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CITY LEADERSHIP IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: A CASE STUDY OF PIVOT CITY SAMARINDA CITY

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore and identify the role of City Diplomacy in supporting Global Leadership. The argument of this thesis is that cities are global actors that are not only tasked with addressing local issues. The involvement of the City in its role of conducting city diplomacy is a form of city leadership to contribute in guarding global issues such as climate change. In this case, the involvement of Samarinda as a CRIC Pivot City in the UCLG ASPAC Programme is evidence of the city's leadership in international relations. This research uses qualitative methodology with data collection techniques of interviews, participant observation, document review. Data analysis techniques used qualitative data analysis techniques and process tracing. The result of this research is that the involvement of Samarinda City in the UCLG ASPAC CRIC programme is evidence of the importance of city involvement in international relations. This factor occurs due to economic, social, political, environmental, etc. considerations. In addition, the involvement of Samarinda City as a Pivot City is a form of commitment and leadership of the city in the global arena. In particular, Samarinda City has succeeded in becoming a city as place that prioritises and fights for the threat of climate change in Samarinda. This struggle is a form of effort to create a city that is worth living in. It then acts as an actor capable of collaborating with UCLG ASPAC to be directly involved in managing climate change issues. The leadership of Samarinda City is a tangible form of creating a sustainable city in accordance with SDGs point 11.

***Keywords:** City Diplomacy, Samarinda, CRIC, UCLG ASPAC, Leadership*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi dan mengidentifikasi peran Diplomasi Kota dalam mendukung Kepemimpinan Global. Argumen dari tesis ini adalah bahwa kota merupakan aktor global yang tidak hanya bertugas untuk mengatasi isu-isu lokal. Keterlibatan Kota dalam perannya melakukan diplomasi kota merupakan bentuk kepemimpinan kota untuk berkontribusi dalam mengawal isu-isu global seperti perubahan iklim. Dalam hal ini, keterlibatan Samarinda sebagai Kota Pivot CRIC dalam Program UCLG ASPAC merupakan bukti kepemimpinan kota dalam

hubungan internasional. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data wawancara, observasi partisipan, telaah dokumen. Teknik analisis data yang digunakan adalah teknik analisis data kualitatif dan penelusuran proses. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa keterlibatan Kota Samarinda dalam program CRIC UCLG ASPAC merupakan bukti pentingnya keterlibatan kota dalam hubungan internasional. Faktor ini terjadi karena pertimbangan ekonomi, sosial, politik, lingkungan, dan lain sebagainya. Selain itu, keterlibatan Kota Samarinda sebagai Kota Pivot merupakan bentuk komitmen dan kepemimpinan kota di kancah global. Secara khusus, Kota Samarinda telah berhasil menjadi kota yang memprioritaskan dan memperjuangkan ancaman perubahan iklim di Samarinda. Perjuangan ini merupakan bentuk upaya untuk menciptakan kota yang layak huni. Kota ini kemudian berperan sebagai aktor yang mampu berkolaborasi dengan UCLG ASPAC untuk terlibat langsung dalam mengelola isu-isu perubahan iklim. Kepemimpinan Kota Samarinda merupakan wujud nyata dari upaya mewujudkan kota berkelanjutan sesuai dengan poin 11 SDGs.

Keywords: *Diplomasi Kota, Samarinda, CRIC, UCLG ASPAC, Kepemimpinan*

Introduction

Samarinda, the provincial capital, is the largest city in East Kalimantan. The population of Samarinda surged by 78% from the 1990s to the 2000s. This presents difficulties for urban governance, natural resource management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation (Samarinda City Risk Survey, 2018–2022; Samarinda City Evaluation Report, 2020). Samarinda is exceedingly susceptible to disasters, including floods, forest fires, extreme weather, droughts, and landslides, attributable to its varied geographical features, such as geological faults, tidal wetlands, alluvial plains, hills, and a complex river system (Samarinda City Urban Assessment Report, 2020).

Table 1: Potential Losses Due to Disasters in Samarinda City (in Million Rupiah)

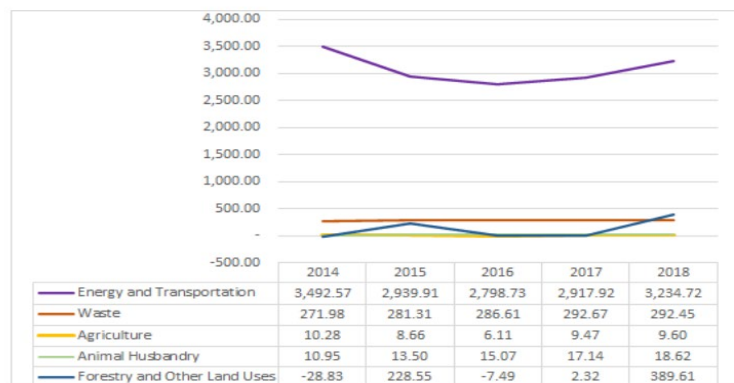| No.	Type of Disaster	Physical Component	Economic Component	Environmental Component/ Total
1	Flood	765.4	866.8	781.0 / 2413.2
2	Extreme Weather	2330.6	2499.5	64851.8 / 69681.8
3	Forest and Land Fires	2179.7	1788.7	1670.8 / 5639.2
4	Drought	81.5	525.6	14642.2 / 15249.4
5	Landslide	360.1	1599.2	12669.2 / 14628.4
6	Social Conflict	975.3	966.8	32142.3 / 34084.4
7	Diphtheria	594.6	389.7	11000.0 / 11984.3
8	Epidemics and Disease Outbreaks	316.1	551.5	34725.3 / 35592.9
9	Technological Failure	488.0	20.4	19.0 / 527.4
	Total for Samarinda City	**8091.2**	**9208.2**	**172501.6 / 189801.1**

Source: Samarinda City Risk Assessment Study 2018–2022, BPBD Samarinda City

The Samarinda City Risk Assessment Study (2018–2022) indicates that 23.14% of the city's territory is classified as vulnerable to floods, with water levels potentially reaching 3 meters in certain instances. The effects of flooding are worsened by an inadequate drainage system. From 2011 to 2019, 44 flood incidents were documented, impacting 208,953 individuals, damaging 2,005 residences, and inundating 53,909 additional homes (BPBD Samarinda City, 2022). The dry season, drought, and land conversion have rendered forest fires, particularly

in peatland that constitutes 99.60% of the city's territory, a significant concern. During the specified period, 47 occurrences were documented (Samarinda City Risk Assessment Study, 2018–2022).

Drought and landslides persist as threats to the economy and public safety, despite their classification as moderate risks. Alongside floods, forest fires represent a significant hazard, particularly in peatland regions, which encompass around 99.60% of the city's area. Between 2011 and 2019, there were 47 incidences of forest fires.

