

# Technical guidance on the implementation of cooperation with overseas institutions for Takalar Regency Government staff

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## ABSTRACT

Although substantively foreign policy is the authority of the central government, local governments must also deal with its implementation. Regional governments must anticipate opportunities to increase cooperation with parties abroad after the Government of Indonesia agrees on economic integration through the ASEAN Economic Community and other multilateral cooperation. In order to maximize these opportunities, the Takalar District Government must prepare government staff who will substantively and technically deal with the process. Responding to these problems, Hasanuddin University together with the Protocol and Communication Section of the Takalar Regency Government Leaders carried out a community service program. This activity aims to provide knowledge and technical skills to respond, analyze and assess cooperation between local governments and institutions abroad. The method used is technical guidance for the staff of the Takalar Regency Government. This activity is carried out in 4 stages, namely elaboration of priority issues with partners, training, mentoring and evaluation. This activity was attended by 15 staff from 5 work units. These work units include the Regional Secretariat, the Protocol and Communications Section of the Leaders, the Investment Office, the Regional Research and Development Agency, and the Cooperatives, MSMEs and Trade Office. The materials presented related to Globalization and Regional Autonomy, Diplomacy Transformation in the Digital Era and Procedures for Implementing Cooperation with foreign parties by Regional Governments were understood by 73.3 percent of the participants.



## KEYWORDS

Paradiplomacy  
Regional Autonomy  
Local Government  
Takalar  
South Sulawesi



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## 1. Introduction

Achieving national interests is the essence of diplomacy, both in the traditional and modern sense. As is well known, foreign policy is a series of policy formulations and government actions abroad that are intended to achieve national interests. diplomacy is a tool or instrument of foreign policy. Essentially, foreign policy is the policies and practices carried out by the government. Thus, any study of diplomacy, both in theory and practice, always places the government at its core [1], [2]. There is a tendency that the discussion of national interests is a "business" of the central government, and is the domain of the institution that is formally responsible for foreign relations, namely the ministry of foreign affairs [3], [4]. This view is now being challenged as concepts and practices related to the dynamics of contemporary international relations, diplomacy is constantly shifting and adjusting, following developments in the global environment [5], [6]. Various adaptations were carried out to achieve the objectives of diplomatic activities, namely the achievement of national interests. This can be seen from the adoption of various new forms and models of diplomacy. This is needed to respond to changes in the mode of interaction between countries in globalization. Globalization comes with various consequences for global society. The

development of information technology supported by an open and interdependent global political economy regime has made national boundaries increasingly blurred [7]–[9]. The consequence is that people, goods, services, capital and ideas are increasingly free to move from one territory to another. In Indonesia, changes in the global political order through globalization are intersected with processes of democratization and decentralization [10]–[14]. This intersection has indirectly encouraged sub-national actors such as local governments.

