

## Analysis of Formation of Sister Province International Cooperation (Case Study of South Sulawesi Province Government With Ehime Prefecture, Japan)

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### Article Info

#### Keyword:

International  
Cooperation;  
Formation;  
Inhibiting Factors:  
Supporting Factors.

**Abstract:** This research aims at how cooperation occurs in establishing international collaboration between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture with areas of cooperation stated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This study used a qualitative descriptive approach with data obtained through library research, interviews, observations, and documentation, and eight informants were determined by purposive sampling. This study uses (Dunn, 2004) theory; several things are needed, namely Problem Formulation, Forecasting, Recommendations, Observations, and Assessments, which are used to analyze the formation of Sister Province International Cooperation, South Sulawesi Provincial Government, and Ehime Prefecture, Japan. The results of this study indicate that so far, the coordination carried out with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs is a flow that is by Government Regulation Number 28 of 2018. In establishing and implementing international cooperation with the South Sulawesi Provincial Government and Ehime Prefecture, there are several problems, including internal factors such as a change in the throne of leadership and miscommunication between the South Sulawesi Provincial Government and the agencies. Another problem is external factors, namely the Covid-19 pandemic and communication between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, which is not running smoothly, so this cooperation has not yet worked. In international cooperation, involving other parties who can make the collaboration successful is necessary.

## INTRODUCTION

Human behavior is an appropriate patron in the context of mutual need. According to Effendi in (Purwantiasning, 2017), humans are the translation of the two words "inside" and "divided," which can be understood as one unit, inseparable and undivided. They represent the unity between the physical (physical) and spiritual (psychological) aspects and cannot be separated. In these actions, a person needsother people. They are usually called social humans. Without its existence and the role of other people, no one can survive, so from the need to be

alone, humans also need social activities (Purwantiasning, 2017). Likewise, in a broad sense, in this case, the state, it is necessary to have the same behaviour, namely mutual support and the need to achieve goals that can cooperate with other countries. Decentralization is a concept that involves the transfer of power from the central government to lower-level governments to govern their own territories. Regional autonomy is the right, authority, and obligation of a region to regulate and manage the economy of its own household in accordance with statutory regulations number 22 of 1999. (Indonesia, 1999) Decentralization aims to make government more efficient and effective in carrying out its official functions at all levels of society. This means that decentralization is a vertical structure of the form of state power, which is manifested in the form of regional autonomy policies. Regional autonomy is essentially the right, power and responsibility of a region to regulate and manage its own budget. This is realized by diverting public affairs from the central government to local governments based on the conditions and authorities of a region (Djohan, 1990)

It has been regulated in Law no. 23 of 2014 (Indonesia, 2014) concerning Regional Government that regional cooperation aims to improve the welfare of the community. Regions can work together based on the efficiency and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefit considerations. Exchanges with regional governments or institutions abroad and strengthens regional knowledge, technology, and financial capabilities. Regional cooperation with governments or regional institutions abroad is international cooperation after receiving approval from the ministry of foreign affairs. Furthermore, in Government Regulation No. 28 of 2018 (Pemerintah, 2018) regulates how regional cooperation with regional governments abroad, from now on, abbreviated as KSDPL, is a joint effort carried out by regions with provincial governments abroad in the context of administering government affairs which are the authority of the area to improve public welfare and accelerate the fulfilment of public services. (Kloke-Lesch, 2021) argues that international cooperation is very much needed in order to achieve sustainable development goals. This must be carried out by every country to ensure the survival of the nation and state in international forums.

Judging from the applicable regulations, the cooperation that the Regional Government can carry out is usually called a sister province/sister city, which is a form of international cooperation, not a state, but a small state unit, such as a province region, or city. Cultural and social interactions between residents (Primawanti, H., Dermawan, W., & Ardiyanti, 2019) Cooperation between twin cities is more oriented towards economic development or improving development tools in urban management, as well as sharing the need for knowledge, resources, technology, and exports between the two cities (Sitinjak, E., Sagala, S., & Rianawati, 2014) Two regions in different countries will bring renewal between the two areas and help accelerate the region's economic development.

