperation

Russia is a potential market for Indonesian products, including: palm oil, fish products, coffee, garments, while Russia offers wheat and high-tech products to Indonesia. This cooperation can complement each other. Based on data from the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, Indonesia's trade value with Russia in 2018 was USD 2.55 billion, and in the January-November 2019 period it had reached USD 1.92 billion. However, the trade value is actually very small

compared to the trade economic potential of the two countries. Russia is the world's number 12 economic power while Indonesia is number 16.

Russia and Indonesia trade relations have been examined by the global pandemic. In 2020, the trade turnover between Russia and Indonesia decreased by 4.1% and amounted to \$2.3 billion (Regnum, 2021). At the same time, Russia and Indonesia have serious reserves for building up economic cooperation, using, in particular, the opportunities and established ties of the Business Council for Cooperation with Indonesia and the Russia-ASEAN Business Council. that Russian business has a huge interest in both bilateral business ties and cooperation with Indonesia, as a key player in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Further, the establishment of good relations along with strengthening business relations between Indonesia and Russia reflects the relationship between the two brothers since February 1950. Moreover, Moscow always supports Indonesia position in Southeast Asia and worldwide and has lasted for 77 years since Indonesia proclaimed its independence in 1945. This was inseparable from the close relationship between the Soviet Union and Indonesia during the reign of the first President of Indonesia Soekarno in 1956, followed by

Moscow's support for Jakarta regarding the delivery of defense equipment for the benefit of the liberation of West Irian as well as related to educational issues (Jingga, 2022). At the beginning of the era of President Soekarno's leadership, the Soviet Union was outspoken in supporting Indonesia in a number of UN forums and condemning the Dutch military aggression.

Russia and Indonesia diplomatic relations have lasted for more than 70 years, and are celebrated in 2020 (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2020). The celebration was filled with screenings of Indonesian films which were held on 23 January 2020 in Moscow and 25 January 2020 in Kazan, an Indonesia-Russia seminar in Moscow on 18 February 2020 and St. Petersburg on February 20, 2020, cultural performances in Moscow on May 30, 2020 and St. Petersburg in September 2020, and the production of the 70th Indonesia-Russia book. The celebrations were also enlivened with the Indonesia and Russia business forum in Moscow on 30 July 2020 and the fifth Indonesian Festival in Moscow on 31 July to 2 August 2020.

Russia prioritizes Indonesia as one of its investment targets in the Southeast Asian region. Indonesia has also become one of the main destinations for Russian tourists. Based on data from the

Indonesian Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Russian tourists to Indonesia in 2018 were 125,728, up 6.51% from 2017. Meanwhile, in the January-November 2019 period, Russian tourists to Indonesia were 170,370 people, up 13.49% from the same period in 2018. On the other hand, not a few Indonesians also visited Russia and the number continues to increase. In addition, there are also many Indonesian students studying in Russia from only 2 people in 1996 to 644 people in 2020. The Indonesian National Anti-Drug Agency participates in courses organized by the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation. According to the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Indonesia, Lyudmila Vorobyova, the course is part of the cooperation between Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Regnum, 2021).

Furthermore, in research from Dikshit, the intense spirit of India and Russia defence cooperation was the most influential ingredient of the close relationship (2008, p. 3). It was between two nations and it was difficult to term it as a pure commercial venture. Additionally, Indonesia and Russia also work together to fight traditional and nontraditional threats such as terrorism and transnational crimes, as well as settling issues related to maritime security and

freedom of navigation and aviation (Manurung, et al, 2021, pp. 94-95).

Russia is a potential market for Indonesian products, including: palm oil, fish products, coffee, garments, while Russia offers wheat and high-tech products to Indonesia. This cooperation can complement each other. Indonesian Ministry of Trade reported that Indonesia's trade value with Russia in 2018 was USD 2.55 billion, and in the January to November 2019 period it had reached USD 1.92 billion. However, the trade value is actually very small compared to the trade economic potential. Russia is the world's number 12 economic power while Indonesia is number 16.