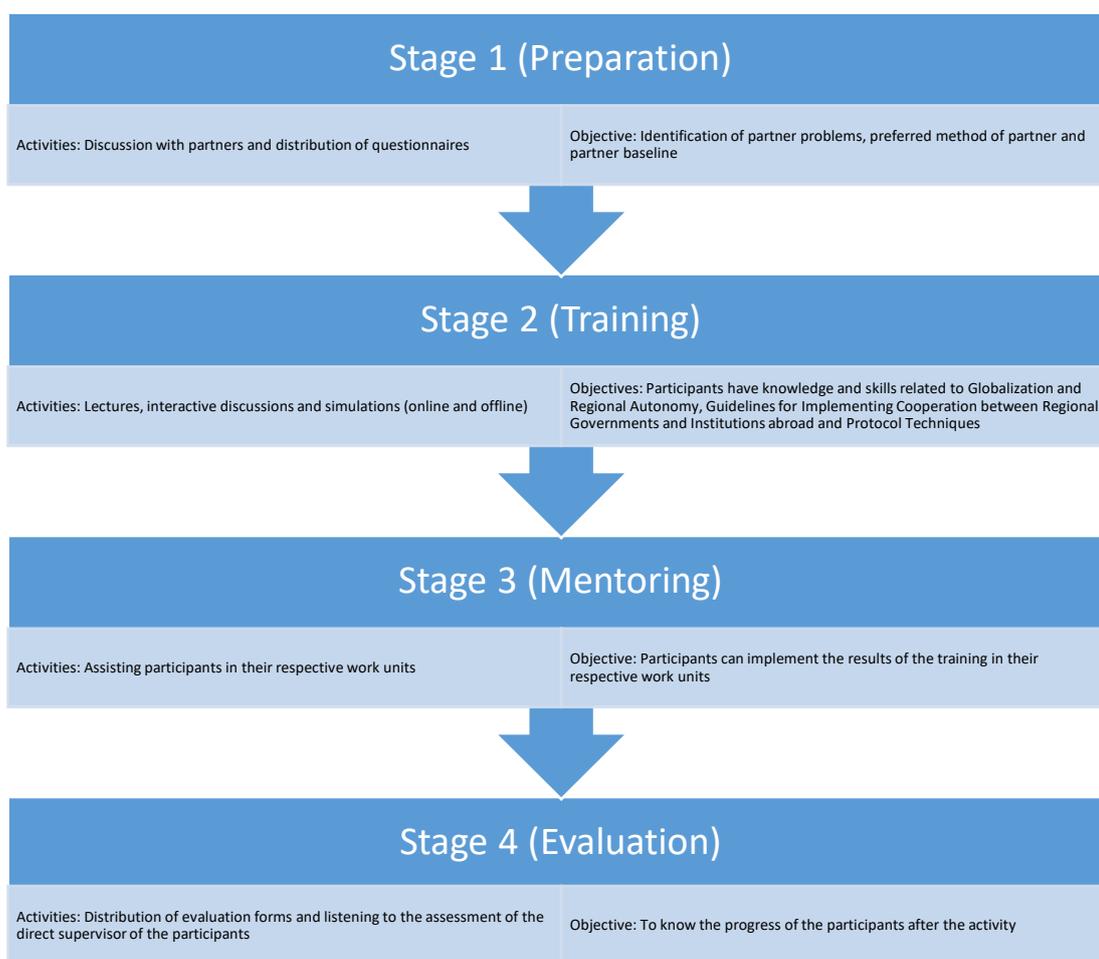
Although substantively foreign policy is the authority of the central government, local governments must also deal with its implementation. For example, the Indonesian government's policy to actively participate in global trade through liberalization of the trade, investment and financial sectors requires local governments to have direct contact with investment, goods, services and capital from abroad, both from state and non-state actors such as multinational corporations (MNCs) [15]–[18]. Based on this description, regulations related to regional autonomy open up opportunities for local governments to collaborate with third parties in providing public services. The third party in question is not only from within the country but also from abroad [19], [20]. Theoretically, the involvement of local governments as sub-national actors in foreign cooperation activities can be classified as paradiplomacy. Paradiplomacy is the decentralization of political power and administrative authority in a process that occurs in sub-national actors, political institutions and public policies of a Central Government in the authority to carry out foreign relations, because Regional Government is a tangible form of Public Policy Implementation [21], [22]. Paradiplomacy is one source of national strength, in its implementation refers to international relations carried out by subnational, regional and local institutions in order to achieve its goals. In the era of globalization, this phenomenon is very strong along with the opening of access and the increasing role and influence of non-state actors in the arena of International Relations, regions have the opportunity to benefit from investment, trade and various potential collaborations from abroad [23]–[25]. Efforts to encourage the active involvement of local governments in supporting Indonesia's foreign policy can be seen through various government policies, especially post-reform. The policy in question is related to the decentralization process which can be traced since the issuance of the Law on Regional Autonomy Number 22 of 1999 which was then followed by Law Number 32 of 2004 and refined through Law no. 23 of 2014. This policy provides ample space for local governments to advance the region by building international networks. Based on the above law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs then issued a General Guideline for Procedures for Foreign Relations and Cooperation by Regional Governments in 2006 [26]. More specific and up-to-date policies have also been issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and have been widely disseminated to local governments. The policy in question is Minister of Internal Affairs Regulation Number 25 of 2020 concerning Procedures for Regional Cooperation with Regional Governments Abroad and Regional Cooperation with Overseas Institutions [27]. This regulation is the current basis for local governments to cooperate with parties abroad.

