

Indonesia's Diaspora in the Context of Indonesia's Economic Development: A Case Study Indonesia Workers (TKI) Abroad

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia Workers (TKI) are a group of Indonesian people who immigrate to other countries to work for economic reasons. Indonesia Workers (TKI) is a form of Indonesia's diaspora abroad. Indonesia Workers (TKI) who are abroad for economic reasons can open the door to cooperation between countries and help Indonesia's domestic economic growth. This study analyzes the role of migrant workers as the Indonesia diaspora that can help the country's economy. The purpose of this research is to find out and understand how migrant workers contribute to the country's economic growth and help the country in diplomacy with other countries, so that good diplomatic relations are established. The author uses a descriptive analysis research method with data collection techniques sourced from journal articles, news articles and various other literature. The results of the study show the role of migrant workers in sending remittances which is an important source of income for the state because it can reach 3-4% of Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). With the return of migrant workers back to the country, it creates people's economic empowerment by opening businesses and creating jobs so that it can reduce the unemployment rate in Indonesia. In addition, migrant workers play a role in helping the development of the industrial sector, they provide foreign currency input so as to increase productivity in various economic sectors. In the context of Development, TKI also plays a role in terms of education that can help the quality of human resources.

Keywords: *Economic Development, Indonesia Workforce, Diaspora*

INTRODUCTION

Globalization and the end of the Cold War are phenomena that have encouraged the development of transnational studies in International Relations (IP) and sparked questions about the transformation of the country as a single political community. The inclusion of this study has implications for various units of IP analysis, one of which is a non-state actor called the diaspora. History records that after World War II ended, experts and educated people from different countries, migrated from one place to another, especially to Europe from one country to another. Winners owned by the country Expert immigrants were brought by the Allies to make the country a center of knowledge. Shaving in the 1960s and early 1970s, the migration of scientists, doctors, and medical experts and engineers from developing countries such as South Korea, China, India, etc. to developed countries (Hana Naufanita, 2018).

The term diaspora is starting to receive significant attention in today's era of transnational relations. Along with the emergence of globalization that scatters people all over the world, various ideas have emerged from countries that are trying to find

ways to take advantage of the excess indigenous population living in other countries around the world. In addition, advances in communication and transportation technology over the past two centuries have impacted the ease with which humans communicate and move more naturally than humans did over the past few centuries. The diaspora has good strength in building the relationship between the nation and the state (Alanuza, 2017).

Entering the contemporary meaning associated with globalization, the diaspora is generally interpreted in the context of political economy, marked by the increasing number of diaspora institutions. Discussions about the definition of "diaspora" and which nations can be categorized as diaspora have evolved into how the Diaspora can contribute to the revitalization agenda through development (Hana Naufanita, 2018) the relationship between the diaspora and the country of origin. The expansion of diaspora studies, which initially focused on the definition and who is involved in the diaspora, The diaspora has changed. In practice, the project, its claims, and its position in the economic field, so in a contemporary context, it can be defined as a cross-border network that generates social, cultural, and economic capital of the country of origin and the recipient country.

In Indonesia, the term "diaspora" has been debated since the 2012 Indonesia Diaspora Congress (KDI) which promoted the establishment of the Indonesia Diaspora Network (IDN). IDN starts from the belief that there is a lot of potential for Indonesia to be spread all over the world. These opportunities include remittances, business, knowledge dissemination, and developing the country through professional capabilities. The potential target diaspora that aims to cover various sectors, especially technology, information and transportation, is considered important in the development of the country.

