

Constructivist Perspective on Japan's Foreign Aid in the Case of Jakarta's Wastewater Infrastructure

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mendiskusikan bantuan luar negeri Jepang di Indonesia yang fokus pada penanganan air limbah di Jakarta. Penelitian difokuskan untuk menjawab pertanyaan apa sebenarnya kepentingan dibalik pemberian bantuan Jepang tersebut. Untuk menjabarkan data-data terkait dengan bantuan Jepang, penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Dalam menganalisis bantuan Jepang, penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan konstruktivis berlandaskan tipologi identitas. Penulis meyakini bahwa keberlangsungan penyaluran bantuan luar negeri tidak terlepas dari hubungan antara negara pendonor dan penerima bantuan yang membentuk identitas melalui interaksi aktor itu sendiri. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan konstruktivis ini maka penelitian ini berargumen bahwa pemberian bantuan Jepang dimotivasi oleh kepentingan identitas yang meliputi identitas peran sebagai negara environmentalist dan identitas kolektif pada praktik bantuan luar negeri. Dengan pemenuhan kepentingan ini maka Jepang dianggap mampu untuk memenuhi atau mengikuti norma-norma internasional, di mana negara-negara kaya harus berbagi sumber daya mereka dengan negara-negara berkembang sehingga berdampak pada peningkatan status dan reputasi Jepang di skala global. Ditinjau dari logika kepantasan, bantuan luar negeri berupa pinjaman dana lunak sejalan dengan norma internasional. Kemudian, pembuktian dari identitas kolektif menunjukkan bahwa kedua negara, yaitu Jepang dan Indonesia sering mengalami bencana alam. Dengan landasan demikian, Jepang memiliki peran penting sebagai role model untuk Indonesia dalam membangun IPAL di Jakarta.

Kata Kunci: bantuan luar negeri, konstruksi identitas, infrastruktur.

Abstract

This study discusses Japan's foreign aid in Indonesia, focusing on Jakarta's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). This research aims to reveal the genuine interests of Japan's aid. A qualitative method was applied to describe the data on Japan's loan. Further analysis was performed using a constructivist approach to determine the identity typology. This ongoing foreign aid is believed to have shaped the identity of a donor country through bilateral or multilateral interaction. This study discovered that Japan's aid has been motivated by identity interests, encompassing role identity as an environmentalist and collective identity in the foreign aid practice. By fulfilling these interests, Japan is considered capable of complying with or following international norms, where rich countries have to share their resources with developing countries to increase their identity and reputation on a global scale. The logic of appropriateness valuing Japan's loan is in line with international norms. The collective identity demonstrates that disasters have frequently stricken both Indonesia and Japan. Therefore, Japan has embedded its identity as a role model for Indonesia by installing a resilient WWTP in Jakarta.

Keywords: foreign aid, constructivism, identity construction, infrastructure.

INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure is currently a crucial concern in global development, demonstrated by many countries speeding up the efforts to maintain, build and level up their infrastructure for the long term and to be resilient. Indeed, constructing huge infrastructure costs financial magnitude. Therefore, developing countries require foreign aid from developed countries. The discussion of foreign aid in international relations is inseparable from international norms and identity construction. International relations impose rules that each actor should follow to interact. Without these rules, the world will constantly be filled with destructive conflicts. Nowadays, mobility and interaction between actors are increasingly flexible. International norms are always a reference to monitor this interaction; thus, the meaning of norms is implied in every actor's behavior. Foreign aid is one of the outcomes of these norms. Foreign aid reflects the altruistic attitude of donors as it is based on humanism. According to Lumsdaine (1993), international relations are governed by the principles and morals of the actors in the international system. These actors are influenced by domestic political institutions and the state's role in the international community.

International relations are intrinsically social, transforming international practice based on ongoing and changing moral norms. Several norms serve as the foundation and limit for each actor's behavior and actions in international relations. Foreign policy, whether based on domestic norms or as a product of international norms, invariably entails interests. (Shannon, 2017) asserted that norms restrain foreign policy choices and behavior. However, it should be noted that the meaning of norms and their obligations are often contradicted, leading to norm violation and enforcement as social constructions. Likewise, practitioners and aid agencies frequently employ the language of values to justify the foreign aid agenda. They tend to be reluctant to explicitly claim that aid is in their best interest (Lewis-Workman, 2018).