Suboptimal waste management constitutes a primary impediment to the sustainable growth of Samarinda City. The Samarinda City garbage Management Report (2020) indicates that the city's daily garbage generation varies between 600 and 800 tons, comprising 53.39 percent organic waste, 19.9 percent plastic, and 16.7 percent paper. Between 2015 and 2019, over 72% of the total trash created was transported to the ultimate disposal site (TPA), while merely two tons per month were converted into compost, and around one ton per day was collected by scavengers (Samarinda Environmental Agency, 2020). Moreover, unregulated waste disposal practices, like open burning and river dumping, exacerbate soil and water contamination while elevating greenhouse gas emissions.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Energy and Transportation	3,492.57	2,939.91	2,798.73	2,917.92	3,234.72
Waste	271.98	281.31	286.61	292.67	292.45
Agriculture	10.28	8.66	6.11	9.47	9.60
Animal Husbandry	10.95	13.50	15.07	17.14	18.62
Forestry and Other Land Uses	-28.83	228.55	-7.49	2.32	389.61

Figure 1: Actual EGRK of Samarinda City (2014-2018)

The energy sector, specifically gas, electricity, and fossil fuel transportation, accounts for the predominant share of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Samarinda, providing 88% of total emissions from 2014 to 2018 (Samarinda City GHG Inventory, 2019). Despite a 20% decline in 2016 relative to 2014, the trend subsequently rose by 15.6% from 2016 to 2018. The evolving elements suggest the necessity for the implementation of more systematic and durable mitigation programs consistent with the Kyoto Protocol.

The ramifications of climate change in Samarinda encompass social, economic, and security challenges, among environmental concerns (Samarinda City Risk Assessment, 2018–2022). Repeated disasters hinder community engagement, undermine the local economy, and impair infrastructure. The threat to public health is escalating due to the rise in instances of infectious diseases such as diphtheria (Samarinda Health Department Report, 2020). These calamities can also incite social discord and jeopardize communal resilience. The Samarinda City Risk Study (2018–2022) projects a total loss of Rp189.8 trillion across economic, physical, and environmental dimensions due to catastrophes, underscoring the necessity for enhanced climate adaptation and disaster resilience methods.

The Samarinda City Government is engaged in the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) program from 2020 to 2024. This initiative is launched by United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) and financed by the European Union. CRIC aims to

assist cities in formulating more inclusive and sustainable plans for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Research Aims and Urgency

This research seeks to examine the role of city diplomacy in enhancing global leadership, particularly in addressing climate change and sustainable development challenges, given the complexities faced by Samarinda and its participation in the international CRIC program. This research posits that cities function as global entities, managing local concerns while significantly contributing to the resolution of global challenges, including climate change, via city diplomacy.

The objective of this research is to evaluate the degree of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 concerning sustainable urban resilience. What is the significance of this? The geographical position and form of Samarinda render the city susceptible to natural disasters. This research will evaluate the significance of Samarinda's participation in the implementation of the SDGs. This is predicated on the fact that Samarinda is a frontrunner in the CRIC program administered by UCLG ASPAC. What is the significance of these two matters? The variables that engage Samarinda City will affect the participation of other peripheral cities in the initiative. This indicates that through municipal leadership, it can catalyze global momentum to establish climate resilience beginning at the local level. Which have thus far concentrated exclusively on international initiatives such as the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC. This research is crucial for serving as a regional policy reference to tackle several national strategic initiatives, including climate change. Samarinda is integrated into coastal cities that enhance local, national, and global climate resilience.

Examining the role of Samarinda City as a Pivot City in the CRIC UCLG ASPAC program as a demonstration of the city's leadership in international relations. This research aims to identify the principal factors influencing city diplomacy engagement in international relations studies and to analyze the forms of city commitment and leadership in the global arena to establish sustainable cities in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) point 11.

Problem Formulations

Based on the context and goals of the aforementioned research, the research challenge is formulated as follows:
1. How does Samarinda City's leadership deal with climate change through the Climate Resilience Inclusive Cities (CRIC) UCLG ASPAC program?
2. What elements affect the City of Samarinda's participation in global diplomacy?
3. In what ways does Samarinda's status as a pivot city represent global urban leadership?

Significance of Research

This research aims to offer theoretical advancements in the notion of city diplomacy within international relations, especially concerning global challenges like climate change. Despite the growing body of literature on city diplomacy and urban climate governance (Acuto, 2013; Van der Pluijm & Melissen, 2007; Bulkeley & Betsill, 2013), significant gaps remain that this study seeks to address.

First, existing research predominantly concentrates on large metropolitan areas or "global cities" (Lee & Jung, 2018; Chan et al., 2018), while neglecting medium-sized cities in developing nations. This creates a knowledge gap regarding how cities with limited resources and institutional capacity can engage in international climate diplomacy. Second, although

numerous theoretical frameworks about urban diplomacy have been developed (Keating, 2013; Kern & Bulkeley, 2009), there exists a paucity of empirical studies examining how cities implement specific climate initiatives and translate international cooperation into local climate action.

Third, while the majority of research emphasizes either local climate policy or international urban networks separately, there is limited investigation of the causal relationship between participation in global initiatives and the enhancement of local capacity and climate leadership (Hale, 2018). The case of medium-sized Indonesian cities utilizing international programs for climate leadership remains underexplored in the literature, despite research on urban development issues in Indonesian cities (Firman, 2017) and general studies on climate governance in Southeast Asia (Castan Broto, 2017; Moloney & Horne, 2015).

By examining Samarinda's engagement with the CRIC UCLG ASPAC program, this research fills these critical gaps by: (1) providing empirical evidence of how medium-sized cities in the Global South exercise climate leadership through city diplomacy; (2) demonstrating the mechanisms through which international cooperation translates into local climate resilience and sustainable development; and (3) expanding the theoretical framework of "green paradiplomacy" beyond the context of developed nations to include cities in developing countries facing unique climate vulnerabilities.

This research can serve as a reference for other municipal governments in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific region in formulating city diplomacy policies to address climate change concerns and foster sustainable urban development, particularly for cities with similar characteristics and resource constraints as Samarinda.

Research Gaps and Study Contribution

Despite the growing number of studies on city diplomacy and urban climate governance, significant gaps remain in our understanding of these phenomena. Current study predominantly concentrates on huge metropolitan areas or "global cities," while neglecting medium-sized cities in underdeveloped nations. Secondly, despite the development of numerous ideas about urban diplomacy, there exists a paucity of empirical study on how cities implement specific climate initiatives.

The prevailing belief extends beyond the mere correlation between local climate initiatives and global leadership. While the majority of research emphasizes local climate policy or international urban networks, there is a paucity of studies investigating how participation in global initiatives enhances local capacity and climate leadership.

The resurgence of Samarinda as a worldwide climate leader has not been extensively researched. There is limited literature explicitly examining how medium-sized Indonesian cities utilize international programs for climate leadership. Ini meskipun terdapat penelitian mengenai isu-isu pembangunan perkotaan di kota-kota Indonesia (Firman, 2017) dan penelitian umum mengenai tata kelola iklim di Asia Tenggara (Moloney & Horne, 2015).

