



Ex-Migrant Workers Organization as Transnational Actor

ANALISIS HUBUNGAN INTERNASIONAL
SERI 4 (2017)

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The recent development of migrants life have shown that it is urgent to take into account the migrants activism and their significance in world politics. To be particular, it is their ability to influence migrant conditions transnationally. In Banyumas County, some former migrant workers have agreed to create an organization whose members are former migrant workers and migrant workers who are still active. Paguyuban Seruni, name of the organization, is very unique because the organization is able to assist its members in the region and even capable of handling the case of their members abroad, even they help their family too. Paguyuban Seruni becomes a partner of local government, national agency, international migrant worker organization and migrant workers who are still work abroad.

Paguyuban Seruni's goal is to solve the problems of migrant workers originating from Banyumas County. According to National Agency for Protection and Placement of Indonesia Migrant Workers (BNP2TKI) report from 1 January until 31 Desember 2014, Banyumas County is ranked 19th of all counties in Indonesia with 5642 migrant workers working abroad. The officials and members of Paguyuban Seruni are the former migrant workers, migrant worker, and their family.

Since its founding in 2008, Paguyuban Seruni has carried out many activities in migrant worker issues. In local level, Paguyuban Seruni in Banyumas County was recognized when they took part in making the Regional Regulation No.02 / 2015 on the Protection of Migrant Worker in Banyumas County. The team was responsible to formulate the legal protection to migrant workers from Banyumas. The team consists of academics, community and government. Becoming one of the drafting team indicates that Paguyuban Seruni has been acknowledged its existence in Banyumas County and its voice has been heard by Banyumas government. Paguyuban Seruni also requested a space which was previously not available in website owned by Department of Social, Labor and Transmigration of Banyumas County. The special space gives information about migrant worker issues, such as rules and regulations, advocacy, legal agents, among others. It is one of the successful efforts of

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paguyuban Seruni to call the attention of Banyumas government to the problems of migrant workers. Another proof of its success is the 3-fold increasing budget for handling migrant worker problems which was proposed by Paguyuban Seruni to executive and legislative of Banyumas government.

Paguyuban Seruni also offers advocacy to migrant workers by cooperating with NGOs to build *Sekolah Desa* (school of village). The students of *Sekolah Desa* are activists of migrant workers, village-level cadres and village representatives. They learn how to handle the migrant worker's problems. Besides doing advocacy, Paguyuban Seruni also has activities to improve its economic members. Paguyuban Seruni conducted training how to cultivate duck and how to process the duck (egg and duck meat) in 2013.

In national level, Paguyuban Seruni is a partner of National Agency for Placement and Protection of Indonesia Migrant Worker (BNP2TKI). Through the community, this government agency gives goats to the migrant workers for breeding purpose. The offspring will be given to other migrant workers who have not got the goat. This program has been successfully improving the economic condition of Paguyuban Seruni members. Also, Paguyuban Seruni did a research about Children Left Behind funded by Tifa Foundation. The community made a module about how to raise the children whose parents work abroad. Moreover, Paguyuban Seruni joined Indonesia Migrant Worker Network (Jaringan Buruh Migran) in 2014.

In global level, by using the internet, Paguyuban Seruni assists migrant workers who were exposed to the problems abroad. By leveraging advances in technology, Paguyuban Seruni has an account on social media and websites that can be accessed by migrant workers. The website (<http://www.seruni.or.id/>) and Seruni Banyumas facebook have accepted some cases of migrant workers abroad. Paguyuban Seruni builds network with migrant worker organizations in other countries to solve migrant worker's problems. Until now, it has solved a total six cases, while the rests are still in process (Wijayanti, 2016). Their activities which influence the life of the migrant workers represent their transnational role.

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