As previously stated, international norms and identity construction are inseparable. International norms influence the construction of a state's identity. International norms control social interaction in

international relations and a state's actions. Identity can distinguish between two identities, "who am I" and "who are they" (Wendt, 1999). Hence, it is significant in determining a state's interests and actions in bilateral and multilateral relations. Identity recognition profoundly forms a state's behavior and culture in a structural context in which the state acts.

Japan has claimed its identity as the most significant donor country in Asia (Donortracker, 2022) and as a country with high-quality infrastructure. Japan boasts the world's best infrastructure. The evolution of Quality Infrastructure Investments (QII) in Japan has been ongoing since post-World War II. Meanwhile, G20 promoted this concept to improve infrastructure service value and quality. Japan has entrenched the importance of quality infrastructure based on history and experience as its identity. Since World War II, Japan has implemented quality infrastructure through three phases: post-war reconstruction, economic reconstruction, and demographic change and stagnation (Kriss & Marcelo, 2021).

This research departed from a review of Japan's foreign aid in the form of a loan to Jakarta's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to unveil why Japan continues to distribute its loan in such infrastructure. The event of Japan losing its bid from China remains a big question. It demonstrates that a long period of bilateral relations between Japan and Indonesia does not affect the Indonesian Government's decision. Considering that Japan is the largest donor country and Indonesia is the biggest recipient of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), infrastructure development aid is vital to democracy development. International relations are dynamic structures. Interaction in international relations can take many forms, and the response can be either conflictual or cooperative. Therefore, foreign aid in international relations based on constructivism is discussed in this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Constructivism puts forward the dimension of ideas above the material dimension; ideas determine identity and interests. Constructivism believes that reality is a social construction. Wendt (1995) defined social

construction in international relations as the study of how interaction produces and reproduces the social structures—cooperative or conflictual—that shape actors' identities and interests. According to Wendt, social interaction can lead to mutual understanding and conflict in forming an identity. In other words, social construction is an attempt to create belief in something true through an intersubjective process and a common understanding to establish truth in the international order. Hence, the substance of interests is constructed from bilateral and multilateral cooperation interactions. Following the initial concept, the social structure is a bilateral or multilateral interaction between subjects or actors, which can take the shape of states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and individuals, each of which has the ability and need to fulfill the requirements to interact. This interaction will result in the subject's or actor's desire to develop an identity. This study utilized an identity-based constructivist concept. Identity defines the difference between one actor and another with the question "who am I" and "who are they". In this study, constructivism is classified into three bases: identity, norm, and language.

Constructivism based on identity defines identity, which implies an international system. Interactions among actors in international relations lead to identity construction. Identity is classified into four groups based on Wendt's typology: corporate, type, role, and collective. Corporate identity utilizes intrinsic identification to establish the state's characteristics that cannot be modified and need no recognition from other actors. This identity is formed by "self-organizing," "homeostatic structures" that distinguish actors as distinct entities. An example of this identity is the archipelago state as an innate trait. Type identity is an attribute attached to actors based on non-physical characteristics, such as ideology, beliefs, and history. This identity is hard to change as it is rooted inside the society in a state such as Indonesia, Asia's largest democratic country, and Japan, the world's oldest democratic state. In role identity, identity should not always run after the state's interests but also contribute to its international environment. Therefore, role identity is one social

identity that demands recognition from others. It suggests that identity emerges due to intersubjectivity among countries, not only from self-proclaim. Referring to the looking-glass self, the role identity of a state is created through its interaction with others. Reflecting on how other states perceive other countries creates the thought of description of identity to other states. Collective identity refers to the state's welfare that creates high solidarity and a sense of collective belonging in identity. These identities can be derived from ideology, equated history, or political systems.