Literature Review

Climate Resilience and Inclusive City Programs & UCLG ASPAC City Alliances

Asian and Pacific cities encounter substantial obstacles in achieving sustainable urban growth, efficient governance, and initiatives for climate change adaptation and mitigation as climate change escalates. The Climate Resilience Inclusive Cities (CRIC) program, initiated by United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), seeks to foster enduring

collaboration among urban stakeholders and support cities in bolstering their ability to confront climate threats.

UCLG ASPAC 2020 constitutes the regional segment of the World Association of Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS), the United Cities Organization (UTO), and the International Union of Local Authorities (INACTIVE ASPAC), founded on January 1, 2004. UCG-ASPAC's primary objectives include enhancing democratic and effective local governance at both regional and global levels, fostering member collaboration to establish robust democratic local governance; serving as a principal information source on local governance through learning, knowledge exchange, and capacity building; and promoting partnerships and twinning initiatives between local governments and communities.

Theoretical Framework of City Diplomacy and Climate Change Issues

Conceptual Foundation of City Diplomacy

Cities have emerged as essential actors in international relations through city diplomacy, significantly influencing matters beyond traditional state policy. Keating (2013) characterizes paradiplomacy as the interaction between governments and non-central entities in international relations, pursued to fulfill their individual objectives. This concept derives from preliminary research by Soldato (1990), which highlighted the significance of subnational entities inside a federal framework engaged in global activities.

Acuto (2013) offers a thorough theoretical framework for comprehending the role of cities as global actors, asserting that metropolitan centers have emerged as essential nodes in the architecture of global governance. His work illustrates the functioning of cities through "global city governance," wherein urban areas serve as actors (entities with agency in international relations) and as places (physical locations possessing certain characteristics). This dual perspective is essential for comprehending how cities such as Samarinda can tackle local challenges and contribute to global climate governance.

Van der Pluijm and Melissen (2007) assert that the recognition of many elements of urban international participation has enriched the theory of city diplomacy. They consider security, economic development, environmental cooperation, and cultural engagement as integral to their strategy, providing a holistic framework for analyzing urban involvement in global affairs. Curtis (2014) recently examined the institutional mechanisms by which cities govern international organizations, thereby enhancing his theoretical understanding.

Climate Change and Urban Governance Theory

The convergence of urban diplomacy and climate governance has emerged as a crucial scholarly domain. Bulkeley and Betsill (2013), pioneers in the examination of urban centers within global environmental governance, illustrate how metropolitan regions serve as hubs for political inquiry and climate change analysis. They illustrate the functioning of cities across multiple tiers within their multilevel governance framework, connecting local initiatives to global climate objectives.

Kern and Bulkeley (2009) introduced the notion of "urban climate governance," which elucidates how cities establish institutional capacity for climate action via network formation, policy education, and information exchange. This theoretical framework is essential for comprehending how initiatives such as CRIC support urban climate leadership through institutional development and capacity training.

Hale (2018) analyzes the role of transnational projects and networks of non-state players, including cities, in facilitating global climate governance. Despite lacking formal diplomatic recognition, this endeavor illustrates how urban areas may affect global climate policy by collaborative efforts and tangible outcomes.

Previous Studies on Urban Climate Leadership

A multitude of empirical research have examined urban climate leaders in diverse contexts. Lee and Jung (2018) examined the function of Asian cities within the climate network, revealing that involvement in international initiatives markedly improves local capabilities to address climate change. Their analysis of C40 cities indicates that enhanced climate performance and political innovation correlate with participants in the global network.

Similarly, Chan et al. (2018) conducted a comprehensive examination of diverse international climate efforts, encompassing those associated with urban areas. Their research indicates that city involvement in global climate governance networks improves local capacity, boosts political coordination, and establishes more ambitious climate targets. Nonetheless, they identified obstacles pertaining to resource constraints and institutional capability that may impede climate change initiatives in urban areas.

Castan Broto (2017) examines urban climate governance in developing nations within Southeast Asia, highlighting the distinct challenges encountered by cities in the Global South. Produknya menyoroti signifikansi pendekatan inklusif yang mengatasi ketahanan iklim dan keadilan sosial. This corresponds with the CRIC program's focus on inclusive urban development.

Theoretically Relevance of Samarinda's Climate Leadership in City Diplomacy Framework

As stressed in modern city diplomacy studies, the theoretical relationship between city diplomacy and Samarinda's participation in the CRIC program rests in the dual function of cities as "active subjects" (actors) and "arenas," (places) in global climate governance.

The City as Actor and Arena:

- As a "arena," Samarinda suffers major climatic vulnerabilities that call for local adaptation and resilience building.
- Participating in the CRIC UCLG ASPAC initiative shows that, as a "active subject," it can participate in global governance networks and help to support worldwide climate action. This reflects a paradigm change in city diplomacy, in which cities are now considered as independent players in world politics rather than only as beneficiaries of policy (Fitzpatrick & Seib, 2020).
- Climate Leadership as City Diplomacy: Samarinda's Pivot City status in CRIC reflects climate leadership outside of governmental confines. This leadership shows up in:
- a will to create climate action programs grounded in data.
- The creation of multistakeholder participation cross-sector coordinating systems.
- the application of inclusive climate policy safeguarding weaker populations.

These events are a useful kind of city diplomacy in action rather than only local capacity building. Samarinda confirms the city's position as a link between the local and international levels by using the international platform (CRIC) to forward its local agenda while so supporting global ambitions.

Samarinda actively supports global climate governance by means of her participation with UCLG ASPAC, an entity representing urban interests in international venues as the UN and C40. This exemplifies "networked diplomacy," in which cities form strategic alliances to increase their influence and advocate for urban interests on the global scene (Fitzpatrick & Seib, 2020). Samarinda accesses important knowledge, tools, and advocacy platforms via UCLG ASPAC.

Samarinda's climate leadership captures the "glocal" character of contemporary urban governance via knowledge diplomacy. Using worldwide alliances and knowledge sharing inside organizations like CRIC, the city tackles local issues. Samarinda's efforts to provide its citizens with a strong, safe, and comfortable urban environment show how local development projects and place-making, may coincide with and assist world climate targets. "Knowledge diplomacy" as a tool for city diplomacy revolves mostly on the process of knowledge sharing and best practices within the CRIC program.

Theoretically, Samarinda's involvement in CRIC is a real-world example of city diplomacy as Fitzpatrick and Seib define. It confirms the city as such:
- Possessing agency in international politics, an active global actor
- Forming and using international networks helps to build networks.
- "Glocal" Arena: Linking regional problems with worldwide agendas and solutions.
- Knowledge Diplomacy Actor: Knowledge sharing for capacity and impact.

Therefore, the Samarinda project transcends local adaptation; it is an advanced city diplomacy tool to increase local resilience and establish itself as a significant player in world climate governance.

Data and Research Methods

The employed study method is phenomenology, which utilizes experiences from diverse places as references for drawing findings. The phenomenological technique was selected to comprehend the experiences and viewpoints of the participants in city diplomacy, specifically on the CRIC program and international collaboration.

This research employs an exploratory design. To undertake this research, the investigator must first identify two critical components: the unit of analysis, which pertains to the level of the phenomena under examination, and the unit of explanation, which relates to the identification of independent variables and the behaviors to be observed.

