

# Bilateral Cooperation Between Japan and Indonesia in Defense of Natuna's Marine Sovereign Rights in 2020

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**ABSTRACT:** Bilateral cooperation is carried out to improve relations between two state actors who are cooperating, which results in an achievement for both parties in the fields of economy, politics or security. The cooperation between Japan and Indonesia has been going on for a long time, about 60 years these two countries have cooperated and one of them is the maritime sector. In writing this research, it focuses on maritime cooperation carried out by Indonesia and Japan at the border of Indonesian waters. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the cooperation between the two countries. This effectiveness becomes an important role for the final result of the cooperation undertaken. Qualitative methods are used to describe the collaboration that exists, which collects data from various sources. This method also uses a phenomenological perspective to see the conditions that occur in the phenomenon. The maritime sector is one sector that must be kept tight and loose in its security. The ease of free trade and conducting illicit transactions at sea are two of the various factors why the maritime sector is the most vulnerable in its security. In Indonesia itself, Natuna is a marine area that is entered by many fish thieves from other countries who should have entered Indonesia's sovereign rights to explore biological and non-biological resources in it. Claims against natuna from China have an impact on Japan's participation, which is a friendly country to Indonesia.

**KEYWORDS** -Bilateral Cooperation, Indonesia, Japan, Maritime, Natuna.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the largest archipelagic countries in the world, which has a very strategic geographical position. The number of islands in Indonesia officially recorded by the government reaches 16,056 islands (Hananto, 2017). The coastline of Indonesia is about 99 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. Its land area reaches about 2,012 million km<sup>2</sup> with a sea of about 5.8 million km<sup>2</sup> and 2.7 million km<sup>2</sup> of which are included in the EEZ or Exclusive Economic Zone. The Indonesian sea, which has an area of about 2.5 times the land area, certainly has enormous potential.

Both in terms of wealth that can be utilized to support economic development at the Domestic or International level (M. Ramdhan, 2013). The sea is a link to the islands which are home to 237.641 million Indonesians. From a natural point of view, the Indonesian sea shows an integral nature between the elements of the sea, namely water and land, namely land. This is a scientific and natural basis for the concept of insight into the archipelago as the embodiment of geographical unity, which forms the basis of political, economic and defense and security unity. During the 25th ASEAN meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 12 November 2014.

President Joko Widodo explained that Indonesia was in the midst of a process of geo-economic and geopolitical strategic change experienced by the East Asia region, and he continued to take the opportunity Indonesia has five pillars as an effort to participate in this opportunity, namely:

- a. First, build maritime culture
- b. Second, maintaining and managing marine resources by building seafood sovereignty through developing the fishing industry (fishermen as the main pillar).

- c. Third, develop maritime infrastructure and connectivity with the construction of sea highways, deep seaports, logistics, shipping industry and maritime tourism.
- d. Fourth, strengthen maritime diplomacy by jointly eliminating maritime conflicts.
- e. The last is to build a defense force in the maritime sector (indonesia.go.id, 2019).

One of the waters of Indonesia that is vulnerable is the waters of the Natuna region. The North Natuna Sea is often entered by illegal fishing actors because it is directly adjacent to the South China Sea (which we know that there is a conflict in those waters). In 2018, the number of foreign vessels stealing fish in Indonesia decreased, especially since the former Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Susi Pudjiastuti implemented a policy of sanctioning the sinking of fishing vessels. This is a very real and immediate deterrent effect for fish thieves. They dare to enter and steal fish in Indonesia because to meet their economic needs (Kusuma, 2018). Natuna waters have extraordinary natural resources, as follows:

