

CHAPTER III

CHINA AND INDONESIA GOVERNMENT IN PANDA DIPLOMACY

The third chapter analyses the China and Indonesia government in strengthening the bilateral relations through panda diplomacy. The tool of analysis is using the first track of multi-track diplomacy, which is through government track that plays a role as the policy decision-maker. In this part of the research, the explanation divides into three parts. The first part explains the general guideline principle of China in conducting panda diplomacy; the second part discusses how China conducts panda diplomacy to Indonesia; and the last part is discuss in what aspects of bilateral relations does panda diplomacy developed for China and Indonesia.

A. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF PANDA BREEDING LOAN

In the development of panda diplomacy in stage three in which still valid until these recent days, the panda may no longer be rented for the business purpose. The countries that borrow the giant panda must have the purpose of cultural exchange, the popularization of science or public education. It is written in Article 2 of the Management Regulation of Giant Panda Loan Exhibition in 2011 under the State Forestry Administration of China.

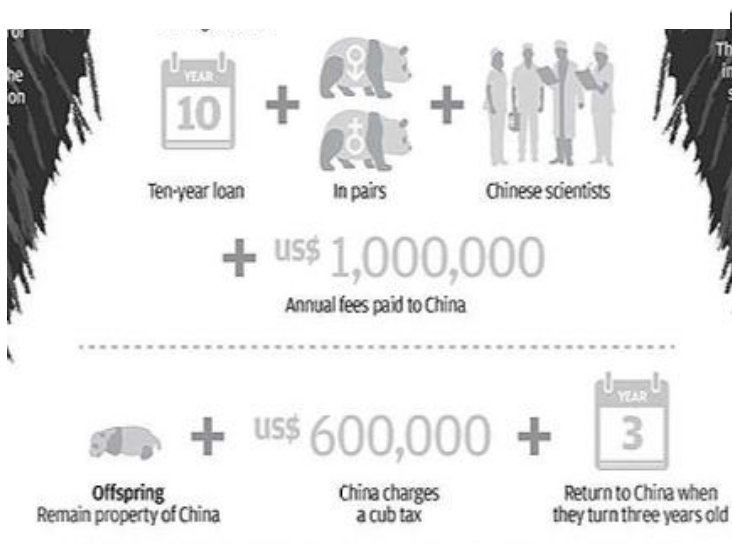
The loan of the giant panda is regulated by the State Forestry Administration of China in 2011 and the procedure of the loan is addressed in the following Article 8 as illustrated in the figure 3.1.

“The application for the exhibition of a giant panda shall be handled in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The loan shall apply to the State Forestry Administration.

2. After accepting the application according to law, the State Forestry Administration shall examine the application materials. Upon examination, the State Forestry Administration shall, within 20 working days, make a decision to grant an administrative license. If necessary, the State Forestry Administration may, within 30 days, organize experts to demonstrate or field inspect the borrower's borrowing activities, panda breeding, and management plans and facilities.
3. After the State Forestry Administration has made an administrative license decision, the competent forestry administrative department of the people's government at the provincial level in the place where the borrower is located shall, before and after the beginning of the loan exhibition, issue the giant panda to leave the lender in accordance with the administrative license documents of the State Forestry Administration. Transport documents of the borrower.”

Figure 3.1 The Illustration of the Giant Panda Loan Agreement



Source: Henry Wong & Joe Lo cited from <https://www.scmp.com/infographics/article/1982036/infographic-pandadiplomacy>, 2016.

The figure 3.1 illustrates the giant panda loan agreement. The loan agreement consists of the sending of a pair giant panda to the borrower or the receiving country in a purpose of breeding for a ten-year loan. One of the loan's conditions, the receiving country has to pay US\$ 1.000.000 for each year to China's Wildlife Conservation Association. In the other hand, every panda cubs that born during the loan program has to return to China after two-year-old. The fee of the loan breeding will spend by China to fund the scientific research accordingly, breeding, protecting, and conserving the existence of panda (Shabrina, 2017).

