

# The Role of Local Marginalization in Batam Island As An Industrial City in The Border Area of Indonesia

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## Article Info

### Keyword:

*Batam Island, Border Area, Industrial Cities, Marginalization,*

**Abstract:** Globalization has an open opportunity for border areas and periphery as a part of the center of industrial cities in Indonesia's development. Collaboration between Indonesia (Riau Island), Malaysia, and Singapore at border areas has involved developed countries with the high support of globalization, so currents have affected the urban system and destroyed many developed traditional regional models. This study aims to evaluate the marginalization of border communities and analyze their participation in sustainable development on Batam Island as an industrial city that is developing between countries. The research applied a descriptive qualitative research method with a case study approach. It used the concept of gentrification as an implication of a new industrial city, describing a phenomenon empirically. The findings show that Batam Island is one of the developing new industrial cities than other cities as a port for international activities in the border area and a high rush of people coming from outside the city to work and settle there. This research concludes that industrial city development strategies in the border area were needed and planned under a more macroscopic framework, for border communities are not deeply marginalized, and as part of modernization, industrial city growth.

## INTRODUCTION

International collaboration in the border area is the relationship between countries that are close together to achieve prosperity and equality in the various development sector in one region. In the study of international relations, border areas are significant for maintaining economic and political integration and significantly advancing cities lagging behind the current globalization and modernization. The main issues in handling border areas include; the determination of the boundary line between the ocean and land and the security and development of the border area. On the other hand, the emergence of industrial cities in the border areas of Indonesia aims to improve the development agenda of the socioeconomic sector of the local population so that it is equitable and can compete in the international arena (Sassen, 2004). The globalization flow causes people to depend on each other to meet needs from all aspects of their lives. Indigenous populations in new industrial cities bordering developed countries are falling behind. A few local issues, such as backwardness, have resulted in poverty and low purchasing power needs due to high prices

of goods and services. Limited infrastructure and public service facilities (infrastructure), low-quality human resources, uneven population distribution, and government policies that do not favor the development of border areas and still lack personnel, budget, and facilities. The rise of phenomena such as illegal cross-border trade, lack of access and domestic communication and information media, and not yet optimal cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination in handling border areas. While on the level Internationally, problems arise that the weak negotiation with other cities or states caused by the creative capabilities of the government minimize at the national level in dealing with the empowerment of residents in the region of the border.

The border area of ASEAN countries has tried to take advantage of the various opportunities that exist to realize the fulfillment of the economic rights of the ASEAN people. The emergence of diverse infrastructure and facility gaps that result from the lack of government attention so that local marginalization is increasingly widespread and cannot be avoided from current development progress. Batam City is one of the cities in the Riau Islands (Fig 1), adjacent to the State or other industrial cities that have developed and developed, resulting in negative and positive impacts, especially in the face of international market competition. In this paper, our locus is Batam City. The expansion of Batam City's progress into an industrial city following its geographical location and potential advantages with the hope to develop the town under the planning consists of top-down and bottom-up processes to the surrounding districts. However, the city's rapid development of Batam has resulted in dynamic regional changes. It is also a process of land use transformation followed by changes in income-earning settlements low to be an area process that high-income residents replace. This phenomenon often occurs in regions adjoining other states to move forward and emerge due to upgrading an area that has successfully attracted the attention of the wealthy population. Therefore, this leaves the original population vulnerable to being evicted because they are unable to adjust to their residential areas and threaten their existence with new patterns of activities to increase space into a site with high value.

On the other hand, the active role of local marginalization by indigenous people is still taken into account, especially instability and maintaining socioeconomic and political life alongside developed countries. Every industrial city impacts the development of human resources and the extent to which they can benefit or not from the collaboration between industrial cities in this border area. Besides increasing the industrial values and implementation embedded in the city of Batam, the readiness of human resources has not been able to raise the standard of living and local marginal welfare itself.

Some objective reasons for population growth include, first, high investment progress with an indication that companies are quickly standing up, requiring competent workers to be ready to work compared to the existing unpreparedness of the local population. Secondly, opportunities for competition are still very few because the city of Batam was not productive before, so that migrants could take it over. Regional marginalization was found on islands that receive less attention from the central government, so the city or district has the opportunity to develop. The industrial cities program that grew in Indonesia included the border area with other countries, including Aceh, East Kalimantan, Nusa Tenggara East, Papua, and others. The general picture of development in the city is not as fast as in Batam. However, we can predict that there are still many possibilities for families experiencing socioeconomic inequality in Riau Islands. Therefore, local marginalization is close to inequality and cannot be prevented, especially against the original inhabitants outside Batam Islands. However, their role is still to help sustainable development; therefore, they must be included and programmed by the central government. Evaluating collaboration in the Riau Islands border area has increased other regions to form cooperation in different contexts but aimed at equitable development. Other cities have begun to develop their sites to be recognized internationally, through various forms of collaboration and continued