For two major countries such as China and India, the diaspora has long been realized as an important force for the country in today's global phenomenon, both political and economic. In summary, there are three reasons why the diaspora communities of the two countries are a prominent base in national discussions. First of all, the economy, that is, by paying attention to how the diaspora helps the economy through foreign investment and a very high and growing global meeting every year. Furthermore, in terms of politics, when the Diaspora is very important. in improving relations between the two source countries and receiving countries. Third, culture, when Diaspora people consider themselves to be important representatives, propaganda of cultural principles and concepts about their homeland (Alanuza, 2017)

Another definition of diaspora is those who live abroad and are willing and independent who carry out the process of maintaining close relationships with the country of origin who have expertise and function as agents of change so that they can contribute to the development of the country of origin to improve the development of the nation. Along with the tendency to use the term "diaspora" in Indonesia, this term is considered to represent only individuals who achieve success. Susilo's hope from Migrant Assistance

saw that most of the members of the Indonesia diaspora were foreign workers. In addition to students, a small number of immigrants from Indonesia, known as the Indonesia diaspora, also include individuals who work as staff members in multinational companies, labor, or as businessmen residing in other countries. The Indonesia diaspora does not only consist of the ones mentioned above, this is because it does not eliminate the possibility that many Indonesians are abroad, but do not have the jobs mentioned above.

However, these migrants are not represented as the Indonesia diaspora. In addition, it needs to be recognized that people who are exiled are part of the Indonesia diaspora. They are diaspora for the first time since the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia. In addition, ethnic representation appears in discussions of the Indonesia diaspora, which typically includes Acehnese and Moluccans. and Papua as the main research point. However, the separatist ethno-national movement and identity were affirmed in the discussion of the three ethnic groups (Ninieck, 2016).

In the description explained by the author about the Indonesia diaspora spread abroad, especially migrant workers or often referred to as Indonesia Workers (TKI). The author will use descriptive research methods to examine more deeply how Indonesia's workers as the Diaspora contribute greatly to economic growth and development in Indonesia. Then, these migrants can not only help economic growth but also play an important role in the development of the country both from economic, social and educational aspects.

METHODS

Research is basically an attempt to find answers related to the questions that the author wants to know. The study of the Global Diaspora Summit as a development diplomacy carried out by Indonesia includes descriptive research conducted with qualitative research methods, in which the author makes efforts to provide an overview or explain the current condition of objects and problems. Therefore, it is expected that the descriptive method used here achieves the purpose of the research, i.e. an explanation that shows the facts and features of the carefully studied object.

According to Miles and Huberman, analysis activities consist of three streams of activities that occur simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing or verification. The authors used an induction pattern consisting of three stages to analyze this study. First, gather information about the phenomenon discussed is the diaspora and what it is doing for Indonesia's economic growth and negotiations. Second, processed data. At this point, the information is processed by the researcher. To sort out which data is appropriate and supports the analysis of this text. Third, evaluation. The files that fit and then help the author learn and understand have an impact on the final look of this writing (Sugiyono, 2011).

To make it easier for the author, data analysis will also be carried out at the time the data is collected. The author uses a method to collect information that is a literature research to better accurate the research from an academic point of view. This method is used. with the issues raised through the study of books, writings, and articles as well,

the author also collects relevant information, with this research being published by electronic media with sources that have the ability to be trusted and reliable.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesia Workers (TKI) Abroad

Indonesia is the country with the largest population and ranks fourth after China, India, and America. The high growth rate of the population, especially at a productive age, will certainly affect the absorption of labor. The population and labor force have increased more than the government's capacity to provide jobs, leading to various problems, one of which is unemployment (Artina, 2022).

The government seeks to reduce unemployment and poverty through procurement and other programs. Employment, provision of instruction and employment, training in the formal and informal sectors, funds to open small businesses, international training or better known as overseas workers and various other government programs, of course with various related institutions. However, this has not succeeded in reducing unemployment. directly, especially Indonesia employees who are inadequate and want to help the country's economy. International migration, including labor migration, is a global phenomenon that occurs in most countries in the world and continues to develop relations between countries. The appearance of economic expansion in Asia-Pacific countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Central South Korea has caused economic requirements between countries to grow.