However, regarding efforts to address the development of tensions in Ukraine before President Putin declared a special military operation, a number of world countries along with Indonesia called for peaceful efforts through constructive dialogue as a solution to the conflict resolution involving Ukraine and Russia. Retno Marsudi told Sergey Lavrov that (The Jakarta Post, 2022):

“All countries are responsible for expressing a message of peace because conflicts are useless, and the world’s energy should be directed at overcoming the pandemic and the world economic recovery”.

The Western scholar stated that, Russia’s ties across Southeast Asia keep most countries in the region from opposing the war in Ukraine (Kurlantzick, 2022). Ukraine so far clearly does not have a reliable power ability to defend its national sovereignty to deal with Russian troops and military sophistication unless it is supported by the US government, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU). Kiev indeed was most likely just attempting to prevent the military action from being taken as a pretext for war. The Indonesian government has always prioritized a free and active foreign policy and has taken the initiative to participate in efforts to create world peace based on the mandate of the 1945 Constitution. Indonesia’s side is in world peace and ending the humanitarian tragedy in the territory of Ukraine related to the armed conflict involving Russia and Ukraine. President Jokowi became the first Asian leader to visit the two warring countries in Eastern Europe (B. Nadira, 2022). The ceasefire needs to be continuously pushed by the leaders of Russia and Ukraine through diplomacy without involving the US and Western countries or other parties.

The development of international and regional issues including global challenges is always followed by

Indonesia and Russia. The strengthening of bilateral cooperation is continuously enhanced by exploring the potential and opportunities for cooperation in various fields, including economy, trade, investment, energy, tourism, science and technology, education, socio-culture, defense-security and military engineering. Russia is well-known internationally as a multi-cultural country consisting of about 120 ethnic groups with various unique languages and cultures.

In research from Trenin, in many ways, 2014 was a pivotal year for Russia's foreign policy. At that time, Moscow began moving away from its traditional conceptual framework prioritizing Europe and the Atlantic, with a secondary focus on the post-Soviet spaces (2017, p. 106). Suppose the Ukrainian crisis can be understood and served as the coup the grace for the two concepts that had guided Russian foreign policy since the break-up of the Soviet Union, i.e.: 1) integration into the wider West, and 2) reintegration of the former Soviet republics with Russian Federation. Russia's special military operation to Ukraine which began on February 24, 2022 up to present time has always filled the headlines of a number of international media.

The open conflict currently occurring is an escalation of conflict

involving the two countries since 2014. The peace resolutions are being sought and negotiated sustainly, but the settlement of the Ukraine-Russia conflict has not ended peacefully. The conflict in Ukraine has even expanded to become an open conflict involving a number of Western countries with Russia. President Joko Widodo's state visit to Kiev and Moscow last June 2022 reflected Indonesia's goodwill and determination to participate proactively in maintaining international peace and stability. Indeed, President Jokowi's visit to the two warring countries signaled a positive step for Indonesia in the midst of the G20 presidency as well as hosting a meeting of G20 leaders in mid-November 2022. Obviously, Indonesia as the president of the G20 has taken the initiative to pursue peace and stop the humanitarian tragedy in Ukraine. Even, according to Teuku Rezasyah, the Indonesian government is certainly clearly showed that it does not want to be dictated to by any country in recent conflict (B. Nadira, 2022).

The international world is currently in the midst of inflation and a global economic recession which is exacerbated by the threat of a third world war, a nuclear war between the West-Russia and China, mass graves, and the involvement of warring parties in conflicts. According

to the new research, China's remarkable economic development has had profound domestic and international effects, and among the most important of these is China's growing impact on the region of which it is an increasingly important and influential part in Asia Pacific (Beeson & Zeng, 2017, p. 159). Thereafter, according to Godement et al (2016, p. 1), Russia and China axis of convenience has grown larger and the positive dynamics pushing cooperation forward are largely economic. The negative impact comes from the West regarding to closer relations of Beijing and Moscow in Asia Pacific. Both countries have a perception of regime insecurity that emerges from the international promotion of democracy, and the attractiveness of corruption-free and comparably safe Western societies for individuals, be they Chinese or Russian.