participation involving local marginalization supported by efficient infrastructure placement and zoning for the growth of an industrial city (Riyadi et al., 2021). However, the shift of indigenous people to migrants in Batam has become a large and complex phenomenon; therefore, local or native residents do not feel the impact directly. Based on the background explanation above, the formulation of the problems to be discussed in this article are as follows: "why is the participation of local marginalization in Batam city weakening, and what is the impact on increasing new industrial cities on Riau Islands border areas?". This research aims to evaluate participation in local marginalization in the border area towards the sustainable development of industrial cities focused on Batam Island. Besides, finding out which sector of participation regional marginalization of indigenous people is impossible to eliminate, so it has become a vital part helped of the sustainable development of industrial cities on Batam Island.

## METHODOLOGY

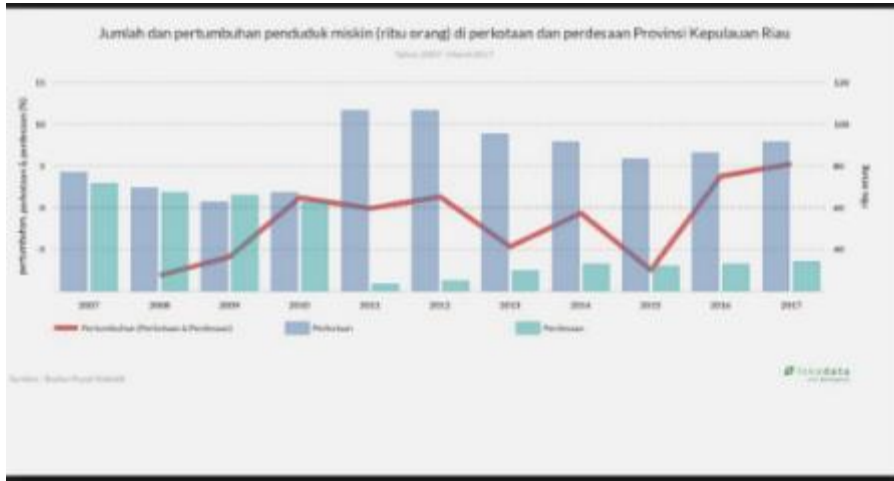
The Riau Islands region researched local marginalization participation in the border area of Batam Island as an industrial city. This is because Singapore and Malaysia directly border the Riau Islands. The researcher then interviewed several people who were directly involved in the research problem. In this study, researchers used informants as information objects to determine the participation of local marginalization in the Indonesian border area that impacts Batam's development. Data analysis can be done concurrently with the observation process when conducting research. As a result, the data obtained during the research process can be analyzed directly. Following the research methods and data collection techniques used in this study, then to analyze the data that has been collected from the field, the analysis technique used is descriptive analysis. Through this technique, all data or facts obtained will be described by developing relevant categories with the aim of research and interpreting the results of descriptive analysis based on appropriate theories in research on local marginalization in the border area. The abstract indicators that the authors mean in this study are as follows:

1. Border Area is an area consisting of sub units of States that cooperate inequitable development.
2. Gentrification is a concept that arises due to the alienation of indigenous people due to the current globalization and modernization that is developing and can not be avoided for cities industrial cities like Batam City, so they are evicted out to the edge of the city.

## Result and Discussion

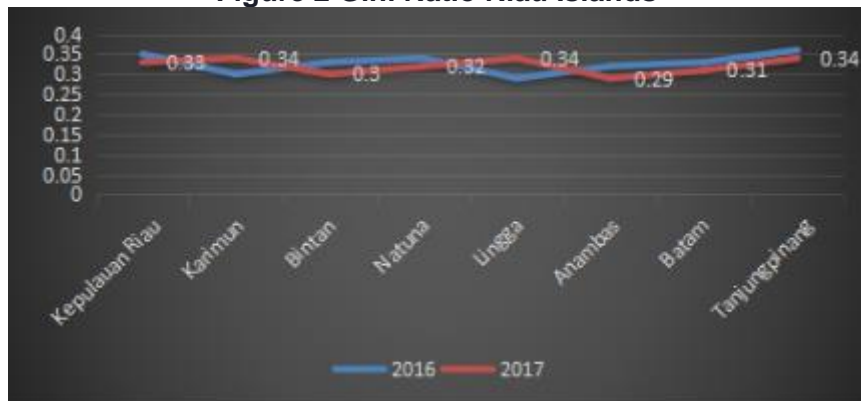
The population of Batam city grows every year, and most migrants from out of town Batam come to work and connect in search of an income as a result of the city's development. Poverty is one of the critical indicators of a country's or region's development success when it exceeds 10% of the population (Tab 1). It explains the State of poverty in the Riau Islands, which increased significantly between 2015 and 2017. It is due to more population distribution in Batam as a wheel of economic movement in the Riau Islands with support as a center for industry, trade, tourism, and transfer of ships. Riau Island has data for inequality for a few other districts that increase yearly (Fig 2). Therefore, the evaluation of people's welfare in the Riau archipelago must involve the participation of the regional government and indigenous people to establish collaboration based on the efficiency and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefits. By statutory provisions, the city can collaborate with other cities, third parties, institutions, or regional governments abroad. This matter has been regulated in Part One Chapter XVII concerning Regional Collaboration and Disputes in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government.