Three justifications for the examination of a phenomenon: (1) the distinction between verifiable and non-verifiable facts (evaluation), (2) it is unfeasible to examine all existing phenomena; thus, a researcher must selectively choose the phenomena for investigation to avoid assumptions or misinterpretations arising from an excess of variables, and (3) researchers must remain cognizant of moral and ethical principles. It will generate a theory grounded on the principles of analysis and synthesis, supported by a robust explanatory framework. Synthesis involves the consolidation of variables for enhanced comprehension, whereas analysis pertains to the researcher's endeavor to deconstruct and examine.

Research Unit of Analysis

This research will explore the important factors in the engagement of city diplomacy in the study of international relations. the main analysis of this study are; Samarinda City Government as the main actor involved in the UCLG ASPAC CRIC program, CRIC (Climate Resilience Inclusive Cities) program as a platform for city diplomacy on climate change issues.

UCLG ASPAC Jakarta as an international organization that facilitates cooperation between cities and with the Supporting Unit analysis are; Policies and strategies of the City of Samarinda in addressing climate change, International cooperation between the City of Samarinda and UCLG ASPAC, The impact of the CRIC program on city leadership in global issues

Data Collection Techniques

In collecting data related to a study, there are at least 6 sources of data (Bakri, 2015) (Lamont, 2015), namely (1) documents, (2) archival recordings, (3) interviews, (4) direct observation, (5) participant observation, and (6) physical devices. However, based on the experts' opinions above, the author only uses interview techniques, documents, direct observation, and participant observation.

Table 2: Analysis Technique

Technique	Description / Source
Interview	Main Informant: • UCLG ASPAC Jakarta Representative: Interviews with program officials and staff to understand the CRIC program and Samarinda City's role as a Pivot City. Additional Informants: • Officials of Samarinda City Government directly involved in CRIC • Cross-sectoral Working Group (Pokja) team for the Urban Analysis Report (UAR) • Head of the Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) of Samarinda City
Participant Observation	Observed Activities: • Meetings and cooperation forums between Samarinda City and UCLG ASPAC • CRIC program implementation (flood and waste management) • Activities of the Task Force for Regional Action Plan (RAD) • Workshops and capacity-building training related to the CRIC program
Direct Observation	Observation Locations: • Disaster-prone areas in Samarinda (50 flood-prone points) • Final Waste Disposal Site (TPA) Bukit Pinang • Urban water and drainage infrastructure • Implementation of Green Open Spaces (RTH) for disaster mitigation
Document Study	Documents Analyzed: • Samarinda City Risk Assessment Study (2018–2022) • Samarinda City Urban Assessment Report (2020) • Regional Action Plan (RAD) Kota Samarinda • Urban Analysis Report (UAR) from CRIC program • Cooperation document between Samarinda and UCLG ASPAC • Report on the implementation of the CRIC program in Samarinda Method: • Library research using books, journals, newspapers, reports, and websites relevant to the study topic

Method of Data Analysis

Qualitative research employs data processing techniques that utilize an inductive analytical framework, wherein data serves as the foundational element for research (Bungin, 2007: 27), commencing with the collection of primary data acquired through interviews. Upon collecting the interview data, the researcher categorizes it according to the pertinent questions, thereby identifying any incomplete information. Likewise, irrelevant interview outcomes will be minimized or eliminated. Consequently, the augmentation and diminution of information occur incessantly until the acquired information attains saturation, indicating that the requisite information is adequate. Subsequently, the data analysis phase is executed.

The author employs qualitative data analysis, wherein the issue is delineated based on established facts, interconnections among these facts are established, and conclusions are derived. The author use this technique to represent the elements under analysis, so formulating a theory appropriate for examining the existing problem.

The major data analysis methodology, comprising interviews, direct observations, and participant observations, is selected to enhance the qualitative data. Moreover, qualitative analysis, as articulated by Jack S. Levy, necessitates comprehensive research encompassing ethnography, millennial micro-history, and micronalysis, which have been examined through both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, typically employing an interpretative positivism perspective (Asrudin, Mirza Jaka Suryan, and Musa Maliki (ed) 2014: 106).

This research utilizes process tracing methodologies to enhance data validity by tracking the causal processes and mechanisms connecting the City of Samarinda's participation in the CRIC program with the city's leadership accomplishments in global climate change matters.

Finding and Discussion

Engagement Factors and the Role of City Diplomacy in International Relations

Global politics are significantly shaped by cities that are increasingly active in the international arena. International Relations (IR) is a field of study that examines the interactions between actors in the international system, including states, international organizations, and non-state actors such as cities. In the context of contemporary IR, cities develop networks and partnership projects, share information, sign cooperation agreements, contribute to national and international policymaking, provide development assistance, promote refugee relief, and conduct territorial marketing through decentralized municipal or regional cooperation. Decentralization and subsidiarity play an important role in political structures and are opportunities for cities as they allow them to stand up as international actors. Today, most IR scholars would refuse to consider cities as relevant international actors. Cities are sometimes considered as locations for IR, not as part of IR, or simply as low-level administrative units.

The implementation of cities as actors that play an important role in a globalized world is not as smooth as one might think. There are many dilemmatic issues experienced by cities such as limited resources for international activities, difficulties entering the circle of international affairs, and normative frameworks that sometimes resist the inclusion of cities in global affairs. In addition, cities are often used as proxy channels that cause international political controversy, and the highly contrasting decisions sometimes taken by cities cause controversy at the national level.

Cities have a number of important roles and currently have a myriad of opportunities in the international arena that can maximize their role in the well-being of the city's own people. The state is no longer the only actor in pursuing its interests, but cities have now become international actors, moving to expand relationships with cities in other countries and cooperate in various sectors.

The Importance of Diplomacy for Samarinda City in Addressing Climate Change Issues

City diplomacy is an important instrument for city governments not only to maintain citizen support by advancing their global interests, but also to attract global investment and talent, increase international visibility, and intervene in the global flow of international relations (Lord, 2000). In the context of climate change, city diplomacy enables Samarinda to access the resources, technology, and knowledge needed to address complex environmental challenges.

Marchetti (2021) asserts that city diplomacy can make an important contribution to solving global issues such as climate change and urbanisation. To achieve this goal, non-state actors such as cities need to strengthen their social responsibility in implementing city diplomacy. Acuto (2013) adds that the capacity to connect transnationally, negotiate and collaborate with the multilateral and private multinational world, and bring an "international" agenda is increasingly important to address global challenges such as climate, migration and health.

The case of Samarinda City in the UCLG ASPAC CRIC (Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities) programme provides concrete evidence of the importance of city diplomacy. Grandi (2020) explains that city involvement in diplomacy is important because: (a) the size and legal diversity of cities, due to territorial administration, making cities actors with authority; (b) cities are home to 4.2 billion people, so cities know how to leverage inter-city relationships; (c) cities have established branding; and (d) cities are a global trend and a venue for national, regional, and international coordination structures.