Constructivism based on the norm, Raymond (2021) defined international norms as commonly held beliefs maintained throughout state systems concerning the appropriateness of specific foreign policy behavior. So far, international law has been viewed as a medium for expressing opinions and monitoring changes and actions of international actors. International norms cannot be formed apart from domestic norms. The values of domestic norms are often used to construct international norms through behavior and interactions between actors. Finnemore and Sikkink (1998) explained three stages in which norms circulate and are adopted by states. First, norm emergence is marked by an actor's existence as a norm entrepreneur, promoting the norm globally. Second, norm cascade, where the issue becomes more prominent in international discourse and attracts other states' attention. Third, norm internalization, the norm influences domestic politics. Other states accept the international norms based on the cognitive prior, producing norm displacement, localization, and resistance rejection.

Constructivism based on linguistics, adopts linguistics to describe an issue in international relations. Linguistics plays a role in constructing reality. Referring to Onuf (2012), linguistics serves as an instrument or facilitator in social construction, not a maker. Linguistics provides rules to determine identity, provide the option to act, and lead the actor's actions. This constructivism describes international issues through subjective perception rather than objective. An action contains elements that profoundly change linguistics into performative: locutionary act as a statement,

illocutionary act as purpose, and perlocutionary act as its response.

To address relevant findings, this study employed constructivism based on the typology identity: role and collective identities. Constructivism identity provides an instrument to observe ideational motives behind bilateral and multilateral relations. The ideational motive departs from the interaction between countries, which brings each interest. Moreover, the action is determined by the interest in constructing the identity. It is how constructivism evaluates the ideational motives behind the action through this circulation. Japan's foreign aid practice can be an object to observe its ideational motives and identity construction. More specifically, Japan's loan disbursement to Jakarta is considered bilateral aid. As a member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Japan should apply the internal norms that most members abide by in their foreign aid practices to counter global issues such as environmental threats. These norms, embedded in Japan's foreign aid policy, focus on regional environmental threats, such as those faced by ASEAN countries. Furthermore, Japan undoubtedly has the capacity and experience to manage wastewater, flood, earthquake, and land degradation with resilient infrastructure.

Furthermore, Jakarta has encountered the same issues as previously mentioned. In this case, Japan bears moral responsibility for DAC's norms and its role as a developed country. Under the typology of identity concept in constructivism, it is argued that Japan's loan to Jakarta has been underpinned by role and collective identities. Japan has shared its loan to Jakarta due to the norms of DAC imposing it to play a role in assisting the developing countries in the region and share the common understanding that it has experienced and handled the same issues successfully.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study focuses on deep analysis to unveil the motives of Japan's aid to Jakarta. In answering the research question, the author used official reports, books, websites, and any sources of Japan's Government as primary data, since Japan's Government has actively

promoted quality infrastructure intensely in the form of white papers. The author also used secondary sources from monographs, journal articles, statistical materials, websites, and other credible sources. Hence, to achieve this objective, a qualitative method with descriptive analysis was applied to describe both sources mentioned above. Descriptive analysis is focusing on word description to portray the phenomenon from both sources. The amassed data was then analyzed using a constructivist theory, which is collective identity and role identity. The specified detail about the theory is mentioned in the following subsection. The collective identity analyzes the extend of these two countries Indonesia and Japan having similarities which related to the environmental issues such as wastewater treatment in the capital city. Meanwhile, Japan had overcome the related issues successfully, but Indonesia has not yet. Therefore, collective identity can be an analytical instrument to inquiry Japan's assistance to Indonesia based on the similarities of the issues in both countries. Other second analytical instrument is role identity, as it mentioned in DAC demanding each rich and prosperity country in the region should be able to help others. By this, the researcher used these two analytical instruments to unveil Japan's aid to Indonesia

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

JAPAN'S LOAN AND THE DAC'S TRADITION

The DAC is the primary organization urging donor countries to adhere to international development norms. This organization was established in 1961 as the US action plan. The members have adopted the resolution of the joint aid effort. It is confirmed in the resolution that members share the common goal of improving the quality and quantity of development aid. The DAC traditionally has been a club of Western European with members consisting of Belgium, Canada, Germany, French, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, the UK, the US, and the EEC Committee. Other Western European countries joined from the 1960s to the 1990s, such as Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Japan was the only non-Western country in the DAC before South Korea joined in 2010 (DAC, 2019). Therefore, DAC members

share Christian traditions and norms. Providing international humanitarian assistance has become a long tradition for Western countries as it began in the early 15th century. Christian and non-Christian organizations have begun their aid overseas. The Christian tradition of providing aid overseas embraces the value of moral responsibility for developed countries to offer charity to developing countries.