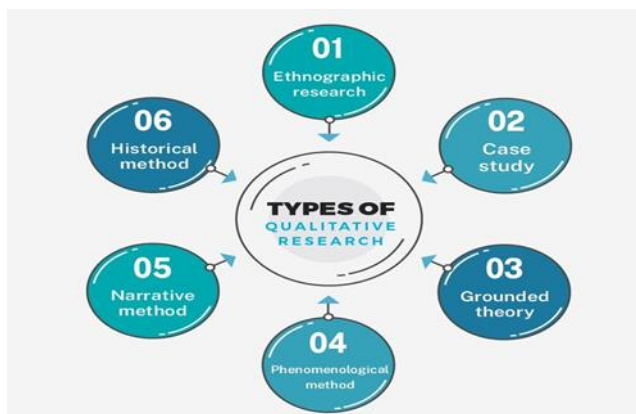
No.	Recources	Total
1.	Fish	504,212 tons/ year
2.	Oil	25,000 bbl/ day
3.	Gas	491 million cubic feet/ day
4.	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	19,000 tons/ year

Source: (Idris, 2020).

From the explanation above, it can be seen that Indonesia will make a policy or regulation related to cooperation and defense and security in the maritime sector. Indonesia has emotional ties to Japan, which we once colonized, but now we are good friends. Just like Indonesia, Japan has about 6,852 islands making it an archipelagic country. And as an archipelagic country with a territorial zone (Unclos Chapter II article 3), additional zones and exclusive economic zones (Unclos Chapter V article 57) has been determined in the 1982 UNCLOS, namely the 1982 international law of the sea treaty (UNSRAT, 2018). I am interested in making a journal about bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia in the maritime field in defending the sovereignty rights of Natuna from the introduction or background that I have described above because Japan is an archipelagic country which is also a developed country in technology and maritime sector welfare.

## II. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The method that the author uses to compile this journal is a qualitative method, this method is a systematic statement relating to a set of proportions derived from the data and studied according to the current situation with the data that has been obtained. Qualitative does not refer to positivism, but rather refers to a phenomenological perspective or it can be conditional (Moleong, 1998). Meanwhile, the data collection techniques that the author uses to compile this journal are reading, marking, recording, modifying and describing.



Source: (myperfectwords, n.d.)

## **THEORY**

The author uses various theories to compile this journal. I use Liberal, This concept holds that we are free to cooperate with anyone, there is no barrier that exists to prevent it. Because of this, bilateral cooperation has emerged between the two countries concerned or multilateral and others, the aim of which is to achieve the interests of the countries they want. And according to K. J Holsti, cooperation is defined into five, namely as follows:

- 1) That two or more of the same interests, values or goals will produce something.
- 2) Expectations from a country that policies or regulations decided by other countries will help the country concerned to achieve interests or others.
- 3) An agreement or a certain conflict between two or more state actors in utilizing a common interest or conflict of interest.
- 4) Official or unofficial rules regarding future transactions are made to carry out the agreement.
- 5) Transactions between state actors to fulfill their agreement (Holsti, 1993).

Cooperation in the international world is something that is commonplace and even a necessity that is carried out by countries as a relationship of interdependence (Kartasasmita, 1977). Cooperation is divided into three, namely bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. In this journal the author will discuss more about bilateral cooperation. Bilateral cooperation is a situation that describes a relationship that affects two countries (Didi. K, 1993). In this case, we can see that this is happening in bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia in the maritime security sector.

The issue of maritime security begins with the increasingly strategic function of the territorial waters for the benefit of countries in the international world. The maritime area is a part of the main vein of global economic interaction, thus making maritime security a very crucial issue for many countries. Maritime sector security stability is very much needed to maintain the national interest of the nation which also greatly impacts development in various fields (Dicky. M, 2015). Maritime security is a new term whose scope no longer discusses traditional matters such as domination or military expeditions to other countries or regions, but rather refers to protecting biological or non-living things that we should assemble for the needs and interests of our country (Till, 2004).

