

MARITIME SILK ROAD IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND INDONESIAN MARITIME AXIS AS A BRIDGE
TO THE NATION'S WELFARE

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Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century had been initiated by Xi Jinping Presiden since long time ago. It was reaffirmed in the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 2015 that China will continue to promote the south-south cooperation in maintaining peace, regional stability, and achieve common prosperity. Jinping offered his strategic initiative to increase investment and collaboration with all countries concerned with the increase of the sea roads. This is in line with the aspiration of President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) to build the sea toll road. Jokowi makes the maritime force and economic development based on sea as one of the targets of his cabinet. President Jinping pledged to offer training to 100,000 people and will provide assistance to developing countries without any political circumstance.

Intimate relationship between China and Indonesia was reaffirmed by Megawati during a visit to China on 12 to 15 October to inaugurate the building of Indonesia - China Cooperation Center "Rumah Sukarno" in Shenzhen. She said that there are a lot of cooperations that can be built with, especially Indonesia and China have similarities in building the maritime zone. China has a Maritime Silk Road and Indonesia has Maritime Axis project. This is an opportunity. Megawati wants to promote the eastern region of Indonesia, since this regiona becomes the focus of the national development, without neglecting the western region of Indonesia.

Developing the Speed and Mobility of Human and Goods

The Silk Road of the 21st Century and the construction of Indonesian Maritime Axis indeed echo the glory of the two nations – China and Indonesia. The sea links between the two countries was carried out by Admiral Cheng Ho around the 15th century to the archipelago. This becomes a solid basis and history for the fraternal and friendship relations This paper presented in International Symposium “Jalur Sutra Maritim Abad ke -21 dn Kerjasama Wadah Pemikir Tiongkok-Indonesia” held on June 24th- 25th 2016 in Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFLU), Beijing, Peoples Republic of China

between the two nations. Even before Admiral Cheng Ho, who was a Moslems, docked to Indonesia, some Buddhist Chinese scholars have had relation with the kingdom of Sriwijaya in Palembang in the 7th century to study Buddhism, resumed with relations with the other kingdoms another in Singasari and Majapahit, Banten, Demak, and Mataram, etc.

The relationship was getting closer when the Fleet of Admiral Cheng Ho landed in the coast of Sumatra, Borneo and Java. Traces of Admiral Cheng Ho was clearly seen on the North coast of Java, such as in the fields of architecture, art and culture . Even Cheng Ho also built the Temple of San Po Khong in the city of Semarang which now becomes a tourism icon. Almost all major cities in Indonesia have "Kampung China" (China Town) and maintain their ancestral traditions.

The availability of the adequate amounts of the sea fleets through the Maritime Silk Road in the 21st century and the Indonesian Maritime Axis will accelerate the flow of people and goods, and automatically will increase the quality of Human Resources (HR) and the level of economic welfare through business and trade activities in realizing the common goals ie. The welfare of the nation. The interhuman relations without concerning religious and socio-cultural background becomes closer and increase their quality of life for mutual aid and need. The geographical distance between China and Indonesia and their large population can be brought closer with the easier transportation system, particularly the sea transport in moving people and goods. Therefore, the presence of Chinese businessmen to invest in Indonesia in building the infrastructure of land and sea is necessary because Indonesia is a maritime country with more than 13,000 island. At least it needs the priority in the acceleration of Chinese relations coming to Indonesian large islands in the eastern regions of Indonesia such as Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara, Ambon and Papua. The development of mass transportation to the island and a large densely populated cities such as Jakarta, Medan, Palembang, Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya, Manado and Makassar mobility can be accelerated.

For major projects in land transportation system, President Jokowi implements the development of Mass Rapid Transport or Subway in Jakarta and the Jakarta-Bandung

Express Train, which are still under construction. China which already has experience in building mass transportation system becomes a reference in the development in Indonesia.

The Development of Human, Politic, Economy and Culture

Friendly relations between Indonesia and China ever stranded in the Kingdom era and the government of President Sukarno, which had been stopped 32 years under President Suharto era, now is merged back by President Jokowi. President Jokowi's decision to create a synergy to all nations - including the Chinese - cannot be separated from its predecessor President Gus Dur (KH. Abdurrahman Wahid) who revived the Chinese tradition and culture after the fall of President Soeharto.

Since 1998 the Chinese language can be taught again, the celebration of the Chinese New Year (Imlek) was celebrated and even becomes a national holiday. The interest of the Chinese descent in politics and government appeared. Relations between the two countries became intimate with the increasing number of Chinese and Indonesia human mobility in both countries. Intercultural understanding and acculturation in both countries can be clearly seen in the maintenance of Chinese tradition in Indonesia, supported by the multicultural nature of the Indonesian nation and the fondation of Indonesia Pancasila which values democracy and diversity.

Through the Institute of College Thinkers Association of China – Indonesia, human, politic, economy, and cultural development of China-Indonesia can be established through education, research, and other activities to improve understanding between the two countries. Cases involving the two nations that occurred in the sea territorial of the two nations often trigger disharmony can be understood if the mobility of people in both countries greater.

Politically, the Chinese-Indonesian relationship becomes intimate as many descendants of China in Indonesia and the effoerts of Indonesia to continue to create world peace as mentioned in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The understanding between the two countries is increasing as more and more Chinese students are learning

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about Indonesia at Indonesian universities and vice versa. The Chinese and Indonesian intellectuals studied in two countries become more aware of how to reestablish cordial relations in various fields can be celebrated back in. The exchange of Chinese and Indonesian teachers needs to be improved, especially in learning the language and culture. The presence of the exile (Indonesian people who are not allowed to return to Indonesia in the Soeharto era) in China that still exist in the China are functioned to knit cultural relationships between Indonesia and China. When the writer visited the tea plantation in Yingde, he felt the noble ascetic of those aged over 70 years old who still maintain the language and culture of Indonesia, but their next generation do not understand Indonesian.

It needs joint researches in through the Institute of College Thinkers of Chinese - Indonesian Association to spread the study of Bahasa Indonesia to promote Indonesian exiles in China and spreading the Mandarin Language to the Indonesian. The increasing knowledge on both languages of the nations improves the human relations.

The quality of the students studying Indonesian and Mandarin in the two countries needs to be improved. As an example, Yogyakarta State University (UNY) has formed a partnership with Minchu Yunan University (YMU), Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS), Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) and in the nearest future, with Guangxi University. The students of YMU and GDUFS have been in credit transfer program for 10 months learning the language and culture of Indonesia in UNY campus. Real and contextual interaction and learning is performed by the Chinese students in Indonesia with lecturers and student tutors. But there is no Chinese professors who teach in UNY, because there is no Mandarin Studies Program at UNY. Perhaps through the thinkers association and cooperation of the two countries some Chinese studies programs can be realized at the State University of Yogyakarta

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