Tavares (2016) identifies six dimensions of the role of city diplomacy, namely security, development, economy, representation, networking, and culture. In the context of climate change, these dimensions are relevant for Samarinda to access international support, share knowledge, and build capacity in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
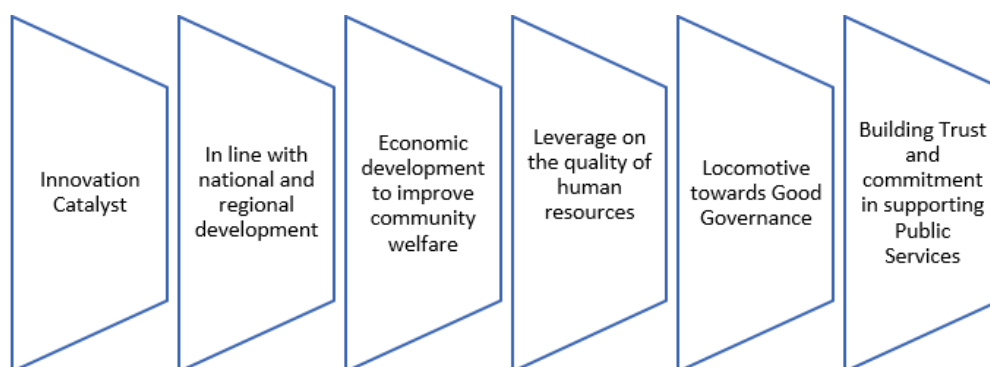
Figure 2: Strategic Roles of Innovation in Public and Regional Development

Source: Kemendagri (2015)

Cities are key to addressing the problems of the future. Therefore, a new agenda is needed to support cities in dealing with global problems locally and global problems locally. Cities are a key element in global economic development because of the strength of their infrastructure. Cities are unencumbered by issues of state sovereignty that often inhibit states from acting. To maximise the performance of cities, there is a need for facilities and ideas that can encourage this so that city diplomacy can run optimally. City diplomacy globalises independently by focusing on global policies that affect the sustainability of city life. In this case, cities can develop solutions to global threats and problems without the need for a 'passport'. As the institution closest to people's lives and at the same time playing a role in foreign relations, cities become the link between people and global affairs through an innovative version of cosmopolitan diplomacy.

If it is related to the more specific role of cities in the SDGs issue, especially point 11 on sustainable cities, especially in the field of disaster resilience and climate change, then = this context is related to the involvement of paradiplomacy as a sub-state actor related to the issue of environmental dimensions. Theoretically, it is called green paradiplomacy.

Subnational entities are important spatial entities, given the significance of their policies for ecosystems, resource use, etc. a) They are often responsible for the implementation

of national and supranational policies, especially where they have responsibilities regarding the management of programmes important for sustainable development. b) It is often stated that subnational entities are in close proximity to citizens, which is important for stakeholder participation and essential for the effectiveness of sustainability processes.

Case study surveys of regional cross-border environmental projects are very popular today among border regions in Europe and North America. The development of global environmental networks of subnational governments and evaluate their influence on policy-making processes on ecological issues in international affairs today. The treatment of subnational governments on issues related to the global environmental agenda, such as climate change. Paradiplomacy is not only a way for regions to promote their financial interests beyond national borders, but also leads to increased regional competitiveness domestically. They concluded that under certain circumstances, paradiplomacy can bring more disproportion to the level of economic development within a single country.

In environmental matters, size is a key element of vulnerability. Environmental risks and natural disasters affect large and small states indiscriminately, and their effects on a given location are the same, regardless of its location in a large or small state. But a country's capacity to cope with the impacts of environmental risks and natural disasters.

The famous C40 Climate Leadership Group, which brings together 96 members of the world's largest metropolises representing 25% of the world's GDP, has a dedicated 'city diplomacy' team, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed a city health diplomacy agenda as part of its Healthy Cities Network, to name just two of the many examples here. The scale, significance and capabilities of cities have been transformed by the political, economic and technological forces traditionally associated with contemporary globalisation.

The leadership of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg during his tenure (2010-13) as chair of the C40 Climate Leadership Group. In short, cities are 'out there' in world politics, lobbying, connecting, planning and co-operating. The capacity to connect transnationally, negotiate and collaborate with the multilateral and multinational private world, and carry an 'international' agenda is increasingly important to addressing global challenges such as climate, migration, health and climate change.

Identified as 'city diplomacy', defined here as: mediated 'international' relations between legitimate representatives of governments (cities in this case), resulting in agreements, collaboration, further institution building and cross-border co-operation.

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Samarinda City Leadership on Climate Change Issues

City diplomacy activities can be divided into two groups: (1) self-funded activities, allowing for the highest level of discretion; and (2) activities funded by external actors, such as international organisations, development banks, ministries and government agencies, embassies, consulates and cultural institutions abroad, NGOs, and businesses. The Climate

Resilience Inclusive Cities (CRIC) programme by UCLG ASPAC is funded by the European Union and collaborates with Pilot4DEV, ACR+, ECOLISE, AIILSG, and Gustave Eiffel University. Over a five-year implementation period, the programme aims to equip city governments with tools to enhance climate resilience through the development of data-driven local climate action plans, the formation of cross-sectoral working groups at the local government level, the development of early warning systems to reduce climate disaster risks, the implementation of air quality and waste management strategies, and consultations with experts in various disciplines related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In Indonesia, ten water-dependent cities have been selected as pilot projects, including Samarinda, Pangkalpinang, Kupang, and Ternate. These cities were chosen based on their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and their potential for effective mitigation and adaptation strategy implementation. In Samarinda, the implementation of the CRIC programme began with the formation of a cross-sectoral working team responsible for preparing the Urban Analysis Report (UAR). This document serves as a comprehensive study of the challenges and potential of the city of Samarinda in facing climate change, using an environmental scale approach. The findings in this report form the basis for the Samarinda City Government in formulating a Regional Action Plan (RAD) that is oriented towards systematic and data-based solutions to urban problems.

In addition to environmental aspects, the CRIC programme in Samarinda also promotes social inclusion by ensuring that policies benefit vulnerable communities. UCLG ASPAC plays a role in bridging cooperation between pilot cities in the CRIC programme and other cities in the Asia-Pacific region to promote knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and the sharing of best practices in building urban resilience to climate change. Based on Samarinda Regional Regulation No. 2/2014 on the 2014-2034 Spatial Plan, the city has set its vision as an environmentally friendly, green, and leading "waterfront city" in various fields. Additionally, the city government aims to reduce potential losses from climate change impacts to 2.78% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in vulnerable sectors.

The city's priorities include reducing river and air pollution, improving sustainable waste management systems, and promoting sustainable development at the environmental level. These priorities are supported by various strategies such as improving urban drainage systems, constructing river embankments, river planning, enhancing waste management, and disaster mitigation. In addressing flooding, Samarinda City is more focused on infrastructure development programmes, such as improving waterways, constructing retention columns and parapets (concrete walls); however, prevention and mitigation efforts remain minimal. Ideally, Samarinda City should direct adaptive programmes such as maintaining green open spaces in residential areas, offices, and land used for other functions.(Fitzpatrick & Seib, 2020.; Grandi, 2020.; Karvounis, 2020)

Regarding waste and wastewater management, CRIC recommends community participation, potential collaboration with development partners, and proper and ambitious waste management. The Samarinda City Government needs to increase its educational efforts in the community regarding the importance of waste management by involving various elements of society, especially women.

