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Delegation of Indonesia

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Topic 1: The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia

Infrastructure is a key issue with recent growing attention in the developing country of Indonesia. For decades the country has struggled with weak scaffolding originating from a variety of reasons. On a geographical level Indonesia faces many setbacks in the efficiency and lifespan of their infrastructure. Weather plays a prominent role in the erosion and destruction of basic infrastructure, with its high frequency of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and storms. Financially, Indonesia does not have the monetary requirements for infrastructure development. This stems from the effects of the Asian Financial Crisis beginning in the late 90s. Such economic downturn resulted in a prolonged stage of recovery. As a result, Indonesia possesses scarce financial resources, thus allowing only a minimal percentage, that being 2.1 %, of the country’s expenses towards infrastructure. The necessity of infrastructure is vital to the further development of the country and the rest of South Eastern Asia, as such obstacles Indonesia faces are similar to that of the rest of this region.

Due to its high relevance, Indonesia has shifted its main focus on the development of advanced infrastructure. The most recently elected president, Jokowi Widodo, has appointed infrastructure development to be of top priority and the main goal of his presidency. Doing so, the President greatly increased the government’s budget dedicated to infrastructure development. However recently had to cut a portion of it due to a fall in commodity prices. Over 30 infrastructure projects with a target date of 2019 have been put in place this past year. Unfortunately, Indonesia has only 26% of the required funds for these projects. Acknowledging this, the Indonesian government established many plans with the purpose to raise money. These include National Medium Term Development Plan 2010-2014 (RPJMN) Masterplan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia’s Economic Development Plan (MP3EI 2011-2025) with 45% of these funds going towards infrastructure. Both of these plans are funded by public-private partnerships (PPP). For additional security, the government even established the Indonesia Infrastructure Guarantee Fund (IIGF).

The delegation of Indonesia encourages for the governments of South East Asian countries to implement infrastructure projects similar to the above listed. But while many actions can take place, only so much progress can be seen. The need for financial aid is Indonesia’s and the rest of the region’s most significant problem in executing such plans. Because the increase in revenue is only possible with the improvement of infrastructure and the increase in the percent of GDP towards infrastructure is only achievable with the unfavorable cut of energy subsidies, countries like Indonesia need the involvement from a combination of state governments and private sectors, both domestic and foreign. The delegation of Indonesia strongly favors a resilient involvement of more developed countries and perhaps even the World Bank in order to execute such plans. As a result, an increase in production and distribution will contribute to the well being of the developing countries as well as the already developed countries.

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Topic 2: Future for Food

The agricultural sector of Indonesia was formally the most contributive sector of the country’s GDP, with it being 51% of the country’s GDP in 1965. In the past 40 years, however, this percentage has greatly declined with industry and services taking its place. Farmers face the problems of inefficient irrigation, land attainability, access to supplies, and changing conditions. While Indonesia is gradually going through a miniature “green revolution,” basic necessities like irrigation and the access to seeds are still major problems. Politically, many policies implemented by the government inhibit the agricultural sector from expanding. In the case of changing conditions, Indonesia has an increasingly large population; therefore food sovereignty poses quite a problem, as demands are increasing. In addition, farmers face the obstacles such as drought, disease, and erosion of arable land due to their practices. In the late 1970s, however, President Suharto encouraged the Green Revolution by which the goal of sustainable agriculture through the use of eco-friendly practices was established.

The country of Indonesia appreciates the necessity of sustainable agriculture. The government has worked towards reforming and improving methods to create more eco-friendly practices. In fact, the country has seen 90% decline in pesticide use after the establishment of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and the ban on 57 pesticides. This resulted in an increase in average rice yields, which is Indonesia’s staple crop. Besides governmental involvement, the works of disseminating these practices to rural portions of the country have proved to be very conducive in this movement. Many organizations have established with the goal of educating farmers on more sustainable and “green” methods. Workshops are held in different villages by organizations including the Bali Organic Association, Climate Field Schools, and Vredeseilanden (VECO) have greatly influenced the gradual reformation in environmentally safe agricultural practices.

Indonesia recognizes the gravity and effectiveness of long-term solutions in agriculture such as CSA. Doing so more NGOs should be put in place to further disseminate awareness and perhaps even produce more job opportunities. However, the government should not be responsible for educating, as Indonesia, nor do other South East Asian countries, does not have the budget to do so. This being said, the country believes that government’s of the countries in this region must first focus on short-term solutions like the development and improvement of infrastructure before devoting large portions of their budget to CSA. The fortification of infrastructure will further generate revenue to work towards stability, as too much change in these countries’ fragile state is too risky and is prone to be detrimental to its economic stance. In addition, fortifying infrastructure is the only way that the implication of CSA methods will be effective, as productivity needs distribution in order for economic success. To fulfill such goals, countries like Indonesia need the financial assistance and guidance from outside sources to compensate and solve the economic and ecological costs.

Topic 3: Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the Asia Pacific

South East Asia possesses a highly unbalanced and unstable labor trade system consisting of the displacement and insecurity of large amasses of peoples. There are countries, which include the Russian Federation, India, and Australia which struggle in the influxes of labor migrants. Such inflows result in a decrease in tax revenue and a lack of funds, which limit their state’s social insurance system. On the other hand, there are countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines, which are large sources of these migrants. These countries experience this trend because they have a lack of domestic job opportunities and are in a bad economic state. In Indonesia’s case, the country has an exquisitely large population and does not possess an equal amount of jobs to facilitate. This leads to a surplus of labor and a large efflux of people looking for job opportunities. Because one’s government can only be so involved in this conflict, the delegation of Indonesia believes that outside countries and organizations should be involved in facilitating the safety and efficiency of labor while such labor exporting countries build up their economies.

The government of Indonesia has experienced a gradual increase in involvement of labor-induced migration. For example, the government implemented the Presidential Instruction No. 3 in 2006 which aimed for job creation and encouraged the development of the country’s economy. In addition, the government also established the Medium Term Development plan, which worked towards the restoration of labor regulation and policies. The country also passed directorates and decrees, which ensured the safety and security of the migrants. One includes implementing regular inspections by officials for those abroad. The conditions and efficiencies of the labor market have seen some improvement in this region, and NGOs have played a significant role in doing so. In terms of human rights, migrants finding themselves displaced with little human rights in their new countries look to NGOs for help.

Overall, the delegation of Indonesia encourages for countries mend and implement policies to further protect and recognize the labor market. In addition, the country believes that in order to fully acknowledge and solve this conflict, the origins of this problem must be recognized: the financial and economic status of the given country. For labor sending countries, governments must focus on their economic growth and overall national development. This includes improving their infrastructure for further job creation. In order to execute such plans, countries must be accompanied by outside sources such as PPPs and developed countries. For labor receiving countries, governments should mend their policies to create opportunities for migrant workers. If not, countries should parallel Indonesia’s actions: banning the emigration to specific countries. In addition NGOs should continue their involvement in the labor market as great improvement has been seen in various countries. These NGOs should focus on directing migrants as well as ensuring safety, equality, and financial security.