

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Nowadays disaster has become one of the prominent issues faced by the countries across the world. It has great consequences which affect many sectors of a nation such as social, economic, cultural and environmental systems. Disaster often caused massive loss of human lives, damage properties, and infrastructures and can affect to the development process of the country. It has been an inevitable part of human beings, and people are constantly under the threat of disaster. Therefore, there is no country denies the need to be ready for disaster and to conduct proper post-disaster activities.

According to UNISDR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), between 2005-2015, there are more than 700 thousand people were killed, over 1.4 million were injured, and around 23 million were made homeless as a result of disasters. Totally, more than 1.5 billion people were affected by disasters in various ways. The total economic loss was more than \$1.3 trillion. (Reduction, 2016). Regarding the distribution of disaster occurrences across continents in 2016, Asia is the continent with the highest rate of natural disasters compared to other continents. The disaster most often hit Asia with (46.7%), followed by the Americas (24.3%), Africa (16.9%), Europe (8.2%), and Oceania (3.8%). (Debarati Guha-Sapir, Philippe Hoyois, Pascaline Wallemacq and Regina Below, 2016). In other reports, Asia, and the Pacific regions, according to UN statistical yearbook for Asia and the Pacific in 2014, were the most vulnerable regions in the world related to the natural disaster. (Herningtyas & Surwandono, 2017).

One of the countries in Asia that prone to natural disaster is Nepal. According to Nepal Disaster Report 2013, the state is

ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural disasters. Geographically, it lies between the two large and populous nations of Asia- India in the West, South, and East and China in the North. The state is characterized as a mountainous country, located in the central part of the Himalayan belt. Hills and high mountains cover about 86% of the total area. The altitude ranges from 70 meters to a maximum of 8,848 meters with varying climatic conditions. Besides, with its rugged topography and active tectonic processes, the environmental conditions have caused Nepal to be vulnerable to natural disasters (Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal, 2013).

The historical record shows that Nepal has been suffering from a various type of natural hazard. The earthquake of 1934, called as the Bihar earthquake, followed by other quakes in 1980, 1988 and the flood of 1993, 2008, and 2014 are the most devastating disasters which caused many casualties and physical properties. Furthermore, in the year 2013 and 2014, Nepal experienced an overall increase in the hazards – particularly floods and landslides in various parts of the country. In the year 2013, the disaster killed a total number of 460 people. Meanwhile, in 2014, disasters caused a total number of 487 people lost their lives. The country is not merely vulnerable to the disaster such as floods and landslide but also fires, heat waves, cold waves, lightning, windstorms, hailstorms, droughts, epidemics and so forth. Hence, disasters are so penetrative in every Nepalese geographic and societal framework that the people are constantly under the threat of a multitude of natural disasters. (Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal, 2015)

Besides, many reports and studies have shown that over the last 33 years, various disasters in Nepal has caused enormous loss of life and destroyed property worth billions of Rupees. The disaster also has an adverse effect on the nation's development activities, and it can be a continuing threat to

sustainable development. As the country lies in the high seismic prone zone, large-scale earthquakes were frequent in the state in the past including the recent shock of 25 April 2015 that is categorized as the most devastating disaster of the year. (Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal, 2015)

The earthquake struck the Barpak Village of Gorkha district near the city of Kathmandu. The quake has caused nearly 9,000 casualties, 22,303 more were injured, and more than 600,000 structures in Kathmandu and other nearby towns were either damaged or destroyed. The first shock with magnitude 7.8 has registered struck the area. Then, two large aftershocks, with magnitudes 6.6 and 6.7, shook the region within one hour of the main quake, and several dozen smaller aftershocks occurred in the area during the succeeding days. (Rafferty, John P., 2016). The data showed that the total number of 14 districts out of 75 regions in the country has affected by this huge disaster. More than 600,000 households were fully damaged. Thequake even affected not only entire Nepal but also some parts of India, Bangladesh, and the Tibet region. Therefore, the Gorkha earthquake disaster 2015 is considered as the largest to hit Nepal after the Nepal–Bihar earthquake in 1934. (Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal, 2015)

Immediately after the disaster, the Government of Nepal launched a large-scale relief operation to help the victims with support from the international community. The Himalayan prone-country was unprepared for the major disaster that is categorized as one of the greatest disasters in the past 80 years. Besides, the disaster-affected areas were mostly in remote villages. Thus, it's quite hard for Nepal's government to handle the aid distribution and relief operation alone. Due to its incapability to handle the national emergency situation, the Government of Nepal, therefore, called for international assistance.

