

COMPLETION REPORT

Gadjah Mada University
Fatmawati Djafir

Title: A Study on the Policies and the Implementation to Increase Visits between Japan and Indonesia in the Post-Covid-19 Pandemic

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of Japan has formulated a plan to bring in 300,000 international students by 2020. They are also expected to work in Japan after graduation. Starting in 2019, Japan also issued “Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)” visa for work-ready foreign nationals who possess certain expertise and skills in certain industrial fields. In the field of tourism, Japan has encouraged Halal tourism to facilitate more Muslim tourists to come to Japan, including from Indonesia. These became urgency for Japan since there exists a significant population decline due to low birth rate and aging. On the other side, the Government of Indonesia has a similar educational policy where all universities are driven to have an International Undergraduate/Graduate Program that accommodates the international curriculum. In the field of tourism and work, Japan is one of the main destination country for Indonesian tourists and work trainees. During pandemic, online courses and training, virtual meeting and tour, etc. became the main option of communication, since overseas traveling had been strictly restricted. This condition has deprived the established programs that have been set in pre-Covid-19 pandemic. Given this, we need to delve deeper into new ways and strategies since the future seems to be very different from what we have thought previously. Indonesia and Japan need to reformulate their approach and implementation to help increase the visits—for study, training, holiday and even for working—between the two countries through the specific programs and cooperation.

In this study, we conduct field research interviews with the representatives of Japanese and Indonesian governments, formal and non-formal educational institutions who offer Japanese language courses and internship to Japan, as well as Japanese companies in Indonesia. We also conduct surveys for Indonesian trainees, students, and tourists who visited Japan, and vice versa for Japanese workers, students, and tourists who visited Indonesia. The result of this study shows that Covid-19 pandemic have significantly impacted education, tourism, and other economic sectors in both countries. After pandemic, several new strategies have been implemented to increase the visits of tourists, students, and workers bilaterally. For example, visa waiver policy has been reintroduced since October 2022 for Indonesian residents who possess electronic passport to encourage tourists’ visits to Japan. The Government of Indonesia with a tagline “Concrete Cooperation to Recover Faster and Emerge Stronger” also implements several programs to commemorate 65 years of bilateral relations between Japan and Indonesia in 2023. One of them is Indonesian Friendship Day 2022 conducted in 11 major cities of Japan in order to increase cooperation, investment, promotion of art, culture and tourism, as well as people-to-people contact in various sectors. Also, the new status of residence “SSW” with Private-to-Private placement scheme is activated starting effectively from March 2023 by an agreement between Japan-Indonesia governments.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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| <p>Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.) 8th JSA-ASEAN to commemorate 50th Anniversary of Japan-ASEAN Relations, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, 20-22 December, 2023. Title of the presentation “A Study on the Policies and the Implementation to Increase Visits between Japan and Indonesia in the Post-Covid-19 Pandemic” Presenter : Fatmawati Djafri</p> |
| <p>Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) Manuscript submitted to Journal of ASEAN Studies The Push Pull Factors of Study in Japan from Indonesian Perspectives: Reflection on 50th Anniversary of Japan-ASEAN Relations Author: Fatmawati Djafri, Lufi Wahidati</p> |
| <p>Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.) Book draft title “Membangun Kembali Mobilitas Penduduk Indonesia-Jepang Pasca-Pandemi Covid-19” Authors: Fatmawati Djafri, Yudhistira Hendra Permana, Endang Soelistyowati Book draft is still in writing progress, plan to be submitted to Gadjah Mada University Press.</p> |