This of course automatically also has an impact on Indonesia related to labor migration abroad. Since the time of the Netherlands East Indies, the government has begun to send migrant workers to Suriname and the delivery of migrant workers is increasing every year and has even spread to various countries in the world. This is done by the government to reduce unemployment in Indonesia by creating more jobs. (Sulistiyorini, 2014) cannot be matched by the growth of work personnel with high courage and motivation with older family members Many Indonesia women work abroad Women generally choose to work in many countries, such as in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, as well as many other countries.

V.30. JUMLAH TENAGA KERJA INDONESIA (TKI) MENURUT NEGARA PENEMPATAN (Ribuan Orang)

NEGARA	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q3	Q4
1 ASEAN	2,004	2,031	2,019	1,731	1,729	1,746	1,773
2 Malaysia	1,876	1,902	1,883	1,633	1,628	1,641	1,667
3 Singapura	98	99	103	88	91	95	95
4 Brunei Darussalam	30	31	33	9	9	9	10
5 Lainnya	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
6 Asia selain ASEAN	450	539	648	535	591	672	714
7 Hong Kong SAR	178	208	250	231	281	321	339
8 Taiwan, Provinsi China	208	264	328	283	290	314	331
9 Korea Selatan	24	28	30	9	7	17	22
10 Jepang	23	23	23	7	7	12	15
11 Maku	16	16	16	5	4	5	5
12 Lainnya	1	0	1	1	1	2	3
13 Australia dan Oseania	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14 Australia	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
15 Lainnya	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
16 Timur Tengah	1,085	1,076	1,071	924	929	933	937
17 Arab Saudi	963	961	961	833	833	836	837
18 UEA	51	48	45	36	37	38	39
19 Kuwait	12	12	12	10	11	11	12
20 Bahrain	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Qatar	4	2	2	2	2	2	3
22 Oman	6	4	3	2	2	2	2
23 Yordania	48	48	48	40	43	43	43
24 Mesir	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
25 Siprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Sudan	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Lainnya	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
28 Afrika	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Afrika Selatan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Lainnya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Amerika	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Eropa	5	4	3	1	5	9	10
33 Belanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 Italia	2	2	2	0	2	2	3
35 Jerman	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
36 Inggris	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
37 Perancis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38 Spanyol	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
39 Lainnya	-	0	0	0	2	5	5
40 Jumlah TKI	3,549	3,651	3,742	3,192	3,254	3,363	3,436

Catatan Sumber : Bank Indonesia dan BNP2TKI

Figure 1. Number of Indonesia Workers (TKI) by Placement Country

A study conducted by the ILO survey institute showed that 69% of Indonesia's workforce has no ability, 9% has ability, and 21% has half ability. It is very clear that the competitiveness of the workforce in this regard is still very low compared to the international workforce. Many Indonesians working abroad, especially in Southeast Asian countries, use formal and informal jobs in the categories of unskilled workers (semi-skilled workers) and unskilled workers (unskilled workers).

The Contribution of the Diaspora of TKI to Indonesia's Development

The Indonesia Labor Diaspora (TKI) plays an important role in Indonesia's economic development because they contribute through remittances, upskilling, unemployment reduction, and strengthening economic diplomacy. It is an important part of efforts to strengthen the national economy, improve social welfare, and maintain macroeconomic stability. Remittances or remittances carried out by Indonesia workers working abroad are one of the largest sources of money flows, especially in developing countries such as Indonesia and play an important role in the development of a country. It was recorded in a study conducted by Bank Indonesia that remittances contributed 10 percent of the state budget and occupied the second position after revenue from the oil and gas sector (Artina, 2022).

Remittance remittances are one of the main functions of the migrant diaspora, which greatly affects the Indonesia economy. Remittances from migrant workers are one of the largest sources of foreign exchange for Indonesia. In 2021, remittances from

migrant workers are estimated to reach around \$8.24 billion, which is equivalent to 80.24 trillion rupiah. Even being the second source of income after the oil and gas sector, remittances make a significant contribution to Indonesia's Balance of Payments (BOP). According to Bank Indonesia, remittances sent by foreign workers (TKI) reach billions of dollars every year, and are one of the country's largest sources of foreign exchange (Nasution, 2010).