So far, the journey of regional cooperation with regional governments abroad has been rolling in Indonesia for a long time, starting in 1960 when one of the regions in Indonesia, namely the City of Bandung, started cooperation with one of the regions abroad until this year it is still undergoing Intense cooperation with overseas regions in promoting economic development or urban management development tools and opportunities to share knowledge, resources, technology and experience needs between the two cities.

In South Sulawesi Province, cooperation was initiated by looking at the potential possessed by the province of South Sulawesi, namely natural resources in the fisheries sector. The provincial government of South Sulawesi has tried to widen this opportunity by carrying out

various innovations that benefit South Sulawesi's fisheries. This is an example of an actual application that can illustrate the severe actions of the South Sulawesi government in developing the potential of their natural resources, namely by conducting international cooperation with one of the regions in Japan, namely the Ehime Prefecture Province. Ehime Prefecture is an area that has the same characteristics as South Sulawesi province, where the Ehime area has a vibrant diversity of natural resources such as agriculture, plantations, and fisheries. On January 15, 2019, the Governor of South Sulawesi Province and the Governor of Ehime Prefecture signed a letter of intent to establish the twin cities of South Sulawesi Province and Ehime City in various fields. Then on December 16, 2020, the Governor of South Sulawesi Province and the Governor of Ehime Prefecture became severe about their cooperation. By signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoA), carried out virtually.

Based on PP no 28 of 2018, the procedure or steps in carrying out regional cooperation with other regions abroad have several stages. First is an assessment carried out by regional governments, regional governments abroad, and regional governments abroad through the Minister who carries out government affairs in foreign relations. This shows that there is a possibility that can be taken as an initial strategy in initiating cooperation between Indonesia and regions abroad. After the exploratory process is carried out, the local government coordinates with the foreign ministry, which will be the bridge between the two parties who will cooperate. The form of coordination was preliminary discussions regarding establishing cooperation in specific fields with other regions abroad.

The third step is for the regional government to prepare a draft cooperation concept which will then be submitted to the ministry of foreign affairs for approval. To complete the verification document by the minister, the regional government needs to send a request for support to the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) by attaching a document explaining the cooperation to be carried out. This explanatory document at least contains the subject of the collaboration, the background, aims, objectives, and targets, the object of the cooperation, the scope of the partnership, the source of financing, and the implementation period. After the DPRD issues the approval letter, the regional government sends the letter for consideration and verification. The results of this verification will be submitted to the provincial government, which will be used as material in preparing the cooperation plan.

The next step is for the ministry to hold a meeting with other relevant ministries and institutions in which the results of the forum will be conveyed directly by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for foreign affairs and then submitted to the regional government to be used as the basis for signing the cooperation document. This process will take a long time, so each party's active role in coordinating is needed. After the cooperation script or MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is published, the next step is the process of implementing cooperation between the two regions, which is followed by the creation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) which will serve as a guide for the collaboration that will be carried out by the South Sulawesi provincial government and Ehime Prefecture.

Unfortunately, after making observations, it was found that this collaboration process had not been implemented due to several problems. First, there is a change in the top policymakers, which requires introducing a collaboration program with new policymakers. This is one of the obstacles faced because the top policymakers do not communicate with other parties. Hence, when he is replaced, this collaboration is less known by replacing the previous policy makers.

Another problem is the miscommunication between internal parties in this case, namely between government bureaus and related agencies. This problem arose because both government bureaus and offices thought of each other to wait for further news of the collaboration being carried out, such as the government bureau asking about the process to the agency and the agency asking about the continuation of the cooperation with Ehime Prefecture so that this is quite an obstacle from the process of establishing further collaboration.

Another thing is that after the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formed, the South Sulawesi Provincial Government has concluded to make a cooperation agreement with Ehime Prefecture, which is commonly referred to as a Memorandum of Agreement which is a follow-up to the cooperation that has been stated in the previous deal. The agreement that the South Sulawesi Provincial Government wanted to make earlier was in the fields of agriculture and plantations, namely cooperation in developing tangerines in Selayar. Still, until now, the reply from the MoA sent to the Ehime Prefecture has not received a response so far, so this is a problem with the cooperation between the government of South Sulawesi Province and Ehime Prefecture.