B. CHINA PANDA DIPLOMACY TOWARDS INDONESIA

Fauna and diplomacy have long been tagging and the practice of using animals as diplomatic tools have been practiced for several centuries (Hartig, 2013). Several countries use an animal as ceremonial gifts or a symbol of an alliance. The use of an animal to create and maintain the good relations with the neighboring country is also used by China. Tagging with cute and fascinating visual identity, make the giant panda a perfect tool in establishing the diplomatic relations with other countries. Coined by Ami Vitale, a National Geographic photographer, filmmaker, and author of *Panda Love*, stated that giant panda evolved over millions of years to eat almost exclusively bamboo. Today, 99 percent of the living pandas' diet is bamboo. In a region where bad environmental conditions is common, the giant panda might prove to be the exception and is a testament to the perseverance and effort of Chinese scientists and conservationists. The only answer to preserving the existence by giant panda is by breeding, protecting its habitat, and releasing it back into the wildlife. The conservation community in the form of The World Conservation Union Policy (IUCN) had a clear mandate towards the captive-breeding practitioners in 1987 (Bowkett, 2009).

As an effort of the Government of China in preserving the giant panda through the loan breeding to other countries, the giant panda loan breeding also aims to symbolize the good bilateral relations of China towards the receiving country. Indonesia is a chosen country that able to receive the exclusive animal of the giant panda from China. The established diplomatic relations on April 13th, 1950, that was suspended on October 30th, 1967, was recommenced between China and Indonesia on August 8th, 1989. The bilateral relations developed steadily through the ups-and-downs since the resumption of diplomatic relations of the two countries. Both two leaders have maintained an exchange of visits and contacts. As a result, mutual understanding and trust has been

increasing, laying the foundation for the healthy and steady development of bilateral relations. The recent years have witnessed the constant deepening of economic and trade cooperation and the increase of the trade volume year by year (Chinese Embassy in Indonesia, 2011).

In strengthening cooperation and exchange, China and Indonesia issued a Joint Communiqué committing in 1999(Nabbs-Keller, 2011). It is written in the Joint Statement of the Republic of Indonesia and the People's Republic of China on the Future Direction of Bilateral Cooperation on 2000, point 4 stated that:

“The two sides will increase their friendly cooperation in such areas such as trade, investment, science and technology, agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, health and medicine, industry, forestry, energy, transportation, mining, telecommunications and information, finance, people-to-people contacts, youth and sports, tourism, education, legal assistance, defense, and political and regional security”(Kementerian Luar Negeri Indonesia, 2000).

Bilateral relations between China-Indonesia comprehensibly well developed in 2013(Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2015). Acknowledging the long-term friendly relations between Indonesia and China as well as the friendship between both peoples, and to strengthen the cooperation and exchange between the two countries in the area of wildlife conservation especially the giant panda as endangered species, both China and Indonesia have reached an understanding that signed on August 1st, 2016, in Guiyang China. The MoU signed under the agreement of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Republic of Indonesia that represented by Mr. Tachrir Fathoni, as the Director-General for Conservation on Natural Resources and Ecosystem and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of

China that represented by Mr. Chen Fengxue as the Vice Minister of State Forestry Administration of China.

The implementation or cooperation mechanism on how China conducting panda diplomacy towards Indonesia is regulated in the Article 2 of the MoU on Cooperation of Promoting Giant Panda Conservation in 2016. There are several points, as follows:

1. The Parties, the Government of China and the Government of Indonesia, will supervise the implementation of the Project by China Wildlife Conservation Association and Taman Safari Indonesia, as the implementing institution of the project.
2. The Indonesian side will notify the Chinese side the status of the Project before the end of each year. In cases of special incidents such as death and serious disease of the giant pandas, Taman Safari Indonesia will immediately report to the Indonesian side, who will notify the Chinese side in due time.
3. The Chinese side will evaluate the Project if needed, and the Indonesian side will provide support and coordination when deemed necessary. The evaluation results will be shared with the Indonesian side.
4. The Parties will hold meetings at appropriate times. Communicating with each other on the implementation of the Project.
5. The Chinese side will invite and support the Indonesian side to travel to China to attend activities related to Giant Panda conservation and management.
6. The Parties may develop exchange and cooperation in the field of other species conservation based on the status of cooperation.
7. Each Party will each appoint a special liaison officer responsible for contacts and coordination

of the exchanges and cooperation under this MoU. The Chinese liaison office is the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management of State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China. The Indonesian liaison office is the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Directorate General of Ecosystem and Natural Resources Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia.

