

Editorial Note

Transformation toward Indonesia Emas 2045: Some Issues and Challenges

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It is quite difficult to actually prepare Editorial Notes which deliver 15 papers selected in this edition. Not only are the fifteen papers very interesting and important, but the variety is also quite wide, ranging from discussions on smart governance, disaster and social capital, waste issues, regional planning, transport management, to public private partnerships (PPP). Through a long reflection, I come to conclude that all of the papers seem to reflect how diverse issues and challenges we face, both on a local, national, and global scale. These issues and challenges are very relevant for us to continue to discuss and find solutions, especially in the framework that this great nation is just in the process of extraordinary transformation, to ensure the achievement of the Indonesia Emas (Golden Indonesia), as stated very clearly and sharply in our Long-Term Development Plan document (RPJMN 2025 – 2045). The following descriptions attempt to underline some of the important issues and challenges we face, as reflected in the fifteen papers in this edition.

First, the issue of disasters is reflected in three (3) papers in this edition. This issue will continue to demand our attention, one of which is that because our country is located in what is known as the 'rings of fire,' where in almost all regions in Indonesia there are volcanoes that are mostly still active. The issue of disasters, vulnerability, and resilience, especially against various disaster threats, both natural and non-natural disasters, will certainly continue to be a prerequisite for Indonesia Emas in the future. Without having a certain level of resilience, both at the community, local, regional, and national levels, there is no guarantee that Indonesia will be able to achieve the noble goal of Indonesia Emas. In this context, a new approach is needed to ensure disaster management, including the optimization of digital development and artificial intelligence/AI. Two papers entitled: 1) E-Government Model Design for Volcano

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Eruption Disaster Risk Reduction in Agam Regency, West Sumatra; and 2) Enhancing Smart and Adaptive Coastal Living Through Community Adaptation to Tidal Floods in Pekalongan Regency, illustrate the importance of this issue.

The issue of disaster cannot be separated from the next issue, namely social capital, something that is also very important as a basic guarantee for the achievement of Indonesia Emas. In this perspective, we must continue to remember that from the beginning of the struggle of this nation, until then the period of independence and its development until now, it was possible because Indonesia has a strong social capital, which allowed this pluralistic nation to collaborate synergistically to build a great nation. The paper titled "Social Capital and Family Planning Indicator in Indonesia: A Fixed Effect Analysis" emphasizes this issue. Furthermore, the paper entitled 'Spiritual Values and Social Capital-Based Individual Empowerment in the Implementation of Disaster-Resilient Schools' also provides a message on how social capital is the basis for our success in responding to disaster issues.

Next, the issue of social capital and resilience to disaster threats will depend on the quality of human resources, including the health conditions of young Indonesians. That fact that we still face many stunting and malnutrition problems, prompting the controversial Free Nutritious Food (MBG) program and its implementation. This illustrates that the issue of human resource quality is the main factor to ensure the realization of Indonesia Emas. It is true that we have a bonus demography, namely millions of young people of great productive age. Without a guarantee of high physical condition and intelligence, this demographic bonus will actually become a burden for the entire nation. The paper entitled "Local Food, Centralized Governance, and the Limits of Policy Localization in Indonesia's Free Nutritious School Meal Program" reminds us that the MBG program should be implemented in a good manner, including ensuring the use of local food that is actually abundant and diverse in Indonesia.

The issue of energy, of course, is also very important, because without sufficient and affordable energy support, Indonesia will not be able to ensure the achievement of the Indonesia Emas target. In the context of limited non-renewable energy sources in Indonesia, strong and rapid efforts must be made to ensure the energy transition to environmentally friendly energy. The paper titled "Thermochemical-Mechanical Assessment of Washed and Torrefied Biomass Co-Firing in Boilers for a Sustainable Energy Transition" underscores this issue. Indonesia already has a Roadmap for a more environmentally friendly energy transition. Ensuring its implementation with various innovations must continue to be carried out.

Finally, various issues and challenges to ensure the transformation towards Indonesia Emas, as briefly described above, require systemic and professional planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Planning an Indonesia Emas is not enough to compile a list of grandiose targets with clear sizes. A rational and comprehensive management and approach is needed to ensure its realization. Bappenas, in this case, has a mandate for it. The paper entitled "Implementation Readiness of RPJPN 2025–2045: Strengthen the Role of Bappenas in Supporting Long-Term Development Planning" describes the important role of Bappenas in ensuring that the transformation of Indonesia Emas runs properly and according to the specific targets that have been set.

On the other hand, Bappenas, must also continue to innovate and encourage all governments, both central and regional, to continue to build with increased collaboration and synergy. The paper on "From Foundation to Acceleration: An Analysis of Indonesia's Two-Decade PPP Journey" reminds us that in the future, development programs must continue to involve all components of the nation, including the private sector. Thus, the PPP mechanism, which was also initiated by Bappenas and has been running for two decades, must continue to be improved in quantity and quality. Likewise, an effective regional development approach must continue to be triggered to bring this vast territory of Indonesia to jointly progress and there is no regional inequality.

In short, Indonesia Emas 2025 is not just a "mantra" but a mere political mantra – Indonesia Emas is the dreams of all citizens of the nation. All components of the nation must have a common awareness and collaborate to ensure its realization. Soekarno, the founding father of this nation, has said for a long time that "Whoever wants pearls, must dare to dive into the deep sea".