

introduction

'Rebuilding Indonesia as a nation of "unity in diversity" on the basis of a multicultural paradigm' as strongly emphasized in the 3rd international symposium of the Journal ANTROPOLOGI INDONESIA in 2002, is still an ongoing question for all concerned. Has Indonesia been able to successfully rebuild its nation towards a prosperous and just country for every citizen and group regardless of differences in regional and ethnic background, religion and occupation, needs and interests? In correspondence with multidimensional problems including political, social and cultural problems, many scholars agree to follow multicultural paradigm to explain and discuss the needs of recovering Indonesia by developing concepts, institutions, norms, ethics, and legal foundations for a multicultural society. But the question remains, can Indonesia form a strong nation in the future without particular attention to developing good 'cooperation and partnerships' between all existing components within the country, and between Indonesia and the rest of the world that may have similar, different, or even conflicting needs and interest?

Building good cooperation and partnerships is not a simple and easy process. Indonesia is only part of a continuously changing world. The dynamics of power and economic relations between various countries are only part of this reality. The advances in technology, the instantaneous flow of information, the enrichment of ideas, concepts, and science, the progress in education, health care, community development, and others are dynamically interwoven with various economic, power, and other interests within the complex network of institutions across state boundaries. Such a complicated web of relations might have significant implication on the nations' efforts to build up cooperation and partnership with foreign counterparts. How do we cope with such a 'changing global context'?

Within the country itself, complex networks exist between different actors, groups, social and cultural entities, economic/business cooperation, and stakeholders; the disadvantaged and advantaged parties; various actors/groups and the state; the regencies, provinces, and the center; and within diverse kinds of relationship in a wide range of community life. Moreover, the concepts and understandings of cooperation and partnership used by diverse parties in building up 'good governance, democracy, decentralization, regional autonomy, or civil society' may not be entirely clear. Diversity of meanings and interpretations of cooperation and partnership may exist. The 'rhetoric' of these terms and its 'praxis' may be inconsistent as well. With the complicated nature of such networks and relationships, how can we establish the cooperation and partnership between various parties within Indonesia, and between Indonesia and the rests of the world? What are the 'lessons-learned' from the past and the present condition of building up cooperation and partnership between various parties? What explanatory variables should be considered, within what particular contexts and settings, under what kind of conditions, with what kind of results on people's lives and nation building?

The 4th international symposium of the Journal ANTROPOLOGI INDONESIA would provide room to discuss, analyze, and examine those questions and concerns on the basis of empirical phenomena found in diverse range of people's life in Indonesia, and its relation with the region and global entities in various aspects.