The potential of the region is so large that it becomes an opportunity to encourage the development of Takalar Regency as well as to attract investors both from within and outside the country. This is needed to support the Takalar Integrated Industrial Park (TIIP) project. This project is part of the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) and the National Strategic Project in accordance with Presidential Regulation 109 of 2020. In 2020, a total of 16 Chinese companies under the CMRA banner have declared their readiness to join the new industrial area, Takalar. Integrated Industrial Park (TIIP). This area will absorb an investment of more than IDR 42 trillion [28], [29]. From the results of discussions with the Protocol Section of Takalar Regency, one aspect that needs special attention is the matter of human resources who will be involved and technically handle the implementation of diplomacy at the local government level. This program will be implemented in Takalar Regency which is one of the buffer areas of Makassar City. Opportunities to increase international cooperation and foreign investment to the region are of course increasingly wide open after the Government of the Republic of Indonesia agreed to open the faucet for cooperation through the ASEAN Economic Community and other multilateral cooperation [30]. The challenge faced by the Takalar Regency Government related to the above problems is the readiness of the Takalar Regency government staff who will deal with the process

both substantively and technically. Responding to these problems, the Hasanuddin University Community Service Team together with the Protocol and Communication Section of the Takalar Regency Government Leaders will hold technical guidance on cooperation between local governments and institutions abroad. Through this Community Partnership Program, participants are expected to gain technical knowledge and skills to respond, analyze and provide an assessment of the cooperation of local governments with parties abroad.

## 2. Method

This activity will be carried out in 4 stages, namely elaboration of priority issues with partners, training, mentoring and evaluation. In the first stage, the preparation and elaboration of problems with partners is carried out. At this stage, identification of the partner's specific needs and method preferences is carried out according to the partner. Information related to problem identification was obtained from the Regent and Head of Protocol and Communications for the Takalar Regency Government. In addition, questionnaires were distributed to the technical implementers of the Takalar Regency protocol. In the second stage, training and technical guidance are carried out. At this stage, lectures, interactive discussions and simulations are carried out both online and offline. The material provided includes Diplomacy Transformation in the Digital Era, Globalization and Regional Autonomy, Guidelines for Implementing Cooperation with Parties Abroad by Regional Governments and Protocol Techniques. In the third stage, mentoring activities are carried out. This activity is carried out by visiting the work unit of the training participants. At the evaluation stage, participants fill out a form related to their perception and understanding of the material. In addition, we also asked for an assessment of the direct supervisor of the participants who took part in this training. The stages of implementing the activities can be seen in [Figure 1](#).



**Fig. 1.** Stages of implementing activities

## 2.1. Results and Discussion

The relevant local government officials who will be involved in this activity include 15 staff from 5 work units. These work units include the Regional Secretariat, the Protocol and Communications Section of the Leaders, the Investment Office, the Regional Research and Development Agency, and the Cooperatives, MSMEs and Trade Office. This activity will take place in June-September 2021. The results that have been achieved in the Community Service Program are as follows. First, the implementation of activities is preceded by coordination regarding the implementation of activities with partners. This activity took place on June 2, 2021. This coordination activity was carried out with an audience with the Takalar Regent and technical discussions on the implementation of activities with the Head of the Protocol and Communications Section for the Takalar Regency Regional Secretariat, [Figure 2](#). In the implementation of this activity, an agreement was reached regarding the participants, time, place and contribution of each party in the implementation of the activity.