Theoretical Implications: Contribution to City Diplomacy Theory

This research offers a theoretical contribution to the concept of city diplomacy by illustrating that cities function not only as 'city as place' but also as 'city as actors' in the

international sphere. These findings bolster the assertions of Acuto (2013) and Marchetti (2021) that cities are legitimate international entities capable of tackling global concerns.

Samarinda's participation in the CRIC program exemplifies a departure from the traditional notion of Westphalian sovereignty towards a 'polylateralism' framework, blurring the distinctions between state boundaries.

Advancement of the Green Paradiplomacy Concept

This research further advances the concept of 'green paradiplomacy,' a subtype of sub-national diplomacy that emphasizes environmental and climate change matters. The Samarinda case illustrates the significance of subnational entities as crucial spatial actors in ecosystem management and resource exploitation, particularly for the execution of national and supranational sustainable development strategies.

This research offers a theoretical contribution to the concept of city diplomacy by illustrating that cities operate not only as 'city as place' but also as 'city as actors' in the international sphere. These findings substantiate the assertions of Acuto (2013) and Marchetti (2021) that cities are real international entities capable of tackling global concerns.

Samarinda's participation in the CRIC program illustrates the transition from the conventional notion of Westphalian sovereignty to a 'polylateralism' framework, wherein the distinctions between state and non-state entities are obscured. This corroborates Rayner's (2016) argument of the evolution of the international arena into a confluence of relationships among state, non-state, and sub-state entities.

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Pragmatic Consequences

Urban Collaborative Framework for Mitigating Climate Change

Samarinda's participation in the CRIC program offers a pragmatic framework for other cities in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific to enhance their capacity to confront climate change. This model employs a data-driven methodology via the creation of the Urban Analysis Report (UAR) to facilitate systematic planning, the establishment of interdisciplinary working groups comprising diverse stakeholders, the formulation of an early warning system for the proactive identification of climate disaster risks, and the integration of social inclusion principles to guarantee that policies advantage the most vulnerable community demographics.

Global Resource Acquisition Strategy

The experience of Samarinda illustrates the significance of city diplomacy in obtaining international resources to tackle local issues. This strategy encompasses collaboration with international organizations like UCLG ASPAC, securing funding from international donors such as the European Union, facilitating technology and knowledge transfer via city networks, and exchanging best practices with other vetted cities in regional and global contexts.

Implications for Policy

National Scale

The Indonesian government must establish a policy framework that facilitates urban participation in international diplomacy over climate change matters. This entails formulating paradiplomacy regulations that oversee local government participation in international relations concerning environmental matters, establishing coordination mechanisms between central and local governments for the execution of international climate change obligations, and allocating budgets for financial support of climate resilience initiatives at the municipal level.

Community Level

The policy implications for the Samarinda city government encompass enhancing institutional capacity by improving the capabilities of apparatus in managing international programs and city diplomacy, integrating planning by aligning climate action plans with regional development documents, fostering more inclusive public participation mechanisms in climate resilience planning, and reinforcing multi-stakeholder partnerships through collaboration with the private sector, academia, and civil society.

Regional and International Scales

The experience of Samarinda offers insights for policy formulation at both regional and global scales. UCLG ASPAC and like organizations must fortify technical and financial support systems for member cities by augmenting city networks. Furthermore, it is essential to replicate the concept by creating guidelines and toolkits for the implementation of the CRIC model in additional cities. These initiatives must align with the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11 concerning Sustainable Cities and Communities, by integrating urban climate resilience programs with sustainable development objectives.

The leadership of the City of Samarinda in the CRIC program exemplifies the city's capacity as an international entity and significantly contributes to worldwide initiatives aimed at combating climate change through an inclusive and sustainable methodology.

Climate Resilience and Inclusive City Programmes & UCLG ASPAC City Alliances

As climate-related disasters increase in intensity, cities in the Asia and Pacific region are facing major challenges in ensuring sustainable urban development, good governance, and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. The Climate Resilience Inclusive Cities (CRIC) programme promoted by United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) is designed to help cities strengthen their capacity to deal with climate risks while promoting long-term cooperation between urban stakeholders.

UCLG ASPAC is one of the regional sections formed through the merger of the International Union of Local Authorities, the United Towns Organization (UTO), and the World Association of the Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS). UCLG was established on 1 January 2004 with headquarters in Barcelona, Spain. (UCLG ASPAC, 2024). UCLG ASPAC has several main objectives in strengthening democratic and effective local governance at the regional and global levels such as fostering unity and cooperation among members to realise strong and democratic local governance, being the main source of information on local governance, including learning, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, and promoting partnerships and twinning between local governments and local communities. (UCLG ASPAC, 2024)

The Climate Resilience Inclusive Cities (CRIC) programme by UCLG ASPAC is funded by the European Union and in collaboration with, Pilot4DEV, ACR+, ECOLISE, AIILSG, and Gustave Eiffel University. Over a five-year implementation period, the programme aims to equip city governments with tools to increase resilience to climate change, through the development of data-driven local climate action plans, the establishment of cross-sectoral working teams at the local government level, the development of early warning systems to reduce the risk of climate disasters, the implementation of air quality and waste management strategies and consultation with experts in various disciplines related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. (CRIC, 2024).

In Indonesia, ten water-bound cities are piloting the project, including Samarinda, Pangkalpinang, Kupang and Ternate. These cities were selected based on their vulnerability to climate change impacts and potential for effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. In addition to building environmental resilience, CRIC also emphasises the importance of social inclusion, by ensuring that climate policies benefit the most vulnerable groups in society, including those living in informal settlements. Through the engagement of local governments, urban stakeholders, as well as the private sector, the project promotes synergies between actors to improve governance effectiveness and social equity in planning for resilient and sustainable urban development.

In Samarinda, the implementation of the CRIC programme began with the formation of a cross-sectoral working team responsible for preparing the Urban Analysis Report (UAR). This document served as a comprehensive study of the challenges and potential of Samarinda City in facing climate change, using a neighbourhood-scale approach. The findings in this report became the basis for the Samarinda City Government in formulating a Regional Action Plan (RAD) oriented towards solving urban problems in a systematic and data-based manner. In addition to environmental aspects, the CRIC programme in Samarinda also promotes social inclusion by ensuring that policies benefit vulnerable communities. UCLG ASPAC plays a role in bridging cooperation between the pilot cities in the CRIC programme and other cities in the Asia-Pacific region, to promote knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and sharing of best practices in building urban resilience to climate change. With its science-based and collaborative approach, CRIC serves not only as an initiative to improve climate resilience, but also as a model for inclusive, sustainable and social justice-based urban development. Topographically, Samarinda is dominated by lowlands, with some hilly areas where coal deposits and mining concessions are located. Samarinda is located on the Mahakam River with tributaries, such as Karang Mumus, which is an important component in the city's ecological system. Samarinda has 10 sub-districts with an average population density in 2019 of 1,216 people/km with the densest living in Samarinda Ulu which is the centre of trade and services, but the location of the early residents was in Samarinda Seberang where the housing is located on the river.