The DAC has obliged its members to abide by norms (Ogawa, 2019), presenting the conditions and focusing on high-quality development as the goals. Notably, the members should comply with the agreed-upon regulation to increase social and administrative infrastructure, reduce poverty, and enhance assistance effectiveness. In maintaining its goals, the DAC has presented a peer-review system with each member to evaluate others' ODA. The restriction has been applied to states' behavior over their ODA policies and programs in targeted countries. A country will be highly valued if it follows the DAC's guidelines. Likewise, other countries deviating from the guidelines must improve their ODA to comply with DAC regulations. Referring to DAC guidelines (DAC, 2022), the members have worked on capacity development in the environment, which preference thread from pollution, degradable waste, toxic waste, miscellaneous waste, climate change, ozone layer depletion, and habitat destruction. Meanwhile, the council has recommended that its members integrate to perform further actions against this environmental threat. Japan, a member of DAC, is tied to these guidelines to work on environmental issues.

Southeast Asian countries have faced substantial regulatory challenges, such as wastewater treatment demand. These countries' technology and infrastructure are inadequate to manage rapid population growth in urban and peri-urban populations (Kamal, Goyer, Koottatep, & Amin, 2008). Japan has been involved in Southeast Asian countries, most of which are characterized by rapid economic development, urbanization, tropical climate, and high level of biodiversity (Sotelo, Satoh, & Mino, 2019). Jakarta has the second-lowest sanitation in Southeast Asia, with wastewater treatment and sewerage having a *Biochemical Oxygen Demand* (BOD) of 84 mg/l

(KPIIP, 2019). The lack of importance of municipal wastewater treatment, insufficient legislation for the wastewater treatment system, and limited government funding have all contributed to a severe situation (JICA, 2010). To depict the further condition of wastewater treatment and the sewerage system, the following discussion describes the issue of these infrastructures.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT ISSUE AND THE NEED FOR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN JAKARTA

Jakarta has encountered various problems, such as floods, solid waste, water pollution, slum areas, traffic jams, and land subsidence. One of the most severe issues was wastewater caused by the decreased water quality. Inadequate sanitation polluted 96% of surface water in Jakarta. Domestic wastewater and solid waste were not appropriately managed. These wastes were directly discharged into water bodies from residential, commercial, and industrial sources.

Meanwhile, Jakarta's piping system was insufficient, covering only 6-10% of its area. Moreover, water pollution has increased due to many households' failure to dispose of fecal sludge in septic tanks, causing leakage. Accordingly, it leads to speculation that both individual and communal communities still lack an understanding of the waste problem and do not participate in its resolution.

Jakarta Water Quality

Severe water pollution has been a primary issue in Jakarta due to urbanization and the density of rapid population growth. Water has significant implications for human activities, socio-economic development, and environmental health as an essential source. Many scientists have assessed the water quality in Jakarta, displaying damage in some areas.

Figure 1 displays the BOD of each zone, demonstrating heavily polluted water in certain areas, indicated by the high BOD. The lack of an appropriate disposal system resulted in a BOD of 84 mg/l. With this result, Jakarta has the second-worst sanitation in Southeast Asia. Indeed, WWTP in urban areas has deteriorated and stained the National Capital Integrated Coastal Development (NCICD).

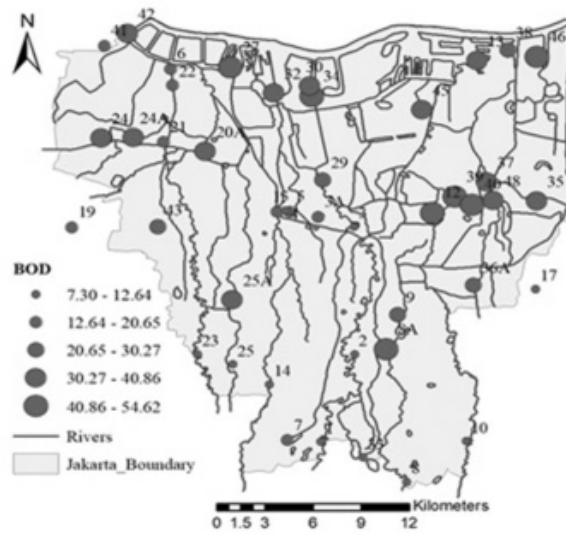


Figure 1. Assessment based on BOD (Luo et al., 2019)