As stated in UNCLOS 1982 Chapter V article 56 number 1a, which contains the EEZ (Exclusive Economist Zone) "Sovereign rights for the purposes of exploration and exploitation, conservation and management of natural resources, both biological and non-biological, from the waters. above sea level and from the seabed and subsoil and with regard to other activities for the purposes of the economic exploration and exploitation of the zone, such as the production of energy from water, currents and winds".

Here we can see that if it is still within the EEZ limit then our country has sovereign rights or freedom to explore and manage natural resources on its surface or in its seas. But if any other country commits theft or other violations, we must be firm in that regard. It is not the right of state sovereignty or other actors to interfere in the management within our borders. Because it has been stated in the regulations that have been determined, namely UNCLOS 1982.

To maintain its sovereignty in the sea, such as protecting the territory and the EEZ, a maritime country must be influenced by Sea Power. A country that ignores its Sea Power can lose the sovereignty that country has. A prosperous, strong and prosperous nation is a country that can develop, maintain and empower its seas as well as possible (Darmawan, 2018). There are 6 criteria so that a country can be classified as having Sea Power that is met. Among them are geographical position, physical condition (Climate and Resources), area area, total population, population character and finally the character of government.

If a country has eligibility in these six points, then that country has the potential to fulfill Sea Power (Mahan, 1783). Mahan added that there are three sources of support that are very important in building a country's Sea Power. These three supporting sources are, fighting Instruments, merchant shipping, and bases or ports (Saputra, 2021). Sea Power is related to the development and strengthening of a country through the maritime sector. Seen from how the country make optimal use of its maritime potential, so that it holds full control of the sea which for the maritime country can become a geopolitical weapon.

## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

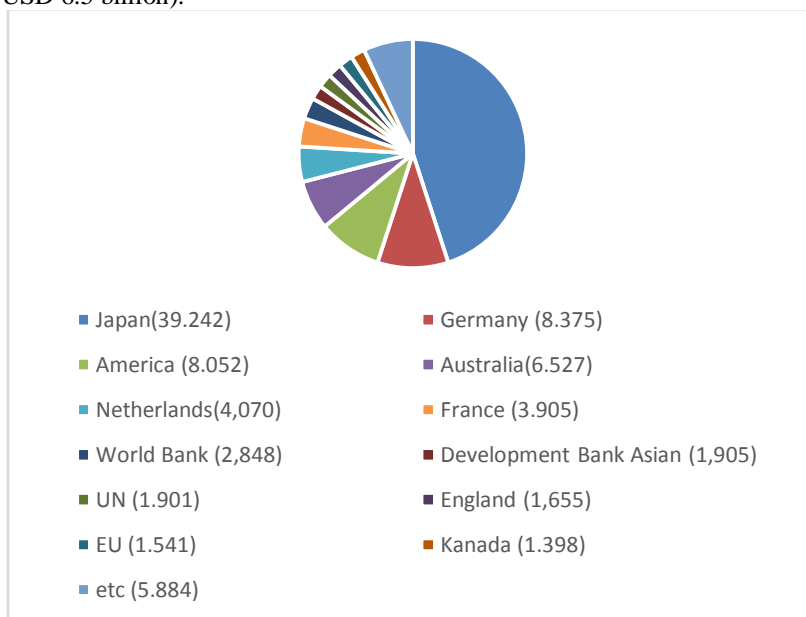
### **BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND INDONESIA**

Before Japan and Indonesia established a close cooperative relationship, the two countries had conflicts, which as we know that Japan is an occupier or even worse is an oppressor of the Indonesian state. Not only Indonesia, there are several other countries such as China and Korea. However, after the second world war ended,

which ended with the destruction of two Japanese cities (Hiroshima and Nagasaki). Its ambition to expand, stopped because of the enormous damage and losses that Japan experienced during the war, many had to be redeemed by Japan to get back up from adversity. So that the policies made by Japan were more inclined to non-military, tended to focus on rehabilitation as an effort to repair and rebuild Japan from the enormous losses caused by the war.