The international community responded with various type of support since the first day of disaster. The outflowing of public sympathy, donations of money, aid supplies and rescue teams have been sent to help the victim in Nepal. The aid began to come from neighboring countries such as India, China, and Pakistan as a quick response by sending aid and rescue team. Besides, the rescue team also came from distant countries such as Israel, the United States, Britain, Japan, Indonesia, and Finland. Within 24 hours, the humanitarian assistance which consists of many local communities, volunteers, youth groups, and the private sector gathered in Kathmandu. More than 100 international rescue and medical teams have been dispatched to Nepal. (Ramzy, 2015)

During the emergency situation, the government of Nepal, however, has decided to reject an offer of aid from Taiwan after the devastating earthquake. A professional rescue team consisting of 20 people from Taiwan who was ready to dispatch to Nepal has been canceled. According to Nepalese officials, the government decides to prioritize the aid from its neighboring country first looking at the chaotic conditions of Nepal.

In fact, Taiwan has excellent search and rescue teams as the country also has similarities regarding vulnerability to disasters, especially earthquakes. Besides, Taiwan's assistance in the form of well-trained emergency response personnel would be able to bring resources and expertise to the relief effort that was indeed needed by Nepal. Moreover, Taiwan has pledged about \$300,000 in donation aid and planned to start charity rescue missions to Nepal. Even though the rescue team was declined, however, Taiwan still sends the assistance in the form of medicine to the Nepalese. (Ong, 2015)

B. Research Question

Based on the background illustrated above, the question which serves as a point of analysis is:

“Why Nepal reject Taiwan’s aid in the case of Nepal earthquake disaster 2015?”

C. Theoretical Framework

To analyze the problem, by looking at the background and research question, then the theoretical framework in this research is to use the theory of disaster diplomacy.

Disaster Diplomacy Theory

The term “Disaster diplomacy” was introduced by Kelman and Koukis (2000) with the question ‘Do natural disasters induce international cooperation amongst countries that have traditionally been “enemies”’?.

The term “Disaster diplomacy” can be understood as the study of how and why disaster-related activities do and do not induce cooperation amongst enemies. The term enemy is not limited to violent conflict or complete antipathy toward each other. However, it defines as friends and allies that have disagreements and conflicts, resulting from the disaster-diplomacy possibilities among parties that are not necessarily being full or violent enemies.

In the literature definitions, disaster diplomacy investigates how and why natural disasters contribute to or not to peace or conflict, examined before and after a disaster. First, in the context of before disaster, the disaster diplomacy discusses the activities related to the reduction of disaster effects, such as the prevention, mitigation and effort to minimize the number of casualties. Otherwise, after the

disaster occurred, the disaster diplomacy investigates the disaster-related activities, such as relief operation and recovery can influence or not to peace and conflict. (Kelman, 2012)

Ilan Kelman further explains that disaster-related activities can influence, support, affect, push along, the diplomacy between party. Disaster-related activities, however, do not create a new diplomatic opportunity. They can be the catalyst to support diplomacy that has already started with a basis. Based on the research and the history, disaster-related activities alone have not been shown to produce new diplomatic results. Where disaster-related activities do influence diplomatic activities, primarily by supporting them, a pre-existing basis is needed on which to found that diplomacy. That pre-existing basis could trade links, cultural connections, secret or open peace negotiations amongst the parties in conflict, or joint sports events. (Kelman, 2012).

Even though disaster-related activity can promote diplomacy, however, disaster diplomacy does not always yield the desired outcome. Disaster diplomacy can fall into failures. There are many factors exist and are pursued to inhibit disaster-diplomacy outcomes. Several factors that cause diplomacy to fail can either be the main cause, or one of them. According to Ilan Kelman, there are several factors behind the failure of disaster diplomacy. The writer, however, uses one of the factors to explain the reason behind the disaster diplomacy failures.

The factor that is used to describe the failure of disaster diplomacy is the presence of 'distraction'. The disaster-related activity could distract diplomacy refers to the fact that the process of disaster-related activity might be distracted from the presence of core issues. Both disaster-related collaboration and diplomacy are long-term endeavors which might not be appropriately addressed if those involved are distracted by the third party. The disaster-related activity could distract

diplomacy occurs when recipient states do or do not necessarily need offered assistance but decline it due to the presence of another party that acts as the distraction. It further indicates that the acceptance of assistance could potentially distract the relation between the recipient and the third party.

In practice, disaster diplomacy has multiple purposes that either can support or distract diplomacy. The first disaster-diplomacy purpose is survival of oneself. This means that disaster-related activities, such as foreign aid response are needed as the effort to survive from the impact of the disaster. The second purpose is that the disaster diplomacy would be of mutual benefit. It means that beneficial relations can be a possible outcome for both parties. The third disaster-diplomacy purpose is long-term, global gains even if that has the potential for requiring short-term self-sacrifice. In this context, disaster diplomacy has an impact on the future relationship between parties, even though the disaster-related activities happen in such a short period. The fourth purpose of disaster diplomacy is to prove humanitarianism. The disaster-related activities can be the opportunity for the country to claim support for the global humanitarian endeavor. The last is, re-affirmation of old prejudices and enmity can affect disaster diplomacy interests. This purpose suggests that avoiding disaster diplomacy has multiple goals like promoting disaster diplomacy.