Seeing the phenomena that occurred, the authors are interested in discussing more deeply the problems in cooperation between the Province of South Sulawesi between Japan's Ehime Prefecture, as well as exploring the factors that hinder the formation of collaboration between the two provinces in two different countries. In this study, researchers will divide two elements to be studied, namely, knowing why the cooperation carried out by the South Sulawesi provincial government with Ehime Prefecture, Japan, has not been implemented after the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was issued. The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was made by South Sulawesi Provincial Government and saw how the process and analysis of the formation of Cooperation between the two provinces with this potential equation are formed.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study uses descriptive analysis research, which finds out the strategy carried out by the South Sulawesi provincial government in establishing cooperation with one of the provinces in Japan, namely Ehime Prefecture, Japan, and also the author wants to explore what factors underlie the formation of collaboration between the two provinces in the two provinces. Different countries. This research was carried out at the South Sulawesi Provincial Government Office, especially in the deconcentration of assistance and cooperation tasks, the South Sulawesi Provincial Marine and Fisheries Service, the Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Office of South Sulawesi Province, the South Sulawesi Province Culture and Tourism Office and the Community Empowerment Service. And Village, Human Resources Development Agency with a period of 1 month in conducting the research.

The informants in the study are informants who are considered relevant in providing information, including the South Sulawesi Provincial Government Bureau, the Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Office of South Sulawesi Province, the South Sulawesi Province Culture and Tourism Office, the South Sulawesi Province Community and Village Empowerment Service, and also the Human Resources Development Agency of South Sulawesi Province.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Government Profile of South Sulawesi Province and Japan's Ehime Prefecture**

South Sulawesi Province is one of the provinces located on the island of Sulawesi, the southern part of Sulawesi. 47 of 1960. Therefore, December 13 is celebrated as the anniversary

of the Province of South Sulawesi. The Indonesian archipelago also connects western and eastern Indonesia, so this area is designated as the Gateway to Eastern Indonesia (KTI). Ehime Prefecture (Ehime-ken) is a prefecture of Japan in the northwest of Shikoku Island. The prefectural capital is Matsuyama. Until the Meiji Reformation, Ehime Prefecture was known as Iyo Province. Before the Heian period, this area was dominated by fishers and sailors who were essential in defending Japan from allied attacks and Mongol invasions. After the Battle of Sekigahara, the Tokugawa shogunate gave this territory to allies, including Kato Yoshiakira, who built Matsuyama Castle, the basis of the modern city called Matsuyama. The economy of the area around Matsuyama has many industries, including shipbuilding, chemicals, oil refining, and paper and textile products. The prefecture's urban areas primarily depend on the agricultural and fishing industries, and some are famous for citrus and pearl cultivation. This makes both have similarities in terms of abundant natural resources and the potential to carry out international cooperation.

### **The Process of Formulating a Cooperation Plan between the Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture**

This collaboration is based on the Republic of Indonesia government regulation number 28 of 2018 concerning regional cooperation in particular; this cooperation is included in the International Cooperation called KSDPL (regional collaboration with regional governments abroad), which is a joint effort carried out by regions with provincial governments abroad in the context of administering government affairs which are the authority of the areas to improve public welfare and accelerate the fulfillment of public services.

According to PP 28 of 2018, Article 28, KSDPL Initiatives can come from Regional Governments, Regional Governments Abroad, and Regional Governments Abroad through the Minister who carries out government affairs in foreign relations. This cooperation aims to establish friendly relations and mutual understanding with different nations, especially Ehime Prefecture. This cooperation is no longer just cooperation and mutual understanding but cooperation that will benefit both parties, namely the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture.

South Sulawesi Province as the initiator or Initiative of Cooperation with Ehime Prefecture is a process of cooperation forged by the State with other countries through the government at the provincial level with provincial governments abroad. The relationship carried out is usually in the form of cooperation between countries or several countries, which is implemented as an agreement as recorded in (Negeri, 1993) Circular of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 193/1652/PUOD, it was noted that regional heads conducted an assessment to determine the opportunities and benefits of cooperation for regional and national interests. After the assessment results have been followed up with a statement of the will to cooperate, the provincial head shall coordinate and consult with the Ministers. They carry out government affairs in foreign relations before signing the declaration of intention for cooperation.

