

Think Globally, Act Locally: A Lesson from Human Welfare and Development in Bantaeng, South Sulawesi

Novita Putri Rudiany

Master Student of MA IRIO, University of Groningen

Bantaeng is a small region located in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. It used to be classified as one of the poorest region in Indonesia. Bantaeng had many problems, both in natural and in social condition. First, Bantaeng has wide range of geographical shapes, in which the north of Bantaeng has always been a surplus area, while the south is less rainfall area. However, people did not seek the right way to maximize its diverse potency. Second, Bantaeng was lack of sufficient feasible infrastructure. Reaching Bantaeng from the capital city of South Sulawesi –Makassar– has never been easy because of the damaged roads. Therefore, the people found it difficult to access the daily needs. Third, the local government did not use the local budget wisely. As the impact, the development did not happen and the citizens tended to move from Bantaeng to find a better life.

Yet, this situation changed since the inauguration of new local government in 2008. Banteng became one of wealth region as the government implemented new regulations and started to build the infrastructures. Moreover, the cooperation with Japan in several sectors such as transportation and agriculture, was engaged to improve a productive economic activities of Bantaeng people. The transformation of Bantaeng will be analyzed with the concept of alternatives to alleviate poverty by Thomas Pogge. Pogge argues that there should be a development based on Human Rights in order to build human welfare. There are three elements of this method. First, targeting individu as the development focus. Second, the development should not be based on social status. Third, there should be an active actor who can give positive influence to the people.