V.32. REMITTANCES OF FOREIGN WORKERS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
 (Millions of USD)

2022	Q1*	Q2*	Q3*	Q4*	2023	Q1*	Q2**	COUNTRY
629	157	169	171	171	658	172	174	ASEAN
195	54	52	59	60	225	60	60	Malaysia
241	48	49	52	51	201	51	52	Philippines
90	26	27	29	29	111	29	29	Singapore
68	18	19	19	19	75	19	19	Thailand
8	2	2	3	3	11	3	4	Myanmar
26	8	10	9	10	36	11	10	Laos
4,890	1,437	1,576	1,685	1,822	6,520	1,863	1,933	Asia excluding ASEAN
579	141	146	148	150	595	162	148	Japan
369	98	102	105	109	414	108	107	South Korea
2,520	818	918	1,006	1,129	3,874	1,172	1,245	China
1,035	275	288	306	311	1,180	305	305	India
162	43	44	45	47	181	46	47	Taiwan, Province of China
8	2	2	2	2	9	3	3	Hong Kong SAR
210	60	74	69	73	277	81	78	Others
77	21	23	23	24	91	25	25	Australia and Oceania
45	12	13	13	14	52	14	15	Australia
23	6	6	7	7	26	7	7	New Zealand
10	3	3	3	3	13	4	4	Others
27	8	9	9	9	35	10	10	Africa
27	8	9	9	9	35	10	10	South Africa
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Others
435	114	106	127	126	473	131	129	America
385	95	93	104	103	385	106	105	USA
19	5	5	6	6	22	6	6	Canada
30	14	16	17	18	66	19	19	Others
216	57	61	63	65	246	66	66	Europe
54	14	15	15	16	61	16	16	United Kingdom
69	19	19	20	21	80	22	22	France
12	3	3	3	3	13	3	3	Germany
30	8	8	8	8	33	8	8	Netherlands
40	11	11	12	12	45	12	12	Italy
11	3	4	4	4	15	4	4	Others
6,274	1,794	1,933	2,079	2,219	8,625	2,267	2,337	Total Foreign Workers' Remittances

Notes: Source: Bank Indonesia and Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration

Figure 2. Foreign Worker Remittances by Country of Origin

Migration can be seen as a process that helps equitable development that works by correcting the imbalance in the results of production factors between regions, so that it has a positive impact on labor migration, namely remittances from migrants to the region of origin. In addition, remittances play an important role in maintaining macroeconomic stability, as stable remittances help maintain the balance of payments and increase the country's foreign exchange reserves. The World Bank stated that remittance flows are very important to maintain economic stability, especially when the domestic economy faces external challenges, such as changes in commodity prices.

The contribution of migrant workers to the Indonesia economy can be through remittances or remittances that they send to Indonesia, which helps increase family income and investment in various sectors in the country. Although the migrant workers may not be directly and significantly involved in driving FDI, they are still an important part of the Indonesia diaspora and contribute significantly to the economy and citizens of Indonesia. In addition, the Indonesia diaspora has an extensive national network and connections at home. They can take advantage of these connections to facilitate foreign direct investment (foreign income) into Indonesia. The Indonesia Diaspora can find and show investment opportunities in Indonesia for potential foreign investors and also help in relations with Indonesia stakeholders (Freesca Syafitri, 2023).

The Indonesia diaspora who have studied or worked abroad also often have valuable knowledge and experience in many fields, namely being able to bring industry

information, the latest technology and business practices to Indonesia. This can help in the quality of foreign investment in Indonesia and encourage the spread of technology and improve efficiency in various sectors. In a different context, the Indonesia diaspora is also able to encourage investment in Indonesia and increase the country's positive perception of investment. Through participation in various international events, business meetings, or investment forums, the Indonesia diaspora can provide information about business opportunities in Indonesia, explain investment policies, and share their successful experiences in investing in Indonesia. Direct investment from foreign companies connected with diaspora members can increase economic activity in Indonesia, which affects nation building because the emotional connection between diaspora members who leave their home countries, the investment diaspora may be more stable. compared to different types of FDI, thus being profitable in the end of a complicated economy, as well as because of the advantages they may have in terms of understanding and having a local social network culture, companies involved in investment are usually seen as the main culprit (A. Priyono, 2019).