The purpose of declaring old prejudice could be made for internal gain. It includes during a disaster to determine the decision made by a state in responding to the disaster-related activity. The response given by one party reflects the goal to be gained, one of them is to re-affirm or assert the ongoing relationship of both parties. (Kelman, 2012).

Furthermore, disaster diplomacy in practice is related to the political context, because disaster-related activities and diplomacy are inherently correlated with political topics.

Humanitarian imperative that needs specific political considerations could also result in a country avoiding to accept humanitarian assistance as a part of the disaster-related activity. The reason that underlies the refusal of the aid in disaster situation could be a loss of face, expected loss of face, not willing to be dependent on an enemy, and causing further problems for a foe or with other parties. (Kelman, 2012)

The rejection of Nepal, in this way, is under the purpose to re-affirm the old prejudices and enmity. The term enemy here is articulated in a wide range, not limited to violent conflict. Even though Taiwan is not the enemy of Nepal, however, Nepal has fully committed to One-China policy. Under this policy, Nepal has been firmly respecting the sovereignty and dignity of China by not allowing its territory to be used against China. China, on the other hand, has always treated Nepal as an equal and friendly partner respecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national independence. Moreover, China is well known for it's reluctant to have ties with nations that recognize Taiwan in any form of relations. As a consequence, any action regarded potential for improved relations with Taiwan is avoided by Nepal.

The commitment of Nepal could be observed through the earthquake happened in 2015 where the Himalayan country was devastated and immensely need for humanitarian assistance. Taiwan has offered aid to help the victims by sending a rescue and search operation after the devastating earthquake that killed nearly 9000 people. Even though Nepal is in the immediate need of humanitarian aid, however, the country remains to stick to its commitment. Nepal's decision could have been made for internal political gain, due to the hostile relations between Taiwan and China.

On the other hand, the acceptance of aid in the disaster-related activity could further distract the diplomacy with China. The presence of China has become the major

consideration for the country to decline the offer of aid from Taiwan. Nepal and China have shared a tight and stable relationship of friendship and cooperation characterized by various agreements at all levels from the government since long time ago. China as one of Nepal's neighbors has made a considerable contribution to various developments in the country which is regarded as one of an emerging country in the world. Therefore, Nepal attempts to manage its good relationship with China and avoid any action which can hamper its relationship and diminish the diplomacy prospect with its partner.

D. Hypothesis

Based on the theoretical framework, then it is proposed the following hypothesis: the rejection of Nepal toward Taiwan's offer of aid in the case of Nepal earthquake disaster 2015 is due to:

1. Distract diplomacy with China. The disaster-related activity, in this case, the offer of assistance from Taiwan toward Nepal is declined. The reverse decision, which is accepting the offer of aid will distract the bilateral relation between Nepal and China that has been steady and beneficial, especially in economic cooperation.
2. Re-affirmation of prejudice, namely One-China's policy. The decision made by Nepal is due to the circumstances of China-Taiwan's relation. Under this policy, China is reluctant to have ties with nations that recognize Taiwan in any form of relations.

E. Purpose of Writing

This research aims at understanding the fact behind the Nepal rejection of aids offered by Taiwan in the case of Nepal earthquake disaster in 2015.

F. Research Methods

1. Type of research

There are three types of research designs in the methodology of research, as follows: research designs in case of exploratory research studies, research designs in case of descriptive studies, and research designs in case of casual research studies. This research uses research design in case of exploratory studies, in which in this type, it can explain the reason behind the phenomena. Furthermore, the purpose of this research is particular to develop the hypotheses that are shown through statistical tools (Bhattacharyya, 2006). Hence, the exploratory model will be able to observe about the reason why Nepal rejects Taiwan's aid in the case of Nepal earthquake disaster 2015.

2. Type of data

Type of data in the research methodology is distinguished into two kinds, namely: quantitative data and qualitative data. The data that is in the form of words, sentences, or images is called as qualitative data. Nonetheless, qualitative data can be changed to be quantitative data so that it will be nominal and ordinal data. On the other hand, quantitative data is the data in the form of numbers, and also it can come from qualitative data that has changed to the number (Gani & Amalia, 2015). This research aims to make the explanation to be more systematic, factual, and accurate that is related to the fact and the object of the study. Therefore, type of data that is analyzed by the researcher in the thesis about the reason why Nepal rejects Taiwan's aid in the case of Nepal earthquake disaster 2015 is qualitative data, where it is the data that comes from the result of data collection that is interpreted into words so that it can be composed.