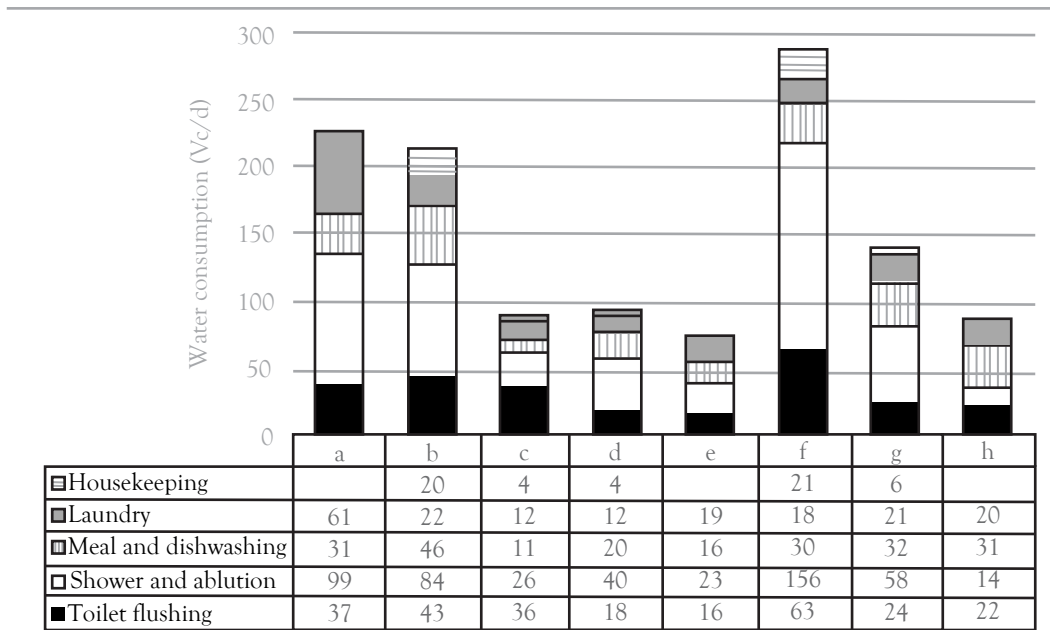


Figure 2. Water consumption in Jakarta (Widyarani et al., 2022)

Water Consumption in Jakarta

Figure 2 displays four sectors contributing to water pollution. There are two types of wastewater: black water and grey water. The discharge from toilets containing a high level of organic, nitrogen, and phosphorus is referred to as black water, whereas grey water is any wastewater that does not originate from the toilet, such as that from the sink, shower, or laundry (Ghaitidak &

Yaday, 2013). In Jakarta, where the average daily water consumption was 32 to 43 l/c/d, grey water accumulation was one to seven times that of black water, similar to other cities. The organic compound in Jakarta reached 84% of BOD. Meanwhile, the total domestic nitrogen was 14 kt/year and domestic phosphorus reached 5kt/year. It will deteriorate if the government takes no more action.

Jakarta's Wastewater Treatment and Sewerage System

In response to the situation previously described, the Indonesian Government has settled on five national development priorities, one of which is infrastructure. Jakarta has prioritized zones 1 and 6 owing to their location in the bay area and dense population while undertaking gradual construction throughout 14 zones of WWTP. The report on current sewerage and wastewater treatment in Jakarta reveals inadequate treatment. Over 400,000 people utilized solely 4% of the city's sewage system (JICA, 2018).

Japan has been involved in Jakarta's wastewater treatment. It has provided technology where the pipe jacking technique is a trenchless pipe construction that forces a pipe forward from a drive shaft at the end of a sewer to a receiving shaft. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) released the master plan (JICA, 2018a) with zone 1 in Waduk Pluit and zone 6 in Duri Kosambi. The overall pipeline in zone 1 is 89.4 km. The canal is 22.6 km long and made up of trunk sewers with diameters ranging from 900 mm to 2,200 mm. A sub-trunk in zone 1 is 66.8 km in length and 150,800 mm in diameter.