Moreover, the US and most Western countries concern with what Russia has done to Ukraine is an invasion and military aggression eight months ago, and is the main problem for the West regarding how to create world peace and stability sooner or later. Western media views President Putin decision to invade Ukraine with the term denazification, and now his security council is pivoting to the term desatanisation (Guardian, 2022). Moreover, Indonesia chooses not to side

with any country that is in conflict. Indonesia's bilateral relations with Russia and Ukraine remain closely and continuously intertwined (Bramasta, 2022).

Digital Economy Cooperation

In the first half of 2022, foreign tourist arrivals experienced a significant increase when compared to the same period the previous year, increasing by 926% with 743 thousand visits (Kemenparekraf RI, 2022). Indonesia's creative economy has great potential to be developed continuously. At present, the creative economy is one of the biggest contributors to the national gross domestic product (GDP) with a contribution value of 7.8 percent. This number is supported by three main sub-sectors namely culinary, fashion, and craft. In addition, it places Indonesia in the top three in the world in terms of its contribution to national GDP, below the US with Hollywood and South Korea with K-Pop. Around 88.8 percent of Indonesian consumers decide they are more dominant in using and consuming products with domestic brands. The export value of Indonesia's creative economy in 2021 has reached US\$ 23.9 billion. Previously, in 2020, Indonesia's creative economy was only at US\$18.8 billion. The government targets the value of

Indonesia's creative economy exports by 2022 to reach US\$25.14 billion.

The Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno continues to encourage a number of creative economy actors, micro, small and medium enterprises in particular (MSMEs) to be able to continue to innovate, adapt and collaborate in producing products and also marketing so that they can have a broad impact on the revival economy and job creation (Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, 2022). Thereafter, Moscow signed defense and information security agreements with Vietnam and Indonesia on December 1 and 14, 2021 (Clark et al, 2022, p. 2). Indonesia's size is often assumed to afford the country an inevitable significance in international affairs. Noticeably, Indonesia is also the world's third largest democracy, in the top twenty global economies, the most populous Muslim-majority country and the fourth most populous country overall (McRae, 2014, p. 2). The global major-powers views specifically on Indonesia's democratic transformation and the growth of its economy over the last twenty years have gained broader attention.

There are other reasons that a decision to eliminate future dependence on imports from Russia would pose serious

issues (Cordesman, 2021, p. 17). Putting the climate change issue aside, a successful effort to end European dependence on Russian gas and oil exports will have two major strategic benefits, i.e.: 1) it will remove a key form of Russian political and economic leverage that has led some European states to be reluctant to fully support Ukraine and major sanctions against Russia; and 2) it will directly reduce Russia's revenues from one of its few major sources of foreign trade income as a key factor for a major power whose economy is now far smaller and weaker than its claims to military power.

People's behavior can be changed to become more acquainted with the digital world, as the global pandemic around the world has lasted for almost three years. The tourism digitization program is accelerated in such a way because the management of tourist objects is getting closer to the digital world. Many Asia-Pacific countries increasingly feel the need for a comprehensive model of cooperation and security. The concept of network diplomacy is becoming increasingly popular, such the establishment of a partnership network of multilateral associations in the region. The region is considering merging several regional platforms, for example the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) with the Asia

Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, or the East Asia Summit with APEC, so that regional cooperation acquires both political and economic dimensions. The Russian Ambassador to Indonesia, Lyudmila Vorobieva in 2021, mentioned as follows,

“The bright prospects for the information and communication technology (ICT) sector between Indonesia and Russia in supporting fields such as education, data security, and banking”.

The bright and promising prospects of the information and communication technology (ICT) sector between Indonesia and Russia need to be enhanced and synergized by all parties. This is actually useful for supporting the development of other areas of mutual strategic cooperation, such as education, data security, banking, regional mapping, agriculture, marine and fisheries. While, George Mikaberidze, CEO of Rosinfokominvest also stated in Jakarta as follows,

“Russia is currently in the process of digitizing 4.0, and offers a number of solutions and opportunities to collaborate with strategic partners in Southeast Asia such as Indonesia. The more open opportunities for cooperation and match-making efforts between the two countries will certainly be able to bridge Russia's ICT with Indonesia”.

