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From The Editors

Issues in human development are particularly interesting to Indonesia because this country ranks no 4 in global population, and are increasingly more interesting as Indonesia embraces its demographic dividend. With that size of the population, education, health and labor become priority policy areas that continue to receive attention from scholars. In this edition, JKAP presents topics relevant to human development, the local initiatives and the challenges such initiatives impose on the financial capacity and management.

Titi Darmi analyzed financial management capacity in Seluma as a new autonomous region. For 14 years, Seluma is underdeveloped compared to other new autonomous regions in Bengkulu Province. In fact, human development index in Seluma is on the last list in Bengkulu Province. Financial management capacity in Seluma has not been carried out effectively and efficiently. This is proven by the low regional revenue contribution to APBD. Natural resources in Seluma has not been managed maximally. In addition, its financial management has received a WDP status from BPK in the last 3 years since there were plenty of corruption in local government.

Arwildayanto discussed about PRODIRA policy in Gorontalo Province which was formulated and implemented with the purpose of increasing access of Gorontalo population to high school education through the exemption of operational cost payments for students who attend selected high schools in the province. Based on statistics and results of in-depth interviews, there was evidence that PRODIRA policy had been effective in achieving predetermined targets of improving the quality of education. Based on several indicators of education performance, Gorontalo’s education quality at the high school level has been catching up with the national average, and even exceeding it, thanks in part to PRODIRA program. The success of the program underscores the importance of strong political will and commitment that Gorontalo provincial government has shown in launching the initiative.

OGP is a multinational commitment that promotes transparent, accountable, and reliable governance by optimizing participative and collaborative policy-making process. The follow-up step of this commitment is manifested in the rolling out of Indonesia’s pilot project called One Data Indonesia (ODI). ODI is not only aimed at strengthening government accountability and public trust but also to become a solution for data inaccuracy problem in Indonesia by developing a single-reference data system. However, one of the challenges in implementing ODI is the data unavailability, leading to information gap in policy analysis that creates inaccuracy, even failures, in policy outcomes. A research by Agie Nugroho Soegiono aims to contribute to open government data debate by providing insights on open data implementation in Indonesia by exploring the current condition of ODI, particularly with respect to data availability and user access across Indonesia and identifying the obstacles that have hampered the government strategy to widen and promote open data principles in Indonesia. The study finds out that the performance of Indonesia open data initiative is showing potential signs of disengagement between data producers and data users. The disengagement is largely as a result of the relatively small number of participating government bodies, the unequal user access distribution, and the unexploited data usage potential. In more detail, the disengagement is caused by factors, including irrelevant and uncertain regulatory framework, confusion of priority goals whether to strengthen data openness or to create a single-reference data system; and disparity in ICT infrastructure and inadequate human resources.

The Indonesia demographic-dividend, which is expected to peak within 12 years, is now entering the initial stage. The demographic divided can be achieved by increasing access, quality, and relevancy of education, including developing vocational or vocational education to strengthen the ability of innovation and enhance creativity. Unfortunately, Rizaldy Ali’s research found an obstacle in achieving demographic bonuses, namely the number of academic unemployment caused by mistakes
in choosing majors. The leading factors of mistaking majors are: influence of significant person, less preparation to face college entrance screening test, lack of introduction at the University to high-school students, prospect work consideration, evading saturation after Senior High-School graduation. Mistaking majors have psychological implications for college students. Students are stressed and depressed because they are unable to adjust to the learning process.

Another challenge is found in a study conducted by Nurfitriani and Romi Bhakti Hartarto entitled Does More Spending on Education Matter to Human Capital Formation? Study Case of Bengkulu Province, Indonesia. This study aims to determine the influence that government expenditure on education has on human capital formation in Bengkulu Province which used panel data on nine districts and one city in Bengkulu Province for the 2010 to 2014 period. The study finds out that the effect of government spending on education is very small. This insignificance may be attributable to focus of the spending itself. Local government spending on education only focuses on the physical construction of school facilities, which do not have direct impact on human capital formation. Furthermore, it is also found that there is need for more attention from the government toward improving infrastructure and women empowerment.

Meanwhile, Ramaditya Rahardian explored the approaches employed by labor and workers’ organization in Surakarta in order to change the minimum wage policy based on Government Regulation No.78 of 2015. Labors and workers wish that the aforementioned policy could be revoked by use paralegal service. The results showed that the advocacy against the formulation of minimum wage policy was carried out in various ways including forming public opinion, making a movement and persuading policy makers.