The scoping process is a step in implementing the sister province where there are requirements for cultural similarities, vision and mission, regional potential, and other parallels by the sister province concept. The government in each region needs to establish cooperation with foreign governments so that a mutually beneficial exchange occurs on both sides.

In article 30 of regional cooperation with regional governments abroad, the Regional Head applies for approval by attaching a cooperation plan to the Regional People's Representative Council by attaching several accessories, including:

1. Subject of cooperation
2. Background
3. Purpose, goals, and objectives
4. The object of cooperation
5. Scope of cooperation
6. Sources of financing, and
7. Implementation period

Approval of the Regional People's Representative Council must receive the cooperation plan no later than 45 working days after receiving the application letter from the regional head. On March 4, 2020, the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi recommended approval from the DPRD of South Sulawesi Province, which was addressed to the Chairman of the DPRD of South Sulawesi Province.

In meetings that the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi has held, the forum results will then be submitted to the Minister for approval as stipulated in Article 32 PP No. 28 of 2018. In this regulation, the Minister will hold a meeting between ministries/government agencies non-ministerial that will include:

1. The ministry that carries out government affairs in the foreign sector
2. Ministries/non-ministerial government agencies related to the object of cooperation
3. The provincial government concerned
4. The local government of the district/city concerned

### **The signing of the Letter of Intent**

A statement of will or what is commonly called a Letter of Intent is an agreement letter that states the intention to enter into a contract with a related party. The seriousness of the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture in carrying out cooperation is evidenced by the signing carried out when Ehime Prefecture visited South Sulawesi Province. The signing was carried out at Baruga Karaeng Pattingalloang, the Office of the Governor of South Sulawesi, on January 15, 2019.

In the meeting, both parties explained the cooperation to each other, and then the discussion was approved through a Letter of Intent (LoI). The signing of the Letter of Intent was attended by several influential people, such as the Chair of the South Sulawesi Provincial DPRD, the Chair of the Ehime Japan Prefectural DPRD, the Mayor of Makassar, the Mayor of Palopo, the Regent of Jeneponto, and the Regent of North Luwu.

In a statement of will that was agreed by both parties, namely the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Japan's Ehime Prefecture, both acknowledged the principles of equality and mutual benefit. These principles are based on the compatibility of applicable laws and regulations where cooperation is based on Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 28 of 2018 concerning regional collaboration.

Regarding the areas agreed upon and signed by the Governor of South Sulawesi, HM Nurdin Abdullah, and the Governor of Ehime Japan, Tokihiro Nakamura. The fields in the Letter of Intent are the results of an assessment carried out by the South Sulawesi Provincial Government, which include Strengthening Human Resources, Trade, Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Education, Culture, and Sports.



Source. Sub Division of Government Bureau Cooperation

In the statement of intent between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and the Ehime Prefectural Government of Japan, both parties have the principles of equality and mutual benefit by the laws, regulations, and administrative procedures applicable in each country.

### **Memorandum of Understanding Signing Process**

Continuing from the signing of the Letter of Intent (LoI) after getting a mutual agreement, then the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. A memorandum of understanding (MoU/MOU) is an agreement between two or more parties stated in a formal document. This document will be a preliminary agreement in that it will be followed by the parties and described in a more detailed agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a form of contract or agreement that will state the steps for achieving mutual understanding between the two parties to move to the following process by the agreed implementation.

The next step in the process of making a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to hold a meeting which was attended by each OPD within the South Sulawesi Provincial Government regarding the sister Province's work plan, which was carried out on February 25, 2020, which the OPD of South Sulawesi Province attended. After going through a long series of meetings that have been held, finally, on December 16, 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Provincial Government and Ehime Prefecture was signed by the Governor of South Sulawesi, HM Nurdin Abdullah, and the Governor of Ehime Prefecture, Tokihiro Nakamura which was held in Jakarta and witnessed virtually in the Governor's Office Rapid Room. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary saw the signing of this MoU of the Republic of Indonesia to Japan, Heri Akhmadi, Head of the Center for Cooperation Facilities at the Ministry of