Jakarta has encountered flood and water pollution issues due to a lack of technology and finances. Impacted on the environment and human life health, this condition has imposed other countries to act based on their capacity. Japan provided its loan to this sector and dispatched professional technicians not solely based on the logic of consequences in developing Jakarta's wastewater treatment and sewerage but also based on its role, as stated in DAC regulations, to work on an environmental threat.

The Implementation of The Agreement in Jakarta WWTP

The Indonesian Ministry of Public Works continued collaborating with JICA to complete two stages: JSSP 1 (1983-1991) and JSSP Extension (1992-1995). JICA participated in the Metropolitan Priority Area (MPA) for investment and industry in Jakarta, Bogor, Depok, Tangerang, and Bekasi (Jabodetabek) area, massively

scheduled by the Government of Indonesia in 2012. The final report in the MPA unveils how the stakeholders interacted. The third meeting discussed five main MPA projects, one of which was developing a sewerage system in Jakarta. Table 1 exhibits the timeline of approaches between stakeholders through three phases of meetings, resulting in the decision to create a master plan for each of the five projects in the prioritized sectors.

Table 1 demonstrates a history of the formation master plan through an agreement between Japan and Indonesia. Another issue identified in the master plan of Jakarta is that the JICA team stated that the Indonesian government could not execute infrastructure development for 15 WWTP projects in Jakarta. This statement implies that the soft loan offered by JICA has not thoroughly helped Jakarta to improve its WWTP infrastructure. Instead, it must involve Japanese companies engaged in urban sanitation. Japan's approach in Jakarta is to realize the cooperation program and the country's internal interests.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN AID IN JAKARTA'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT: ROLE IDENTITY AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

Role Identity as an Environmentalist

Some scholars claimed that foreign aid could be employed to improve strategies and economies to influence aid-recipient countries (Kim & Shin, 2019). According to Rahmani (2018), foreign aid transfers capital, commodities, and experts to developing countries through bilateral and multilateral organizations. In contrast to the constructivist view of Lancaster (2007), history reflects the development of international norms that the governments of rich countries should provide common and concessional resources to improve the human condition in emerging countries. Hence, international norms constitute a trigger that moves awareness among countries to relate their foreign aid to the need of others. This study categorized Japan's foreign aid into several identity typologies, which Alexander Wendt has grouped. Foreign aid as a means of establishing social identity emerges from social interaction or intersubjectivity.

Table 1. Master Plan for Establishing Metropolitan Priority Area

Date	MPA Committee	Discussion Content
March 17, 2011	The first meeting of the implementing committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed on the construction of the MPA in the Jabodetabek area.
September 22, 2011	The second meeting of the implementing committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee was co-chaired by Ir. M. Hatta Rajasa, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia, and Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan (METI). • Members of the organizing committee confirmed and welcomed the vision of developing MPA as a master plan for Greater Jakarta and instructed the technical committee to complete the master plan.
October 9, 2012	The third meeting of the organizing committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee was chaired by Koichiro Gemba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Ir. M. Hatta Rajasa, Coordinating Minister for the Economy of Indonesia. • The chairman of the committee welcomed and supported the decision of the MPA master plan, determining 45 projects to be completed in 2020. Including here was the main project: the Development of a Sewerage System in Jakarta.

Note. Data collected from JICA (2012)

Through the identity typology, a state's behavior and actions in bilateral or multilateral relations can be described. Role identity is one of the most suitable approaches to explaining bilateral relations. An interaction, be it bilateral or multilateral, requires recognition of each actor's identity to get approval from the social environment. Status and role, in constructivist perspective, cannot be obtained without recognition by other actors. Despite the practice, recognized statuses and roles can be conflictual or cooperative for other actors.

