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**Publication Ethics**
Democratic governance has been put into a limelight in most of current global discourses. People in developing countries remain enthusiastic in response to Western concepts of democracy. Nevertheless, many are still skeptical as to whether democracy is actually helping them in the thrust for a better life for all. In Indonesia, an echo of skeptical-optimism toward democratic governance applies when Jokowi, the vividly hailed new leader, is now presiding the country after the honey-moon period is over. In 2016, president Jokowi must prove that he can deliver better governance under enormous global and domestic challenges while achieving much of high expectation from the public.

In this edition, we cover various issues of democratic governance from the experience of many localities in Indonesia in order to present first hand information about what is really happening on the ground. We deem this perspective is important because not all the issue of democratic governance can be analyzed from a national perspective. The first article written by Firdaus gives a detailed description about how the local government in Mamminasata city, South Sulawesi, is dealing with actual issue of governance and public service delivery. He highlights some of the critical elements of good governance including: local policy process, government organizational structure, public values, the use of technology, and participatory approach. Many features of these elements are still evolving and new generation of local leaders need to be able to deal with the elements professionally.

Another example of development issues on local disparities is written by Nurpita and Nastiti who talk about the case in special province of Yogyakarta. They presented the dilemma of local development; some districts have abundant of natural resources and potentials and yet do not have enough human resources while other districts have relatively enough human resources but its natural resources and development potentials are lacking. While development tends to rely mostly on natural resources and less on human resources, the result has been an alarming disparities among districts. The article shows that in the province of Yogyakarta Special Region, while economic growth remains stable across the districts, income gaps among the districts are widening. This suggests that a shift of strategy towards human resources and sustainable development is very important.

Using an experience in same province, an analysis of the role of a triple helix for growth (government, private enterprise, university) is conducted by Fathin, Achidsti and Priambodo. The case is a startup business based on the Information Technology, a type of business that is not confined by national border and localities. The research shows that, although the idea of triple helix for growth sounds good and promising, its implementation at the local level is not easy. Although the IT business startup has been able to open up job opportunities and supported local economic growth, not all the three-partite members have significant roles. The private enterprise turned out to be the most active and performed relatively well. The university, through its software-engineering unit, had some roles with the ideas and human resources. However, it is unfortunate that the role of local government was insignificant and less interactive in comparison to the other components. This suggests that a more serious reform is needed on the part of local government.

In the district of Bantul, a zoom in case of conditional cash transfer (CCT) for poverty reduction program is evaluated by Hanif. Using some technical indicators: how the program was targeted to the recipient, how it was planned, how the CCT was distributed, how was the street-level bureaucrats' commitment, and how things were reported, the author shows that inaccuracy and lack of validated data have been the main issue in the program. As frequently happened in many developing countries, bias and miss-targeting have been the main weaknesses in the CCT program in this district. The case also shows a fundamental need for reform within the bureaucracy, especially in the effort to improve communication among levels of authorities, to improve transparency and auditing procedures, and to improve coordination among technical officials.
The policy for helping the poor by distributing a subsidized quality rice in the district of Kulonprogo is presented by Fandaru. In 2015, Kulonprogo district government initiated to modify the national policy of distributing subsidized rice (Raskin) into a more locally beneficial program called Rasda (literally means "local rice"). Instead of using low-quality rice in Raskin, the Rasda is using moderate-quality rice produced by local farmers in order to empower local sellers and local buyers. The program turned out to be one of the hallmark of policy innovation under the new leader of Kulonprogo. However, there are still some drawbacks of the program after being implemented in a relatively hasty preparation. Most of the producers, i.e. farmers, did not fully understand the objective of the policy and they used business-as-usual mindset with referred to the Raskin program. Also, the incoherent approach among local bureaucrats and inadequate support on the part of Bulog (the national buffer stock agency for rice) have made it difficult for Rasda to be successful. In the future, a more coherent national approach on rice for the poor by acknowledging local characteristics is very much needed.

An international experience from Madagascar on disaster and risk management is presented by Rakotondrasoa. Despite unceasing improvement in disaster risk reduction, it turned out that the people in cyclone-prone area of east-coast Madagascar remains vulnerable to disaster and recurrent situation persists every time disaster struck the area. Even a simple policy formula for preparedness, that agencies should be in place at the beginning of the hurricane season, has not been met in the area. As also been experienced in many developing countries, lack of financial resources is to blame. But the author raised concern about the adaptability of public policy at the community level. He recommended that an overhaul of human resource development is fundamental in the area.

Editor in Chief

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