

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Fauna and diplomacy have long been tagging and the practice of using animals as diplomatic tools have been practiced for several centuries. Several countries use the 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, or known as panda diplomacy. This thesis is an attempt to research the role of panda diplomacy as a part of Chinese public diplomacy in the development of China's relations with Indonesia. The symbolic association between the panda's universal appeals with its Chinese-ness identity and thus becomes the fundamental rationale of panda diplomacy.

In understanding the practice of panda diplomacy, the researcher simply divided the practice into three stages. The first stage occurred in 1949-1972 during the Mao Zedong administration that coincided by the Declaration of China. During this period of the stage, the pandas are used in order to build the exclusive strategies of the Socialist State. Stage two took after Deng Xiaoping's rise to power in 1978 when gift turned into loans program in a short time particularly for zoo tour. Listed as a red list of threatened species by IUCN, this short loan program is being condemned in which made China stop the program in 1982. From 1957-1981 there were 23 pandas of the total living pandas that used as a gift. The last stages were in the 1990s until the current day. The giant pandas were sent abroad for cooperative research and loan breeding. The program was maintained by the State Forestry Administration of China in which the borrowing of the giant panda must be on the purpose of cultural exchange.

The survey on 2011-2014 that considered as the latest survey conducted by the IUCN stated that recently the estimated range-wide population of the giant panda reached the number of 1,864 populations. The numbers increased

by 328 compared to the previous survey. Due to pandas' experience which labeled as endangered species, the IUCN updated the status of the Pandas from endangered into vulnerable in 2016. Through various helpers, China is able to save its treasure from extinct. As the efforts 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 one among the chosen receiving countries that able to host the exclusive animal of the giant panda from China.

The sending of pair giant pandas to Indonesia in 2017 is a part of the 60th years of China-Indonesia bilateral anniversary through the ups and downs relations. 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.

This research attempts to analyze the role of panda diplomacy as a part of Chinese public diplomacy in the development of China's relations with Indonesia use multi-track diplomacy approach. The research found that the role of panda diplomacy in the development of China's relations with Indonesia is to strengthen the cooperation and exchange between two countries in the area of wildlife conservation, especially the endangered species and new bilateral path in terms of cooperative research that is involving the non-

governmental actors, namely China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) and Taman Safari Indonesia. Through the multi-track diplomacy approach, the researcher found that there are three tracks that exercised in the panda diplomacy conducted by China to Indonesia.

The track one is government as decision maker which in this case, the track one is represented by the State Forestry Administration of China and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia. Meanwhile, the second track is non-governmental organization. In the case of Chinese Panda Diplomacy towards Indonesia in 2017, the non-governmental organization is represented by the involvement of some groups of interest that run the role as the partners of the state in implementing the project. China decided to choose the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA), which is a nonprofit national organization under the State Forestry Administration of China. On the other hand, Indonesia decided to choose the PT. Taman Safari Indonesia, the private conservation and zoo as a partner based on the Forestry Ministries Regulation No. P. 83/Menhut-II/2014. Taman Safari Indonesia is the destination where a pair of giant panda will be bred and captivated in Indonesia. The last track is track five which is research, training, and education. Inbreeding the giant panda outside its hometown, it needs some research so that the project of panda loan breeding can succeed. China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP) assists the Taman Safari staffs in taking care of the giant panda from the departure time of the giant pandas and when the pandas are living in Indonesia. The research about the giant panda in Indonesia is never done before and by the arrival of Cai Tao and Hu Chun to Indonesia, hopefully, will enrich the intellectual property rights of panda in Indonesia.

This research finds that panda diplomacy which represents the China's public diplomacy conducted by China to Indonesia is not only for avoiding the giant panda from extinct but also succeed to grab the huge enthusiasm from Indonesian people. It proves in the chapter IV section A2 that

in two consecutive years, each panda earns the same award every year. In 2018, Cai Tao and in 2019, Hu Chun was awarded the silver award in winning the most favorite giant panda abroad by the Giant Panda Global Awards whereas the winner is determined by the most votes from the society.

To some extent, the presence of these two giant pandas can also be seen as a strategy to strengthen China's interest in the policy of the Belt and Road Initiatives in Indonesia. The panda diplomacy carried out by China in Indonesia can be very positive especially to build positive perceptions in the society regarding Indonesian and Chinese relations. The enthusiasm of Indonesians towards the arrival of Cai Tao and Hu Chun can also be interpreted as the openness of Indonesia citizens to China in which melts anti-Chinese tensions a few years back. Besides building a good image for China, the arrival of a pair of two giant pandas also able to build trust in Chinese investor to invest in Indonesia, especially in the fields of infrastructure and e-commerce. Therefore, through this panda diplomacy, the perceptions of the Indonesian towards China are expected to improve and vice versa.