Home Affairs, Heriyandi Roni, Secretary of the Province of South Sulawesi, Abdul Hayat Gani, and attended by all Regional Apparatus Organizations (OPD) the scope of the South Sulawesi Provincial Government. It can be seen in Figure 3 that the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding was carried out in a hybrid manner, namely within the network and outside the network, which was watched by several influential people in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture

Source. Sub Division of Government Bureau Cooperation

The contents of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are the result of discussions from the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi, Ehime Prefecture, and the involvement of the Ministries in the formulation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Provincial Government of Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, and Ehime Prefecture. Previously in the meeting that was held to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding, the areas that were initially approved were eight regions, including the fields of strengthening human resources, trade, tourism, agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry, education, culture, and sports.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) which is commonly known as the Cooperation Agreement (PKS), is the following action of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) where this agreement has been in the agreement stage of the two parties, namely the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture to work together. The Memorandum of Agreement describes in more detail and defines all the details of the initial agreement, namely the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Sustainability of cooperation carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi in other fields such as Creative Economy Development and Human Resource Development is still in the discussion stage and waiting for further action, but so far, the cooperation that will run in the field of Agriculture and Plantation is already in the process of signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

### **Factors influencing the lack of cooperation between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture**

In analyzing policies based on Dunn's (2004) theory, several things need to be considered, namely Problem Formulation, Forecasting, Recommendations, Observations, and Assessments.

This policy analysis looks at the source of the problems faced, especially the Cooperation between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, which has not yet been implemented and only until the discussion of the Cooperation that will be carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture.

#### **Formulation of the problem**

The first step in the policy analysis is the formulation of the problem. This stage will describe the issues the South Sulawesi Provincial Government faces in the cooperation built with Ehime Prefecture.



Based on the memorandum of understanding formulated by the Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, the following are 4 (four) areas that will be the focus of cooperation between the two parties:

1. Fish Cultivation and Marine Product Management Industry
2. Agriculture and Plantation
3. Creative Economy Development, and
4. Capacity Building for Human Resources

The following are some factors that hinder the implementation of cooperation from both parties. The supporting element is the Similarity of Regional Potential, where this collaboration is based on the similarity of regional potential by looking at mutual opportunities between the two parties; in this case, the Provincial Government of Sulawesi South and Ehime Prefecture. This collaboration has conducted a preliminary review to see what potential will be developed jointly in the two countries, namely South Sulawesi Province and Ehime Prefecture.

The inhibiting factor of this cooperation is the replacement of the throne of leadership. Since February 2021, the supreme power in South Sulawesi has shifted from the Governor-elect, Prof. Nurdin Abdullah, to the executor of the task, the deputy governor himself, namely Mr. Andi Sudirman Sulaiman. This change of power occurred because of the arrest of Prof. Nurdin by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) through a hand arrest operation. This has had many impacts on programs or activities that have been planned by the previous Governor, including the cooperation program for South Sulawesi and Ehime, Japan. Another thing is communication with related fields/services. From the interviews, problems arise from misinformation between the Government Bureau for Cooperation with related agencies, where each expects the other to continue the cooperation built between the Provincial Government. South Sulawesi and the Ehime Prefectural Government through continued communication carried out by the agencies to the Ehime Prefecture.

Furthermore, the Covid-19 Pandemic, namely the sustainability of the sister province cooperation, which began in early 2019 until 2021, has not been implemented; both the sustainability of the execution process and the collaboration results have not been obtained or felt. One of the obstacles to the cooperation process is the impact of Covid-19, which is certainly felt by the whole world, where Japan and Indonesia feel the same way. In early 2020, both countries imposed regular lockdowns, so they encountered difficulties holding meetings outside the network to discuss cooperation.

### **Forecasting**

Furthermore, it is about forecasting what expectations are to be obtained from the cooperation carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, which has not yet been implemented. This part of the analysis will explain the expectations of the cooperation between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture. In the research conducted, it was found that in the process of composing the collaboration between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture where the expectations of each field are Fish Cultivation and Marine Product Management Industry, Agriculture and Plantation, Creative Economy Development, and Capacity Building for Human Resources. Each of the agencies shared the expectation that the cooperation should be able to run much better where there were no significant obstacles from the discussion to the implementation stage.