The Role of TKI in Technology and Expertise Transfer

Indonesia's workforce working abroad not only contributes through remittances, but also plays an important role in the transfer of technology and expertise they acquire during their working period abroad. Many migrant workers gain new technical knowledge, skills, and experience from the countries where they work. Immediately after returning to Indonesia, this knowledge and ability can transform human resources and increase the country's competitiveness.

The improvement of technical and professional skills they acquire while working abroad is one of the main contributions of migrant workers to technology transfer. Many migrant workers work in sectors that require specialized skills such as healthcare, construction, manufacturing, and information technology. The experience of working in an environment with international standards allows them to learn more effective working methods and the latest technology. Foreigners working in developed countries usually work in industries that use high technology, such as automated manufacturing, advanced machining techniques, or information technology. By working alone or in collaboration with a company in Indonesia, these skills can be used in a variety of local industries upon their return to Indonesia. Many foreign workers working in industries such as hospitality, tourism, and healthcare also learn important interpersonal and managerial skills. These skills include time management, interacting with customers or patients, and following international service standards. It has the ability to raise quality standards in Indonesia's service industry.

In addition to technical skills, overseas workers often have experience in management and entrepreneurship. In some developed countries, they may work in management positions or be involved in business operations, which teaches them business strategy and good business management. Many migrant workers who return to Indonesia use the financial and management knowledge they learned abroad to set up their own

businesses, especially in the SME sector. They implement more effective marketing strategies and management practices, which increases the competitiveness of local businesses. Some migrant workers are involved in social enterprises in their home communities in addition to starting commercial businesses. They invest in projects that support local development such as education, infrastructure, or skills training for the surrounding community with capital from remittances and the skills they acquire.

The improvement of the quality of human resources in Indonesia is the result of the contribution of migrant workers in technology transfer. Through informal training or experience sharing, returning workers often transfer their skills and knowledge to family members or the local community. Many migrant workers return to provide skills training informally to neighbors, family members, or local communities. It helps spread new skills that can create jobs or increase productivity in some industries. Some former migrant workers act as mentors or community mobilizers to help prospective migrant workers or young entrepreneurs in their home areas. They share knowledge on how to overcome difficulties abroad and take advantage of opportunities to acquire relevant skills.

CONCLUSION

The Indonesia Labor Diaspora (TKI) who work abroad plays a strategic role in supporting Indonesia's economic development. Economically, migrant workers contribute significantly through the remittances they send, which is one of the country's sources of foreign exchange and provides direct economic support to their families and communities of origin. In addition, remittances also encourage increased welfare, household consumption, and local investment. Beyond remittances, overseas workers also participate in technology and expertise transfer. They acquire new skills in various fields, such as technology, business, services, and agriculture, as long as they work in other countries. When they return to Indonesia, these knowledge and skills can be used to increase competitiveness in various sectors of the local economy and encourage entrepreneurial growth and innovation.

However, as migrant workers, they face many problems. These include the economy's reliance on remittances, the lack of capital to develop businesses after they return, and the absence of organized reintegration programs to maximize the benefits of their acquired expertise. Appropriate policies must also pay attention to social issues such as changes in gender roles, different family dynamics due to migration, and urbanization. The contribution of the migrant diaspora will be more effective in supporting inclusive and sustainable economic development in Indonesia if there are strong policies to protect migrant workers abroad and help them reintegrate after they return. The government and the community must work together to maximize the potential of the migrant diaspora, especially in terms of human resource development and strengthening the important industrial sector in Indonesia.

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