

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Almost every year, the Southeast Asian region suffered a very disturbing smoke haze. And almost all the smoke haze occurring in Southeast Asia is caused by forest fires in Indonesia. In 1982, Indonesia experienced forest fires which caused haze which affected neighboring countries. Thus causing a thick haze that also reached neighboring Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. And in 1991 and 1994, fires and haze also re-occurred in East Kalimantan which affected Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, and Singapore. In 1997, forest fires in Indonesia included the most significant forest fires, and it is because the drought in Indonesia was accompanied by the El Nino phenomenon, which affected neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. Some fire incidents that occur in Indonesia occur almost every year and repeatedly occur in the same place, especially peatland areas, such as fire incidents in 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 which affected neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam.

In 2013 and 2014, the largest fires and haze occurred again in Indonesia. Thick smoke enveloped Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and other Southeast Asian countries. Malaysia is the biggest country to feel the impact. And in 2015, haze in Indonesia occurred quite severely. In that year, forest fires in Indonesia were believed to be a record as the worst in history. Some Southeast Asian countries that receive haze from Indonesia are Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and also the southern part of Thailand. Malaysia and Singapore, are two countries that are always exposed to the smoke of forest fires that occur in Indonesia.

The smoke haze that occurs in Indonesia is caused by many factors. Some factors cause forest fires that cause haze in Indonesia. The factors are natural factors, human factors, and industrialization factors. Natural factor that caused the

forest fire is hot weather conditions with the El Nino phenomenon. Although initially forest and land fires in Indonesia were caused by human activities, fires were even greater when supported by hot weather conditions. Most of the causes of forest and land fires in Indonesia are human factors. Forest fires caused by the human accident can happen because cigarette butts which are discarded in forest areas, bonfires in the forest that forget to be turned off or not completely extinguished when abandoned, burning garbage. And the intentional forest fires, it usually has a purpose for land clearing. Land clearing by burning forests is often the most frequently done by individuals and companies. Forest and land burning have also been carried out for the development of Industrial Plantation Forests since 1996. The development of Industrial Forest Plantation in Indonesia, especially in Kalimantan and Sumatra has increased every year by 10%.

Smoke haze disaster has some impacts, and there are impacts on health and environment sectors, economy and transportation sectors, also cross-border pollution. The ingredients contained in the smoke of forest fires can cause various health problems such as irritation and Acute Respiratory Infection. From an economic standpoint haze certainly inhibits and reduces community activities outside the home so that it can have an impact on the wheels of the regional economy. This resulted in a decrease in community income, while household expenditure experienced an increase in health costs. Also, the transportation sector also experienced a decline in revenues, especially transportation services due to the disruption of business activities. Land and forest fires that happen almost every year in Indonesia, especially in the Riau Islands, parts of Sumatra and Kalimantan also often cause transboundary haze pollution to neighboring countries, especially Malaysia and Singapore. The smoke haze that occurs in Indonesia is often blown to Singapore and Malaysia, or even some other Southeast Asian countries.

Indonesia and Malaysia are neighboring countries and have a long history of relations, many mutually beneficial cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia, but also not infrequent conflicts and issues that occur between the two countries. Indonesia and Malaysia often experience several conflicts, including border conflicts and cultural conflicts. In recent years, Indonesia and Malaysia have experienced tensions between the two, especially tensions between communities. This tension was caused by the haze disaster that occurred in Indonesia that crossed the national boundaries to cause air pollution which was also felt by the Malaysian population.

Forest fires that cause haze in Indonesia affect the harmony of relations between Indonesia and Malaysia. The relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia has gone through many good and bad things. Indonesia and Malaysia have a harmonious relationship, although sometimes there are few friction and conflicts between the two countries. With the smoke haze, Indonesia and Malaysia often hold state meetings and visits that discuss the haze disaster. This shows that the haze disaster not only has a negative side but has a positive side. Indonesia and Malaysia held various meetings to discuss cooperation in dealing with smog. Despite tensions between the two countries, Indonesia and Malaysia continued to maintain good relations by trying to discuss and negotiate the haze disaster that hit both countries.

Indonesia has implemented various efforts and policies regarding haze, but the smoke haze still cannot be handled completely. The smoke haze that occurred in Indonesia worsened in 2015, and this led to various protests and pressure from Malaysia. To maximize the handling of smoke, Indonesia needs help from other countries, one of which is Malaysia. The diplomacy between Indonesia and Malaysia was marked by several meetings held at the ministerial level which discussed smoke haze. Therefore, diplomacy between Indonesia and Malaysia can be said to be

the implementation of inter-state disaster diplomacy in ministerial level.

The discussion of haze was not only at the ministerial level but also at a higher level, namely the head of state. Discussions between the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Najib Razak, is a form of inter-state diplomacy in summit level. In 2015, forest fires and haze in Indonesia were believed to be the most severe smoke disaster in history. Malaysia has repeatedly sent protest notes to the Indonesian government. Therefore, at a meeting, President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Najib Razak discussed the smoke. The Malaysian Prime Minister explained that President Joko Widodo promised to overcome the smoke immediately.

By carrying out several negotiations and meetings, Indonesia and Malaysia worked together to resolve the haze disaster. The assistance and cooperation offered by Malaysia are in the form of cooperation to extinguish forest fires and smoke-generating lands, joint training in smog handling, as well as assistance in the form of tools needed to deal with forest fires. In 2015, the Malaysian government sent a Bombardier CL415 water bomber and a C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying crew, forest and land firefighting equipment, and a small helicopter to survey and guide water bombings.