Japan is a country that is fairly quick to rise up and has succeeded through the problems it is currently experiencing, by prioritizing industrial development and education. Japan after the war was a poor country that began to be able to compete with other large and developed countries. And in April 1958 after the signing of the peace agreement between the two actors of this country, namely Japan and Indonesia. Then the opening of bilateral relations between the two countries and at the same year the war reparations agreement between the two countries was also signed (emb-japan, n.d.). Bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia has resulted in several agreements.

Such as the Indonesia Japan Economic Partnership Agreement in 2006 and 2007, and in 2016 the establishment of the Japan-Indonesia Maritime Forum to discuss maritime cooperation between the two countries (RI, 2017). Japan also has an aid system called ODA (Official Development Assistance) which helps developing countries in financial and technical assistance needed for their socio-economic development and Indonesia is Japan's partner who gets the largest ODA. Total cumulative ODA expenditure for Indonesia since 1960 amounted to USD 87.3 billion. Japan donates 45% of the total ODA assistance of all donor partner to Indonesia since 1960. This makes Japan as the largest donor country in Indonesia. In order second is Germany (10%, USD 8.4 billion), followed by America (9%, USD 8.1 billion) and Australia (7%, USD 6.5 billion).



Source: (JICA, 2018)

### ***Cooperation Between Japan and Indonesia In The Maritime Field***

As previously explained, the cooperation between Japan and Indonesia has been going well, even Japan is one of the largest countries investing in Indonesia. One example of this form of cooperation between the two countries is the formation of the Japan and Indonesia Maritime Forum which took 3 years to form. The formation process begins by discussing strengthening the strategy of cooperation in the maritime sector and democracy in Tokyo, Japan (23 March 2015). On March 22, 2015, a meeting was held between the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe and President Joko Widodo, which discussed Indonesia's cooperation in maritime, economic, political, cultural exchange, security, and regional and international cooperation.

In this meeting, the two countries expressed their commitment to strengthening the strategy of cooperation in the maritime sector and democracy that mutually benefited, friendly cooperation and shared basic values. At this

strengthening meeting, the two countries agreed to establish the Japan-Indonesia Maritime Forum and as soon as possible to further accelerate and strengthen maritime cooperation as one of the important pillars in enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries (Jepang, 2015). This collaboration seeks to advance the idea of Indonesia as a global maritime fulcrum between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, with a focus on five pillars on maritime culture, infrastructure, diplomacy, defense, and resources. Indonesia has also been supporting Japan's efforts to engage on maritime issues with Southeast Asian states at the regional level. Indonesia cites the maritime sector as one of the two priority sectors for further cooperation between the two sides. Two countries also share the same values of the importance of the sea and share common interests.

### ***Bilateral Cooperation Between Japan and Indonesia In The Maritime Field In Maintaining The Sovereignty Rights of The Natuna Marine***

A meeting was held between the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno L.P. Marsudi and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Toshimitsu Motegi, on Friday, Pancasila Building, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jakarta on January 10, 2020 which resulted in the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in several strategic sectors, one of which was strengthening cooperation in the field of Economy in the outskirts of Indonesia, including Natuna (Ernest, 2020). Because Natuna (Indonesia) is experiencing a conflict with China. That China claims over the North Natuna waters, which this country refers to as the Nine Dash-Line. The Nine Dash-Line is China's determination of the sovereignty of a territory, land or water. China is based on that, therefore he claims that the North China Sea is his territory because it is included in the Nine Dash-Line.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Sumardi, this claim was not recognized by the Indonesian government for two reasons. First, Line's unilateral claims made by China have no legal grounds recognized by International Law. Second, this claim is a violation of the Indonesian Exclusive Economic Zone.