Thereafter, in research from scholars, President Putin also intends to

leverage Singapore as an important nexus point as he expands Russia's influence and networks in Asia (Barros & Bugayova, 2019). The Kremlin might also seek to create additional avenues to evade sanctions through trade diversification and money laundering for Russia, Putin's associates, and Russia's partners, such as Iran.

Attracting Tourism Investment

The last three years have been challenging for the Indonesian tourism industry. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a very significant impact on Indonesian tourism. The decline in the number of tourists, especially foreign tourists as a result of the implementation of social restrictions (PSBB and PPKM), variants of COVID-19 such as Delta and Omicron followed by the closure of international access from various countries have made the tourism industry slump. Indonesia's Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno said as follows (Kemenparekraf RI, 2022),

“The central government continues to support the development of a sustainable and quality tourism and creative economy industry through the implementation of rules and policies that have an impact on the industry”.

In 2022 to 2023, with the global pandemic situation being quite under control, however, there are still several other factors that could become a problem for the tourism industry to rise, including: rising air ticket prices due to rising world commodity prices, the prolonged conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the slowdown global economic growth to inflation. This obviously can have an indirect impact on the national tourism industry. Deputy for Industry and Investment of the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy Henky Manurung said as follows (Anam, 2022),

“Currently 5 DPSPs are ready to go to Special Economic Zones (KEK) for Tourism. Therefore, providing convenience for investors who invest in the tourism sector. The infrastructure has gone there, the regulations have gone there, the facilities have been there. And I became a witness for the Belitung SEZ, where we made it easy to get tax allowance and duty free. In addition to convenience for investors, it is certain, with the existence of the Tourism SEZ, it is very possible to become a forum for the growth of national MSME actors”.

Following that, digitalization can also boost competitiveness and expand opportunities for business actors to develop markets so that they can improve the economy of MSME actors. In research from Manurung, globalization has transformed the organization of the international economic relationship around

the world, affecting the economic, social and political spheres of societies and citizens (2016, p. 2). It leads to a continuous interaction between the state and other states to meet the national interest in bilateral trade relations. National interest is a composition of the elements that create the needs of a country to become a fundamental goal and the final factor that directs the decision- makers in the formulation process of a country’s foreign policy.

In October 2018, at the twelfth Indonesia-Russia Joint Commission Session, a number of strategic issues related to trade, investment, tourism, as well as strategic programs in various fields of cooperation in order to strengthen bilateral relations were also discussed (Kemenko Perekonomian RI, 2018). At that time, most of the trade activities between both countries so far are carried out through third countries. Therefore, in order to strengthen investment relations between both countries, the Indonesian government invited Russia to invest in Indonesia by utilizing various facilities provided by the Indonesian government in the Online Single Submission (OSS) system.

Indonesia's GDP growth in 2022 previously is predicted by IMF to grow 5.4%, and 5.1% by World Bank. The

COVID-19 pandemic has created a global economic crisis with the most serious impact compared to previous crises. Economic contraction occurs in all developed and developing countries. In 2020 Indonesia experienced an economic contraction of minus 2.07 percent. However, this figure is relatively better when compared to the economic growth of countries in Southeast Asia which is at minus 4.0 percent, predicted by Asian Development Outlook (Kemenparekraf RI, 2022, p. 21). In fact, for two countries, expanding market access for agricultural and fishery products and commodities, boosting Russian investment in Indonesia, especially in infrastructure and energy. Both maximizes efforts to accelerate the start of free trade negotiations between Indonesia and the Eurasian Economic Union, which began with the establishment of a Joint Study Group, and expansion cooperation in other fields, such as: tourism, health, and industry.