Referring to its role identity, Japan declared its status as a global environmentalist at the Earth Summit in 1992. Since then, Japan's Government has delivered the vision toward its commitment and role. The commitment is represented in Japan's participation in

the *Kyoto Protocol* agenda in 2005. In the following years, Japan actively contributed to the coup of environmental issues in other countries and considered the environmental threat as its priority to be addressed, as expected in Jakarta. The current situation requires assistance from Japan to build proper wastewater treatment and a sewerage system. Considering its company and heavy machine factory operating in Jakarta, Japan has a solid reason for disbursing its loan to the Indonesian Government to establish those infrastructures. It will be a dilemma for Japan to maintain its environmentalist state. According to Dewi (2020), Japan's ODA in Indonesia has not fully impacted global and regional environmental issues, as well as the issues in the recipient countries. Therefore, Japan should at least comply with the norms obliged in the DAC, in which

most developed countries work together to address global issues.

Japan's loan disbursement to Jakarta's WWTP has implemented international norms. Foreign aid is a product inextricably linked to the agreement of the norms that become the standard behavior between actors in determining good or bad, appropriate or inappropriate. Japan's action is commendable and consistent with the norms of the international organization. International norms have intrinsic importance as the cornerstone of aid distribution since they become collective expectations of the international community. It is expected that all constituents and actors can participate. Mentioning actors in international relations, constructivism perceives that the actors can be non-profit ones. Japan has complied with the regulation by adopting the domestic norms of DAC members.

Social structure in constructivism consists of three elements: shared knowledge, material sources, and practice. These three aspects are associated with Japan's foreign aid to Jakarta's wastewater treatment. First, Japan-Indonesia engagement does not persuade security dilemmas; it fosters cooperative understanding and does not trigger conflictual relations. Second, domestic sources will be meaningful and perceived positively. Japan's ODA loan practice to other low-middle-income countries is not conflictual and skeptical. Third, bilateral relations between Japan and Indonesia are a product of long-term interaction. Both countries have shared circulating ideas, intersubjectively distributing the positive ideas and ignoring the dispute. Besides from its role, collective identity significantly contributes to constructing domestic and international identities (Tutchenner, 2013). In international relations, norms do not determine a state's actions but generate a permissive agreement over its practice. Meanwhile, collective identity based on the similarity between two countries creates a bounded relation and solidarity.

Collective Identity

This study analyzed Japan's loan in light of Japan-Indonesia's comparable identities. Both countries have experienced similar disasters and encountered

extensive devastation, such as tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, and typhoons. By then, they expanded mitigation to counter and minimize the impacts on human life and vital infrastructures. The following figure displays how often Japan and Indonesia experienced natural disasters.

Floods claimed 35% of the damage in some areas of Indonesia, while earthquakes took 26%. Indonesia's number of natural disasters (416 times) exceeded Japan's (294 times). Meanwhile, Japan had more comprehensive mitigation supported by sophisticated technology than Indonesia. Consequently, Indonesia sought help from Japan to prevent the direct impact causing massive death tolls after the disasters (Andriyanto & Lee, 2019). A similar identity has made Indonesia and Japan work together on disaster prevention (Japan Embassy, 2022). Referring to the current condition in Jakarta, wastewater treatment and the sewerage system function to counter water pollution and control floods. When rain precipitation in Jakarta arose, a flood happened due to a lack of mitigation. In this circumstance, the Indonesian Government has requested assistance from Japan to provide technical cooperation against land subsidence by constructing integrated groundwater and surface water management (JICA, 2019a). Inadequate sewerage and wastewater treatment in Jakarta were unable to accommodate precipitation of rain, causing a flood.

Meanwhile, water pollution, apparent water scarcity, and sanitation were not aligned with infrastructure support. The point is that Japan has experienced wastewater issues. Tokyo has become a congested city due to excessive urbanization. The government's ambition to concentrate economic development in Tokyo caused social problems, such as the lack of wastewater treatment facilities (Terada, 1980). Scarcity had happened for 287 days, and the government applied a policy to limit the water supply. In handling that issue, the government built a *water conservation-conscious city* (Takeuchi & Tanaka, 2020).