Because of this incident, the Indonesian government responded and held a meeting to discuss China's actions. This meeting was attended by several ministers such as the Minister of Defense, Menkumham, MenHub and also the head of Bakamla, namely A. Taufiq Tak. One of the outcomes of this meeting was an agreement on three things:

- 1) There is a violation by a Chinese ship in the Exclusive Economic Zone belonging to Indonesia.
- 2) The Exclusive Economic Zone of Indonesia has been defined in the 1982 UNCLOS.
- 3) China is one of those who agreed to UNCLOS 1982, therefore China is obliged to implement UNCLOS 1982 (Francisca Christy Rosana dan Rahma Tri, 2020).



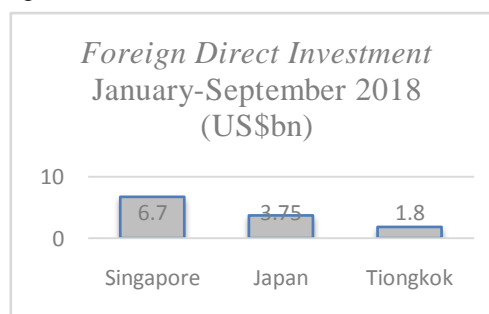
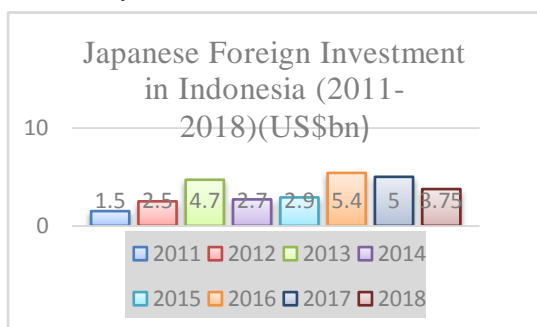
Source: (Mail, 2020)

Japan has observed this incident, because Japan also has the same position and concern with Indonesia regarding the issue of the South China Sea. Kaifu, Deputy Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, said that the Japan Coast Guard and Bakamla (Sea Security Agency) of the Republic of Indonesia agreed that they would work together to strengthen the security of Indonesian waters, such as increasing capabilities in handling maritime crimes and also investigating at the scene (Indonesia, 2020). Japan also wants to lend its supervisory vessels to assist and support security activities in the Natuna marine area. This is one of the various working agreements between Japan and Indonesia on the development of an Integrated Marine and Fisheries Center or SKPT. Indonesia has also deployed Bakamla and also the TNI to stay alert in Natuna Waters, the Minister of Kopolhukam, Mahfud MD also revealed that the Indonesian government will send 470 fishermen in North Natuna waters.



Source: (Militerium, 2022) and (Suprpto, 2020)

Two warships (KRI Usmar Harun 359 and KRI Karel Satsuit Tubun 356) were prepared at the Lampa Strait (Natuna) Integrated Naval Base to deal with anything unexpected happening. What China has done is a violation because it has claimed Indonesia's sovereign right in Indonesia's own exclusive economic zone (Kompas, 2020). Japan has also given Indonesia US\$22.7 million to develop fishing ports on the six outer islands (Sabang, Natuna, Morotai, Saumlaki, Moe and Biak), this development is to increase Indonesia's fishery production and also maintain the sovereignty of Indonesian waters through the outer islands. Japan has also invested US\$7.26 million to build a fish market in Natuna. This is because Japan is the second largest investor in Indonesia after Singapore with US\$31 billion in the last 10 years. While China is in the third country as the largest investor in Indonesia (Rahmat, 2020).



Source: (Databoks, 2019)

#### IV. ANALYSIS

The author analyzes that the cooperation carried out by the two countries will definitely fulfill the objectives of the national interests of each country. As the author explained earlier, cooperation will occur if every country that wants to work together has the same goal. Indonesia cooperates with Japan not only to strengthen brotherhood ties, but also aims to prevent China from acting as it pleases. If we see that Japan is a country that has great power. Japan also wants to contribute in the Natuna Sea, by investing and donating some of its ships to Indonesia. This country also sees China will undermine security stability in the Natuna waters, so Japan wants to balance its power so that China is not arbitrary in the waters of the South China Sea, especially Natuna. With the cooperation between the two countries, both parties can strengthen leadership in various collaborations in the field of finance maritime affairs at the bilateral to multilateral level.