## **Recommendation**

From the results of the research, many improvements are needed in the process of cooperation, in this case, namely the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture. Recommendations that can be considered in this collaboration, seeing from the results of the research conducted, are improving good communication from internal to external. This communication can start with a detailed explanation of each related party's main tasks and functions.

The agencies involved cross-check what kind of functions they have and to what extent the work they can do. Information should also be intensified for new people who occupy influential positions and will be involved in this collaboration so that there are no longer obstacles regarding ignorance of the cooperation carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture. Furthermore, this can make Actions much more focused on the continuity of the cooperation process. Communication by explaining the next step without waiting for directions is also something that needs to be done to avoid waiting for each other.

The COVID-19 pandemic is indeed a problem that is quite inhibiting; even though every sector may experience this problem throughout the world, this can be improved in the future by adapting more quickly and making several innovations according to the current situation. This needs to be done so that everything that has been designed is as it should be and does not encounter significant problems so that the South Sulawesi Provincial Government's cooperation continues.

## **Observation and Assessment**

Regarding the analysis in the observation and assessment section, it should be possible if the cooperation has been running and the collaboration results have been met. However, the partnership between South Sulawesi Province and Ehime Prefecture has not reached fruitful collaboration because it is still at the formulation stage. Cooperation is a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) or a cooperation agreement in agriculture and plantations. Observations and assessments here will further assess the continuity of the process of formulating the framework of cooperation. As far as words have been made, the association is going well because all the preparations made in this collaboration meet the rules that have been regulated.

This cooperation is based on the rules of Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 28 of 2019 concerning regional collaboration. In particular, this cooperation includes a regional partnership with governments abroad, which is referred to as KSDPL. This cooperation is a joint effort carried out by regions abroad in the context of implementing government affairs which are the authority of the parts to improve people's welfare and accelerate the fulfillment of public services.

So, the analysis results show that this cooperation is administratively by the applicable rules, but in the process, several problems were found, which ultimately hindered this cooperation. In the future, this cooperation can be arranged better to run well and produce good benefits for both parties, namely South Sulawesi Province and Ehime Prefecture.

Based on observations from the research carried out, the author estimates that the cooperation carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture will continue to run well but, in the future, there will still be obstacles both in terms of preparation

and from a technical point of view in the field where this collaboration is This is quite promising cooperation, but due to barriers that have caused this cooperation to be delayed.

## **CONCLUSION**

The exploratory process carried out by the two regions, namely the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, with the formation of an international sister province cooperation, was a collaboration initially based on the similarity of regional potentials. This equation has finally made the Province of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture cooperate and produce several written agreements Letter of Intent (LoI), Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) which have been made and are still being signed by the Prefecture. Ehime. The coordination carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture with the ministries of home affairs and foreign affairs is a flow that must be carried out in preparation for the implementation of international cooperation, namely sister province, in which the South Sulawesi Provincial Government has followed procedures by Government Regulation No. 28 2018 year.

In establishing and implementing international cooperation between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, there were several problems where cooperation was ultimately hampered in terms of the implementation of the collaboration. The issue of cooperation is in internal factors where there is a change in the leadership throne where this has an impact because there must be communication done so that everything done is known by the person occupying the new position. Another thing is the miscommunication between the South Sulawesi Provincial Government and the related agencies in this collaboration. Problems also arise from external factors, namely the Covid-19 pandemic and communication between the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, which is not running smoothly, so this cooperation has not yet worked.

In international cooperation carried out by the Provincial Government of South Sulawesi and Ehime Prefecture, it is necessary to involve other parties who can make this cooperation a success where the purpose of this cooperation is the welfare of the people in each region, and the involvement of the community is necessary so that the community feels the benefits. Alone. Increasing communication intensely with parties considered to be due to changes in the government structure of members is often found. Therefore it is essential to communicate powerfully and continuously so that communication remains established and does not lose direction from the cooperation. In preparing a cooperation plan, discussions can be carried out by the agencies directly without waiting for orders from the South Sulawesi Provincial Government so that meetings can be now established without waiting for directions, and cooperation can be implemented.

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