3. Data collection technique

In the method of data collection, there are two methods, namely method of primary data collection and method of secondary data collection. In the first method, it is conducted by observation, questionnaire, experimentation, interviewing, or case study method. Hence, in collecting primary data, the methods demand a high degree of skill to ensure that the data is unbiased and representative highly. In contrast, the methods of secondary data collection usually are taken by several data that are published or unpublished, as follows: All kinds of publication from central, state, local governments; All kind of writing from foreign governments, or from international bodies, and their branch organization; Technical and trade journals; Book, newspapers, and magazine; Publications or reports from several association related to banks, universities, business and industry, economists, and so forth; Reports analyzed by several scholars, universities, economists, etc; Document from statistic, public records and other published informations (Bhattacharyya, 2006).

Methods of data collection, according to Jonathan, can be distinguished from several forms, namely: participation, observation, in-depth interview, document review, elite interviewing, focus group interviewing, narration, life history, historical analysis, movies, photos, and videos. Document review is a method that will not disturb the object or the situation of the research. Moreover, it can assist to understand the value and culture embraced by the object under study. Documents that are used to the research are related to the content analysis. Therefore, the method to analyze the contents of the document is by examining documents systematically and observing forms of communication in the form of

documents objectively. Hence, data which is obtained through document review can be categorized into the secondary data collection. In the secondary data collection, there is a method that uses data collection through online. The internet is considered as a quick and easy data collection tool. The existence of sophisticated search tools and servers that is saved in the world will be able to facilitate researchers to conduct research online. Therefore, online data collection is a search by using a computer that is done through the internet that its network is connected all over the world (Sarwono, 2006).

To build objectivity in this thesis research, data collection is done through several stages:

First, data collection from the book. There is a book that is used by the researcher which is *disaster diplomacy* book that is written by IlanKelman entitled *Disaster Diplomacy: How Disaster Affect Peace and Conflict*. They become the guide in completing the understanding of the researcher about disaster diplomacy that has more discussed study cases and various model of disaster diplomacy.

Second, document studies also are gained online through media, namely the internet. There is a journal written by Ratih Herningtyas and Surwandono, *Bencana Alam sebagai Sarana Meningkatkan Kerjasama Internasional*. Also, some documents are utilized by a researcher to analyze the disaster issues in Nepal, as follows: Publications or reports from Nepal Disaster Report 2013, Nepal Disaster Report 2015 and so forth.

4. Sources of data

According to Gani and Amalia, data, which is based on the source, is classified into two types, namely primary and secondary data, in which the primary data is the one

which is obtained from the first source, whereas the information which is not gained from the first source is called the secondary data (Gani & Amalia, 2015). Primary data is the data that is obtained by the researcher directly without intermediaries. The data usually is collected by institutions or individuals through a survey. While secondary data is one which is collected and analyzed by the previous researcher before someone else uses it (Bhattacharyya, 2006). This research selects the secondary data, in which its research comes from data sources that have processed or analyzed by the previous researchers, Ilan Kelman, Surwandono, Ratih Herningtyas, and other researchers from several associations or organizations (Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affair, Disaster Preparedness-network, and so forth)

G. Scope of Research

To avoid overlapping data in the writing of this research, the writer limits the writing on the issue of disaster in Nepal within the scope of Nepal earthquake disaster 2015. Since the primary issue of Nepal rejection occurred in the Nepal earthquake disaster 2015. This is done in order to make the writer focus and facilitate the research and data collection.

H. Outline

The outline of this thesis is essential to create a logical analysis. This thesis provides analysis in systematic order by separating the analysis into several chapters. Every single chapter is a coherent body of analysis to answer the question that generated before. They would be as follows:

Chapter I

The first chapter consists of eight sub-titles: background, research question, theoretical framework, hypothesis, the purpose of research, research methods, scope of research and the last is the outline, in purpose to show the order of the analysis written in this thesis.

Chapter II

This chapter explains the disaster issue in Nepal. It first explains the factors of disaster vulnerability in Nepal. The discussion in this chapter is continued by discussing the type of disaster that frequently hit the country and the dynamic of disaster in Nepal, specifically the major disasters in 2012 and 2013 before the earthquake in 2015.

Chapter III

This chapter explains about the leading case of this thesis which is Nepal earthquake disaster 2015, including the impact of earthquake on economic, environmental, and psychology. The chapter is also continued by discussing the disaster-related activities during the disaster which is the humanitarian assistance from Internasional community and its dilemma that occur during the disaster situation.

Chapter IV

This chapter explains about the reason why Nepal rejects Taiwan's aid in the case of Nepal earthquake disaster of 2015. This chapter will provide the analysis of the thesis to answer the research question.

Chapter V

This chapter is the last section of this thesis, which consists of the overall conclusion of this research. It consists of the summary of all explanation generated in the previous chapters.