Indonesia is trying to realize its Sea Power, by realizing the key points and available supporting resources. With the realization of Indonesia as a maritime country that fully controls the sea, other countries will be reluctant to Indonesia. With Japan in Indonesia, will help Indonesia's dream. So that it develops into one of the countries that fulfill its Seapower. The assistance provided by Japan was very beneficial for Indonesia. This can also improve negotiations on the determination of Indonesia's maritime boundaries with neighboring countries. With Indonesia's extraordinary potential in its natuna sea, Japan has a very good advantage. It is impossible for Japan to help Indonesia in its Natuna's dispute if Japan does not get anything. especially with the cooperation that has been carried out by these two countries, such as in Japan and the Indonesia Maritime Forum, it is easy for Japan to get benefits that not only have an impact on Japanese politics but also on the trade in natural resources in Natuna. Japan is one of the biggest partners in developing Indonesian investment. With the assistance carried out by Japan, namely ODA and in Natuna, Japan will get convenience in the national interest in the future. Indonesia also hesitates to reject the will of Japan, which has helped Indonesia a lot.

Indirectly in this incident Japan saw that, this was an opportunity to disrupt China's plans which wanted to widen its One Belt One Road. We know that even Japan is now a friend of America, which is an enemy with China in trade. Bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia is not carried out arbitrarily because there is no definite goal, all countries work together because of interests which can result in an achievement. We see that Japan and Indonesia both have strategic positions in the maritime sector, but Japan is superior and has very sophisticated and up-to-date technology. Compete with other developed countries, such as America. They also have the same vision and mission, the two countries recognize that cooperation has advantages for both countries. There are several advantages which are as follows:

- a) The cooperation between the two countries can increase mutual understanding and mutual trust.
- b) The existence of this cooperation means that both countries support peace and security in the Asia Pacific or Southeast Asia region.
- c) There is a transfer of technology.
- d) This bilateral cooperation can develop the maritime, economic or security sectors (UMY).

Indonesia and Japan have the same interest in peace and security stability, in a maritime conflict the two countries emphasize the importance of law enforcement, the absence of coercion and force, resolving disputes peacefully, and upholding freedom.

## V. CONCLUSION

From the explanation above that the author has made, the author can conclude that Maritime is a very crucial area and very loose in security. One of them is the Natuna sea, which is adjacent to the South China Sea. Natuna is a strategic sea that has a lot of reserves of natural resources and therefore there are many fishing thieves and also claiming the area. One of them is China, China claims Natuna as one of its areas but according to UNCLOS 1982 the North Natuna marine belongs to Indonesia, and his right to claim is a violation. The Natuna Sea which is claimed by China is one of the Exclusive Economic Zones owned by Indonesia, and it is Indonesia's sovereign right to explore the area without being disturbed by other countries.

Because of the many violations and security vulnerabilities in Indonesia's territory, especially Natuna, Japan, which is a country of bilateral cooperation with Indonesia, is sad to see this and helps Indonesia by donating its fishing vessel to sail in Natuna to help and strengthen relations between the two countries. Indonesia also prepared two warships and told Bakamla and TNI to be on standby in the Natuna sea. One of the ministers also revealed that the Indonesian government would send around 470 fishermen to enliven Natuna. This is one of the collaborations or combinations between Japan and Indonesia, which is to maintain and work together to maintain Natuna maritime security. Indeed all countries have their own reasons to help other countries, there is no free lunch. Everything that has been done by a country must have a reciprocity. The author sees from the author's own perspective that the interests of these two countries are the same thing. They both want to work together to create security and stability, then they want to create peace without conflict..

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