Samarinda City is the only provincial capital in Indonesia that has a mining area (Anggraeini et al. 2019). It is surrounded by regencies where oil and gas are mined, so the city's economic growth depends on fluctuations in the price of mining goods. Samarinda's largest source of GDP comes from the construction sector, which accounted for around 21.9% in 2019, driven by the increasing demand for housing due to mining from the surrounding area. Furthermore, trade and mining were the second and third largest contributors. Samarinda's Human Development Index (HDI) is the highest in Indonesia with a value of 80.2. This is supported by good education and health infrastructure.

In terms of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Samarinda has very poor air quality especially in the dry season caused by forest fires in the region surrounding the city. The energy and transport sectors contribute 88% of the total GHG thanks to the burning of fuels that become CO_2 gas, which contributes about 94% of GHG in the city, followed by N_2O and CH_4 gas. This is due to the inadequate transport infrastructure that makes people dependent on private vehicles. Waste management in Kota Samarinda is not yet adequate. Samarinda's landfill in Bukit Pinang has exceeded its capacity of 500 tonnes of waste per day, whereas Samarinda produces 600-800 tonnes of waste per day. Only 72% of this waste is transported to the landfill and among this only 2 tonnes of waste is processed into compost each month. Waste that is not transported ends up being dumped into the river or burned, which can be dangerous for neighbouring residents and increase vulnerability to disasters. There is such an urgency in waste management that Samarinda City was chosen as one of CRIC's pilot programmes with the main focus on waste management and flood management.

In order to build a climate-resilient city, Samarinda needs supportive policies at the national level. Indonesia has established Low Carbon Development in the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) through decarbonisation, replanting, energy efficiency, biodiversity protection, forest and peatland protection and low carbon investment. This plan is also supported by policy instruments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs, Law No. 32/2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), as an ambitious effort to fight the climate crisis, especially in reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, there are several action plans and roadmaps such as the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (RAN API), the National Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (RAN GRK) and the Climate Change Sector Roadmap with the aim of preparing Indonesia in climate change adaptation and mitigation. In the implementation of these instruments, the Government of Indonesia has prepared a budget and financing plan for the Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Project.

Samarinda City itself has set a vision of Samarinda as a competitive and environmentally friendly metropolitan city in its Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) for 2016-2021. Based on Samarinda Regional Regulation No. 2/2014 on the 2014-2034 Regional Spatial Plan, the city sets its vision as a 'city by the water' that is environmentally friendly, green, and superior in various fields. In addition, the city government also targets reducing potential losses due to climate change impacts to 2.78% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in vulnerable sectors. The city's priorities are to reduce river and air pollution, improve sustainable waste management systems and sustainable development from the neighbourhood level. These priorities are also supported by various strategies such as improving urban drainage systems, building river embankments, river planning, improving waste management and disaster mitigation.

Various regional action plans have been prepared by the Samarinda local government. The Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Development Goals (RAD TPB) for 2018-2021 guides the sanitation and waste sector, community wastewater treatment plants with a budget allocation of 5.9 billion, the location of Integrated Waste Management Sites (TPST) of 5.45 billion, and hazardous and toxic waste management of 417 million.

In the disaster management sector, Samarinda City has a Disaster Risk Assessment (KRB) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its disaster mitigation plans. A budget of 1.08 billion is allocated for disaster prevention and mitigation and 1 billion for disaster risk reduction. This effort was supported by existing policy instruments, such as Regional

Regulation No. 10/2017 on the Implementation of Regional Disaster Management and Mayoral Regulation No. 33/2014 on the Implementation of Disaster Management, Funding Arrangements and Determination of the Amount of Compensation/Assistance for Disaster Victims. In reducing GHG emissions, Samarinda conducted a study based on the 2006 IPCC guidelines, focusing on three main sectors: energy and transport, waste, and agriculture and forestry. The energy and transport sector is the largest contributor to emissions, accounting for more than 70% of the city's total emissions. Emission reduction targets until 2030 have been set, in line with national direction.

The success of Samarinda City and its 'waterfront city' strategy will depend on effective governance, cross-sector coordination, institutional strengthening, human resources and integration of planning systems for Samarinda to become a climate-resilient city. The characteristics of Samarinda and the policy instruments that are already available can encourage Samarinda to become a climate-resilient city. Samarinda's involvement in CRIC began with a city analysis study that included challenges and opportunities. According to CRIC's recommendations, Samarinda can start rehabilitating the environment from floods and waste accumulation through a nature-based development approach and reduce the use of concrete.

In Samarinda City, there are 50 disaster-prone spots that often experience flooding during heavy rains. According to the city's Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), 80% of the causes of flooding come from human activities. Another cause is the loss of water catchment areas in the hills upstream of Samarinda. Land clearing and vegetation removal for coal mining exacerbate surface water runoff, which in turn triggers flooding. Samarinda City needs to revitalise its water catchment areas and develop flood adaptive development. The city can afford to increase the proportion of land area for public Green Open Space (RTH) from 5% to 20% as mandated by the Spatial Planning Law No. 26/2007. For example, the development of city parks with green infrastructure as oxygen producers, spaces to collect and store rainwater and become recreational areas. Green Open Space (RTH) in residential areas, offices and land is very important in flood mitigation efforts to support focussed flood management efforts such as the construction of waterways, retention columns and parapets. In terms of housing, building designs must be adaptive to water, such as the stilt house model in Banjarmasin, which can be applied in flood-prone areas.

In dealing with flooding, Kota Samarinda focuses more on infrastructure development programmes, such as the repair of waterways, the construction of retention columns and parapets (concrete walls); however, prevention and mitigation efforts are still minimal. Ideally, Kota Samarinda should direct adaptive programmes such as the maintenance of green open spaces in residential areas, offices, and land used for other functions. As for waste and waste management, CRIC recommends community participation, the potential to collaborate with development partners, and appropriate and ambitious waste management. The Samarinda City Government needs to increase educational efforts in the community regarding the importance of waste management by involving various elements of society, especially women. Priority efforts that can be made are campaigns to prevent people from dumping waste into rivers and reducing the use of single-use plastics. In addition to CRIC, the Samarinda City Government also needs to open up opportunities for cooperation for funding such as from multilateral development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB). In terms of infrastructure and policy instruments, the Samarinda City Government needs to prioritise the management of organic waste into compost, digestate and biogas. This can reduce waste entering landfills and support innovation efforts and circular economy

products from organic waste. The implementation of waste segregation schemes is crucial, the development of TPS 3R involving the informal sector such as waste banks can be done, incentive policies and reward schemes can be used as a form of campaign to reduce waste from the community level. However, this effort requires expertise from the management agency, capacity building for the Environmental Agency (DLH) can be a provision in ensuring optimal waste management.