Regarding Japan's experience, Japan has reduced disaster impact on its infrastructure. Meanwhile, referring to the global agenda that promotes quality infrastructure, Japan has focused on it and could serve as

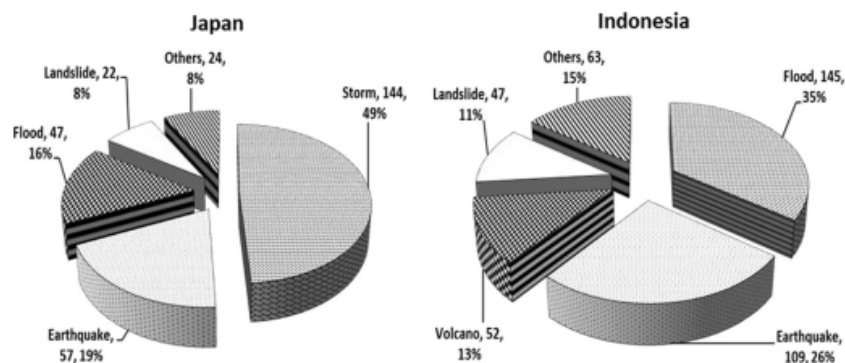


Figure 3. Natural disasters in Indonesia and Japan, 1900–2012 (Parwanto & Oyama, 2014)

a role model for Jakarta's wastewater treatment development. Further development of infrastructure capacity impacted not only society but also environmental restoration.

Reviewing Japan's foreign aid, there is an implicit meaning representing Japan's interests. Analyzing Japan's interests through role and collective identity can be a fundamental reason for an actor to construct an identity through social interaction in international relations. By sharing similar experiences and practices to improve solidarity in bilateral relations, the perception toward Japan's quality infrastructure can align with its role and collective identity as international norms based on Japan's aid practice in Jakarta. Domestic norms from the DAC, regulating every member to comply with its regulations to decrease environmental threats, have been pursued by Japan in providing loan and technical support for Jakarta's wastewater treatment.

Aside from its role, collective identity significantly contributes to constructing domestic identity, even international (Tutchener, 2013). Following the previously presented data, the collective identity between Indonesia and Japan is one reason Japan allocated its foreign aid to Jakarta's wastewater treatment. Meanwhile, Sidik Jatmika (2018) discovered that around 83% of the Indonesian youth generation had a positive image of Japan, and 90% had an excellent image of Japan's quality products. Japan has successfully constructed its identity even though it was not entirely the determinant for the Indonesian government to take action as a policymaker.

CONCLUSION

Japan underpinned its foreign aid by implementing a role identity as an environmentalist for specific reasons, especially experience and technology infrastructure, to address environmental issues and collective identity. Japan has offered quality infrastructure for long-term resilience. It is common to know that Japan has a state's capacity to assist low-middle-income countries. Notably, Japan's experience in infrastructure quality and technology could indicate how far it deserves to internalize its identity and how others receive the idea. Japan supported infrastructure in middle-income countries by boosting infrastructure construction through foreign aid in a loan. There must be an interaction between donor and recipient before the loan disbursement, leading to intersubjectivity understanding. The interaction between them might perceive an action as conflictual or cooperative.

Whereas Japan came up with today's urban infrastructure, ranking among the world's best. It did not happen in one night. In the preceding description, Japan went through three distinct phases. High economic growth, rapid urbanization, and natural disaster have transformed Japan into a different class in its urban infrastructure maturity. Measuring these phases, Japan has much experience to offer and share the knowledge as the new standard of international infrastructure. This country has the power to assist developing countries' infrastructure. Foreign aid is an action to shape its identity. Even if a country pursues reciprocity in terms of

economics, the product of its technology in respect of resilient infrastructure on environmental and human life health, in the long term, would shape its own identity. History, experience, technology, state's capability, role, and collective identity could influence actors' behavior in shaping the identity in international societies. Diffusing it through social interaction could be a global standard in international infrastructure development. Therefore, the action should align with the identity framework. Thus, Japan has consistently assisted Jakarta's wastewater treatment and sewerage system by conveying the values underlying the action to revive and strengthen the trust between Japan and Indonesia. Following the DAC regulations and working on the global environmental threat, Japan's loan to assist Jakarta in constructing WWTP is an appropriate action. In other words, Japan's loan has been motivated by its position as the world leader in quality infrastructure and setting it out as the global standard of infrastructure development.

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