**Fig. 2.** Discussion with the Regent of Takalar

In addition, identification of partners' prior knowledge related to the theme was also carried out. As many as 75 percent of participants did not know about government regulations related to the implementation of cooperation with foreign parties by local governments. However, all participants thought that having knowledge and skills related to the implementation of international cooperation for local government officials was important. After that, an explanation regarding the design of the activity was carried out through a video that had been prepared by the team, [Figure 3](#).



**Fig. 3.** Explanation regarding the design of the activity (Online)

The second stage of the implementation of the activity will be held on September 6, 2021 at the Takalar Regency Regent's Office. In this activity, material related to Globalization and Regional Autonomy was carried out. In this material, participants get an overview related to how globalization has changed the management of state administration, including in the aspect of relations between the center and the regions. Participants were given an explanation regarding the implications that must be faced by both Central and Regional Governments in facing globalization, [Figure 4](#), lectures and interactive discussion on globalization and regional autonomy. This material also explains historically the implementation of regional autonomy in post-reform Indonesia, which has decentralized the authority of the central government. The indicator of the achievement of this material is that participants can understand the basic concepts of globalization and regional autonomy and their impact on local governments.



**Fig. 4.** Lectures and Interactive Discussion on Globalization and Regional Autonomy

The second material given is Diplomacy Transformation in the Digital Age. This material is an introduction to introduce the basic concepts of diplomacy and its changes in the digital era. In this material, participants gain an overview of diplomacy as an effort by the government to achieve its national interests. Participants gain knowledge regarding new actors and methods that emerge and affect the achievement of Indonesia's national interests in the digital era. The indicator of the achievement of this material is that participants can understand the impact of diplomatic transformation in the digital era for their role as local government staff, [Figure 5](#).



**Fig. 5.** Interactive Discussion and Simulation on Procedures for Implementing Local Government Cooperation with Institutions Abroad

After that, it was continued with technical explanations and simulations related to the Procedures for Implementing Regional Government Cooperation with Overseas Institutions for Takalar Regency Government Apparatus by Ishaq Rahman, S.IP., M.Sc. In this activity, participants received material related to government regulations related to the implementation of cooperation with parties abroad by

local governments. In addition, participants also received an explanation regarding the stages that must be taken by local governments in carrying out cooperation with parties abroad. These stages are based on the Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs (Permendagri) Number 25 of 2020. After knowing the regulations and general stages. Participants then simulated the preparation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the implementation of cooperation with foreign parties by the regional government. The achievement indicator of this activity is that participants can understand the regulations and stages in the preparation of cooperation with parties abroad by local governments. [Figure 6](#) closing ceremony activity.



**Fig. 6.** Closing ceremony

After the series of materials and simulations are completed, participants fill out the evaluation form that has been prepared. This form contains participants' perceptions regarding the method of service carried out, evaluation of participants' basic knowledge regarding the material presented and participant suggestions regarding the implementation of this activity. From the form, participants showed progress in terms of knowledge of cooperation with parties abroad by local governments. 11 out of 15 participants (73.3%) could provide a good explanation regarding the linkages between local government, diplomacy and international cooperation. In addition, all participants were aware of the regulations related to the implementation of cooperation with parties abroad by local governments. In terms of perceptions related to the method of implementing the activity, 8 out of 15 participants (53.3%) hoped that the duration of this activity could be increased so that participants could have more time to discuss their roles based on work units in the implementation of cooperation with foreign parties by local governments.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The implementation of the activity has answered the basic problems expressed by partners regarding the need for capacity building, both knowledge and skills in implementing cooperation with parties abroad by local governments. In general, the materials presented related to Globalization and Regional Autonomy, Diplomacy Transformation in the Digital Era and Procedures for Implementing Cooperation with overseas parties by Regional Governments have been accepted by 73.3 percent of the participants.

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#### **Declarations**

**Author contribution.** All authors contributed equally to the main contributor to this paper. All authors read and approved the final paper.

**Conflict of interest.** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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