In addition to being sustainable, the development of Samarinda City must be inclusive in accordance with the mandate of the CRIC programme. The involvement of all stakeholders in a pentahelix manner is important to ensure that policies and efforts are in line with community conditions. The Samarinda City Government needs to believe in the ability of the community to solve problems based on local wisdom, this can be done by identifying dreamers or stakeholders such as religious leaders and organisations to drive city planning together.

An inclusivity perspective should be applied to ensure ethnic, age, gender, religious and disability diversity in the urban planning process. The involvement of children in the policy-making process is urgent for a more child-friendly city governance. Spaces for participation also need to be opened as widely as possible, and meetings with various stakeholders are conducted regularly, several times a year, to discuss the expectations and ideas of the community. Cooperation with academics, media, businesses and civil society organisations, using the Municipalities in Transition approach, will encourage systemic thinking and better collaboration for sustainable development in Kota Samarinda. Thus, in general, the leadership of Smaridna City can contribute to current global issues. Through the CRIC programme, Samarinda City is able to become a Pivot City.

In addition, the ability of leadership in the region, especially the City of Samarinda, can try to be a comfortable place and be able to become an actor in guarding global issues. The fact is that collaborating with UCLG ASPAC is concrete evidence of the City's leadership in building trust to become a global actor in international relations.

Conclusion

This research confirms that city diplomacy is a strategic instrument used by local governments to achieve public interests through persuasion and communication at the international level. In the context of globalization, the roles of actors and the substance of diplomacy have undergone significant transformations, where local governments can now actively contribute through city diplomacy.

City diplomacy is defined as the diplomatic efforts undertaken by cities to advocate for the city's public interests at the international level. Cities can play a dual role: as an arena (a comfortable place to live) and as an actor (that can participate in international relations). The implementation of Samarinda's city diplomacy has demonstrated effective diplomatic efforts in addressing various local issues that have become international concerns.

The issue of climate change is a major challenge for the city of Samarinda. Through collaboration with various global actors such as the European Union and UCLG ASPAC, the City of Samarinda has successfully addressed this global issue. The city's diplomatic role has made Samarinda a Pivot City in the issue of climate change impact, alongside 9 other cities. The city of Samarinda is capable of training its officials to address various issues such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, and other disasters, especially considering its position as a coastal city facing greater complexities of challenges.

Diplomatic collaboration with UCLG ASPAC and the European Union has provided financial aid, resources, and technology to address the impacts of climate change. From that collaboration, significant changes in urban governance were successfully achieved. The formation of cross-sectoral task force teams (Kelompok Kerja) serves as evidence of synergy and collaboration among stakeholders in addressing the issue.

Research results show that although cities are part of larger administrative regions, city activities and leadership can bring about changes to drive concrete actions in addressing climate change. The city of Samarinda has successfully demonstrated that subnational entities can be important actors in global governance, particularly in environmental and climate change issues.

The involvement of the City of Samarinda in the CRIC UCLG ASPAC program demonstrates the importance of city engagement in international relations. This factor occurs due to economic, social, political, environmental, and other considerations. The involvement of the city of Samarinda as a Pivot City is a form of the city's commitment and leadership on the global stage, particularly in prioritizing and combating the threat of climate change. This struggle is an effort to create a livable and sustainable city in accordance with point 11 of the SDGs.

Limitations of the Research

This research has several limitations that need to be acknowledged:

1. Temporal Limitations: This research was conducted over a specific period (2020-2024), so it cannot yet evaluate the long-term impact of the CRIC program implementation in Samarinda City.
2. Geographical Limitations: This study focuses on a single case (Samarinda City), so generalizing the findings to other cities in Indonesia or the Asia-Pacific region requires caution.
3. Methodological Limitations: The research uses a qualitative approach that relies on the researcher's interpretation. The use of a mixed-method approach with quantitative data can provide a more comprehensive perspective.
4. Data Access Limitations: Some internal documents and sensitive data related to international cooperation may not be fully accessible, so the analysis relies on publicly available documents and information.
5. Limitations of Impact Evaluation: This study focuses more on the implementation process of the CRIC program rather than a comprehensive evaluation of the program's effectiveness and its actual impact on the city's climate resilience.
6. Limitation of Stakeholder Perspectives: Although involving various informants, this research may not have fully captured the perspectives of all stakeholders involved, especially the directly affected communities.

Suggestions for Future Research

Based on the findings and limitations of this study, several suggestions for future research are:

Methodological Suggestions:

1. Comparative Study: Conducting a comparative research among several cities participating in the CRIC program to identify universal success factors and challenges.
2. Mixed-Method Approach: Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of city diplomacy in addressing climate change.

3. Longitudinal Study: Conducting long-term research to evaluate the sustained impact of the CRIC program on urban climate resilience and sustainable development.

Research Substance Recommendations:

1. Economic Impact Evaluation: Investigating the economic impact of the implementation of city diplomacy programs on local economic growth and the creation of green jobs.
2. Analysis of Community Participation: A deep examination of community participation mechanisms in the decision-making process related to climate policy at the city level.
3. Global Network Study: Examining the dynamics of the global city network and how cities in the Global South can leverage this network to enhance their climate adaptation and mitigation capacities.

This study shows that local governments can use city diplomacy as a strategic tool to achieve public interests through persuasion and communication at the international level. The role and substance of diplomacy have changed in the era of globalization, and local governments can now contribute through city diplomacy.

The diplomatic efforts undertaken by cities to advocate for their public interests at the international level are called city diplomacy. Cities can function as two things: as arenas (comfortable places to live) and as actors (who can interact with people around the world). Diplomatic efforts in Samarinda have demonstrated diplomatic capabilities to address various local issues that have now become international problems.

The city of Samarinda faces major issues related to climate change. The city of Samarinda has successfully addressed this global issue by collaborating with various global entities such as the European Union and UCLG ASPAC. Samarinda has been designated as a Pivot City for climate change issues along with nine other cities thanks to its diplomatic efforts. Samarinda has the capability to educate its staff to handle issues such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, and other disasters, especially because it is a coastal city facing many challenges.

Diplomatic collaboration with UCLG ASPAC and the European Union has provided financial aid, resources, and technology to address the impacts of climate change. With this collaboration, significant changes have occurred in city government management. The formation of cross-sectoral task force teams (Pokja) shows that stakeholders are collaborating and working together to solve the issue.

Research shows that, although cities are part of larger administrative regions, city activities and leadership have the ability to bring about significant changes to drive concrete actions in addressing climate change. Samarinda has shown that small countries can play an important role in global governance, especially in terms of environmental issues and climate change.

The city of Samarinda has demonstrated the importance of participating in international relations through its involvement in the CRIC UCLG ASPAC program. Factors such as economic, social, political, and environmental are the reasons behind this. The involvement of Samarinda City as a Pivot City demonstrates the city's leadership at the international level, especially in addressing the threat of climate change. This struggle is part of the effort to create a livable and sustainable city in accordance with point 11 of the SDGs.

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