While, Indo-Pacific terminology has emerged recently, covering the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Mainland Asia continent, Japan, Southeast Asia and the Australian continent (Manurung & Bainus, 2021, p. 95). This region is considered a dynamic area in the 21st century with the highest rate of economic growth compared to other regions of the world. Asia has

been transformed the physical environment in which Russia should operate. In research from Lo, President Putin foreign policy concerns very much with the rise of Asia economy and regional stability (2019, p. 2).

There is no other continent will have a greater impact on Russia's international prospects in the coming decades. Moreover, the principal region of global growth, Asia-Pacific is well-known as geopolitical rivalry and regional clashing values simultaneously. Russia perceives that its relations with Indonesia are in a state of renewal amid the complex dynamics that are taking shape in the region and the international world today (Посольство Республики Индонезия в Российской Федерации, 2020). Traditionally, cooperation between the two countries is based on such areas as mechanical engineering, military equipment, tourism and agriculture. However, there is great scope for developing cooperation in other areas such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals, civil aviation, energy, cybersecurity and education.

The trade representative of the Russian Federation in Indonesia, Sergey Rossomakhov also met with the governor of the Indonesian province of West Nusa Tenggara in Mataram (Regnum, 2021).

The meeting was aimed at exploring investment opportunities and the potential of the Indonesian province. West Nusa Tenggara is perceived by Russian policy-makers, as a developing region, sees many opportunities for economic cooperation, which such sectors as infrastructure and energy are considered promising for cooperation. Russian Federation government is also ready to promote the Indonesia's development of tourism. Earlier, the governor of Jakarta stated that the monument to Yuri Gagarin in Mataram Park South Jakarta symbolizes the proximity of Indonesian citizens to Russia.

The opening of the monument to Yuri Gagarin is the completion of a series of events dedicated to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Russia. The monument to Yuri Gagarin is 282 cm high, 225 cm wide and weighs 500 kg. The bronze monument is the work of the Russian sculptor A.D. Leonova. The government of the Russian Federation handed over to Indonesia a monument to cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin (Regnum, 2021).

Conclusion

The national pandemic situation is much better when compared to the

previous two years, the new variant of Omicron which is known to spread faster than the previous variant, turns out to have a fairly low fatality rate. The success of providing vaccines and boosters by the government has become one of the keys to reducing the pandemic in the last 2 years. Indonesia tourism and creative economy stakeholders work very hard committedly in strengthening the solidity of the national tourism ecosystem. It is still necessary to optimize steps for the recovery of the tourism industry with the support of digital economy collaboration and tourism investment from Russia on Indonesian tourist destinations. Moreover, the strategy and platform for Indonesia's industry 4.0 along with aspects that can be collaborated with Russia should be implemented in the near future.

The public's confidence to do outdoor activities also increases along with the decrease in daily cases. This situation is in stark contrast to last year's where the Indonesian tourism industry was one of the sectors affected by the implementation of the implementation of social restrictions for several months. Therefore, the tourism industry players should be able to re-conceptualize the tourism products offered (reshape), then rise from adversity (revival) and prepare to squirm again

(rebound) to meet the next normal period after the COVID-19 pandemic.

After 2021, economic growth in Indonesia only grew by 3.69%. The momentum of recovery in 2022 should be put to good use. The gradual easing of community activities throughout early 2022, until the pandemic is under control could be a catalyst for the revival of economic activity, especially in the tourism industry and the creative economy which has been quite sluggish over the last two years as a result of restrictions on social activities. The Indonesian government also encourages MSMEs in the tourism and creative economy sectors to continue to develop their business scale through the use of digital technology and obtain business opportunities with the widest possible access to financing.

Las but not least, the closer relations of Indonesia and Russia can later contribute significantly to Indonesian economic recovery in various leading destinations. Indeed, activities to fulfill daily consumption and public shopping needs are digitized as well as leisure activities for the Indonesian people. In addition, it needs clear economic and digital transformation policy implementation into optimizing the benefits of inclusive digital technology by encouraging digitalization in various

business sectors, including in the tourism and creative economy sector which contributes significantly to the country's national GDP.

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