From the article above, we can highlight the point number one that mentioned the implementation of the project is involving partners that consist of China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) from China side and Taman Safari Indonesia from Indonesia side; number five stated that China will invite Indonesia to travel to China to attend activities related to giant panda conservation and management; and point number seven mentioned that the act of panda diplomacy towards Indonesia is under the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management of China and the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Directorate General of Ecosystem and Natural Resources Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia.

C. THE USE OF PANDA IN STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

The commemoration of the 60th anniversary of China-Indonesia bilateral relations was the unforgettable moment for Indonesia as Indonesia's Government was honored to receive the panda loan breeding from China that initiated in 2010. Under the Chinese Wildlife Conservation Law of 1988 the giant panda is listed as a Category 1 species, receiving the

highest possible level protection (Zhu, 1989). The project is implemented based on China and Indonesia respects to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES). The panda loan breeding project to Indonesia is one of China effort to save the giant panda from extinction due to its low productive rate. Despite it long time generations, human activities such as agriculture, logging, infrastructure development, poaching, and climate change also pose a big threat for giant pandas (State Forestry Administration of China, 2014).

The arrival of a pair panda was wholeheartedly welcomed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, Mrs. Siti Nurbaya Bakar; China's Ambassador to Indonesia, Sun Wai Ta; the Executive Director of Garuda Indonesia, Pahala Mansuri; and the Executive Director of Taman Safari Indonesia, Jansen Manansang and staffs (Tristiawati, 2017). Indonesia became the 4th official country in Southeast Asia and the 17th country in the world that received a breeding loan from giant pandas from China (Birohumas Kementerian LHK, 2017).

Now let's see how this panda breeding loan or panda diplomacy is able to strengthen the bilateral relations of China and Indonesia. First it'll increase the awareness of public towards the endangered species by giving public education, and second, is able to reshape the public opinion towards the country accordingly that would impact towards the tourism sector.

The public education is required to: 1) inform local people of laws, regulations, and management actions, and of their justifications; 2) build public support for conservation goals, particularly in the local school system; and 3) inform domestic and foreign visitors to reserves about pandas, their habitats and ecosystem conservation (Donald G. Reid, Jien Gong, 2000).

A week before the arrival time, through Instagram account *@duapanda.tamansafari* owned by Taman Safari Indonesia grabbed huge enthusiast from Indonesian people that

implicated towards the growing numbers of the visitor of Taman Safari Indonesia. Even, during the celebration of 1st anniversary of the giant pandas in Indonesia, Taman Safari was visited by more than a thousand visitors (Haryudi, 2018).

According to Siti Nurbaya Bakar, the arrival of a pair giant panda to Indonesia remarks as the good relations between China-Indonesia diplomatic relations and perhaps can strengthens the relations between the country and the people (Tristiawati, 2017). Along to the arrival of Cai Tao and Hu Chun in Indonesia, the Indonesia-China market that driven by inbound tourism is growing rapidly (Centre of Aviation, 2018). Moreover, the Centre of Aviation mentioned that in 2018, there are now more than 60,000 one-way weekly seats from Indonesia to China during peak periods, compared to 10,000 peak one-way weekly seats five years ago in which Bali is the most destination to visit. In additional, the Chinese visitor numbers to Indonesia have doubled over the past four year and over 2 million visitors are expected in 2018, compared to only 1 million in 2014 (Centre of Aviation, 2018). According to the Tourism Ministry's division 1 deputy of marketing development I Gde Pitana, the number grew 42.22 percent from the previous year and even surplus of 98,405 from the target number (The Jakarta Post, 2018).

The explanation above shows that the governments of both countries have the significant and primary role in the success of panda diplomacy, in which the Government of Indonesia was represented by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Republic of Indonesia, and the Government of China, was represented by the State Forestry Administration of China. The role of this track is to supervise the implementation of panda diplomacy from the origin country, China to the receiving country which is Indonesia. Advancing this track, the meeting between both countries officials is also executed. In addition, Indonesia is obligated to give Indonesia visa to both of giant pandas. Meanwhile, China will give the giant panda adoption license to Indonesia.