Table 1 Amount of Growth of Poor Population in Urban and Rural Areas in Riau Islands 2007-2017



Source: BPS 2017

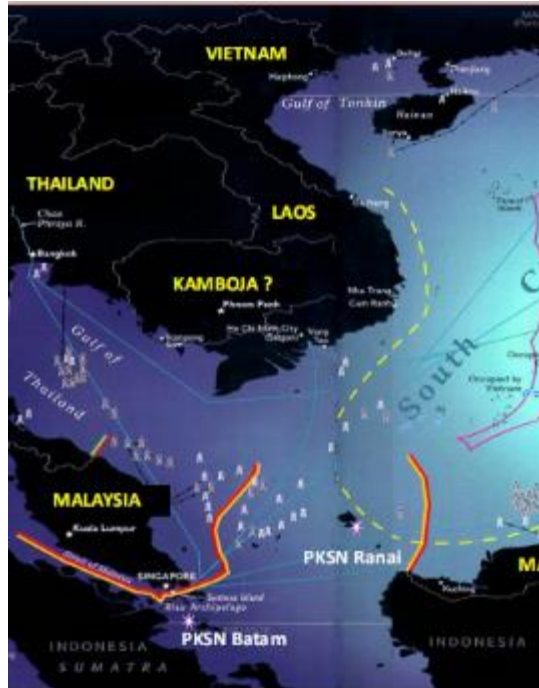
Figure 2 Gini Ratio Riau Islands



Source: BPS 2018

The law also stipulates that regional governments in government administration also encourage local communities' participation. Local governments encourage groups and community organizations to play an active role in the administration of regional government through the support of capacity building for local communities so as not to be increasingly marginalized by migrants. To increase of community participation includes, among others, the management of assets or natural resources in the city as well as the implementation of public services that can be done in the form of public consultations, deliberations, partnerships, delivery of aspirations, supervision, or other involvement by the provisions of the legislation.

Figure 3 Map Orientations Riau Island with other countries



Other researchers have emphasized the importance of the role of the State; however, it will not be a complete role, particularly in making decisions for international collaboration level at border areas (fig 3). In spite of the regular disputes between a state and a sub-state, the government's role ultimately tends to consider actors as an available resource to increase international activities (Simanjuntak et al., 2021). Sub-state actors can successfully develop specific methods and dimensions as classified into two categories. The direct methods are carried out by seeking legitimacy and international recognition through adopting local laws, signing partnership agreements, establishing representative offices overseas, attracting foreign investment, enhancing the region's international image, and working with international organizations and twin cities. Meanwhile, indirect methods are carried out by affecting central legislation, exploiting national parliaments, utilizing regional diplomacy and central infrastructure, and exploiting international organizations. The combination of direct and indirect strategies has offered the best guarantee of success for diplomacy in the areas bordering developed countries. Sub-state actors in each country are characteristic of creating a moderately unique context in developing their international strategies (Michał Słowikowski, 2018).

## CONCLUSION

We argue that the potential of city networks must go hand-in-hand with more integrative and strategic thinking at both local and international levels. The emergence of the multilevel approach has weakened the role of the State, to the emergence of supranational institutions such as the European Union (Marks, 1996). Based on this debate, it is concluded that the nation-state is no longer the only agent capable of promoting international activities, meaning that the role of non-central government increases the advantages in foreign policy. This study of local marginalization participation contributes to the foreign policy of any country and focuses on the participation of foreign parties from the sub-state authorities for new industrial cities such as ASEAN countries. Local marginalization participation is essential for a sustainable region, and they have the right to vote for living despite high global conditions.

Furthermore, the provinces and municipalities can actively invite and host international delegations, organize events, and even establish representative offices abroad that involve local marginalization participation. This research provides the dimension of diplomacy scholars with a comprehensive summary of the current issue in local marginal



participation in the border area for international relations study. After all, the study contributes to a systematic review of empirical cases, especially in the border area and many areas in the ASEAN countries border. This review could assist researchers who are seeking knowledge and references for further investigations and developed border area issues in an international relations study.

#### Acknowledgments

This paper is an extension of the first author's master's Thesis completed in 2008 at the Department of Social Science and Humanities, University of National Malaysia. Research further conducted for this paper was published through Universitas of Islam Riau funding support. We wish to thank Universitas of Islam Riau for their support.

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