

# KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH BRIN ON RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN INDONESIA

## Q&A Session Notes

*Purnululu Theatre, Australian Embassy Jakarta*

### Session 1

*Annisa Fitria, German Embassy*

- 1) Are foreign researchers coming to Indonesia for official meetings, such as conference, science meeting, arrangement with onsite partners also need research permit? Do they need to come here with complete documents/permission? Can they apply visa on arrival for official meetings, etc.?**

Answer: (Pak Wihadi, Immigration)

There are two types of visas, namely visit visa and limited stay visa. If the foreign researchers are here not for the research activities, but for the meetings for research preparation, they can use visit visa or visa on arrival. Based on a circular letter of the acting Director General of Immigration at the Ministry of Laws and Human Rights, currently visa on arrival can be used for meetings, buying product for investment, and attending an international conference, but there is a different visa for limited stay for research activity purposes (Visa Index C315, temporary stay visa for training or conduct scientific research).

- 2) To whom the data should need to be handed over? What about the joint rights to use the data beyond of the research project?**

Answer (Pak Ayom):

The primary data should be handed over directly to BRIN from the data owner. If the primary data is handed over in the form of physical/specimen, the data owner should hand them to The Directorate of Scientific Collection before they are being registered and converted digitally for their upload to the repository. If the primary data is already in digital form, the data owner should submit them to the repository service (by creating an account, data verse, and upload all the data set files). The Repository Team will coordinate with Ibu Tri's team to manage and supervise the foreign researcher to use the repository.

With regards to joint rights to use data beyond the research project, it is fully depending on the data owner, as they will define the level access of the data. If any external user would like to access the data, they can request access to the data, and granted by the data owner after a communication with, confirmation and agreement between the two parties.

*Claudia Stoicescu, Monash University Indonesia*

- 3) On the status of foreign researchers and professors who are working at Monash University Indonesia and already have KITAS to be here. Will these researchers still require research permits in addition to ethical clearance?**

Answer (Bu Tri):

The case of Monash is unique because it is categorised as international/private education institutions that employs researchers from different nationalities. Therefore, given they are foreign researchers conducting research in Indonesia, they still need to obtain foreign research permits – or their partner organisation need to obtain the ethical clearance for the particular research.

- 4) Given that Monash University Indonesia is legally registered as a private university in Indonesia, do we also need to the additional document, such as guarantee letter from another local partner or the Monash University Indonesia itself can be considered as the local institution? Or will they be treated similarly to the Indonesia researchers going through the ethical clearance process?**

Answer (Bu Tri):

Under Article 76 of Law 11/2019 on Sisnas Iptek on the obligation, a foreign researcher has to collaborate with Indonesian/local researcher. Therefore, it is strongly suggested for this foreign researcher to engage with a local partner outside of Monash University Indonesia.

- 5) *Are all different ethics committees in BRIN now operating and accepting/open for ethical clearance application?***

Answer (Bu Tri):

BRIN has five ethical commissions that are fully operational starting this month. They are now able to accept and open for ethical clearance application for multidisciplinary sectors

- 6) *There are some potential concerns among academic institutions in Indonesia that the clearance process could do censorship to politicised topics. How does BRIN handle research topics that maybe politically sensitive and what are the protocols for this issue?***

Answer (Bu Tri):

In principle, we leave the decision to the ethics committee which are an independent body to endorse all research topics including highly sensitive research topics. In most cases, the ethics committee placed more emphasised in assessing the research methodologies/instruments more than the topics itself and make an objective judgement on whether it is sufficient to be carried forward and its implications when it is published.

#### ***Paskal Kleiden, INKLUSI Program***

- 7) *How will the Government of Indonesia ensure the safety and privacy of primary data submitted by researchers including transcript and recording of the interviewees? Is the submission mandatory or optional?***

Answer (Pak Ayom):

The data submission to the Gol is mandatory, but BRIN will guarantee the data security which is defined in the deposit/cooperation agreement. BRIN provides a secure services and system, even BRIN cannot access the data.

## **Session 2**

#### ***Lidewyde Berckmoes, Netherlands Embassy***

- 8) *How will BRIN maintain the quality of the repository while abiding the regulation of not accessing the data? Can a foreigner be the owner of data? How will BRIN tackle hackers attack and protect the confidentiality and privacy of the research respondents' data?***

Answer (Pak Ayom)

BRIN maintains the quality of the repository by adhering to the existing regulations on data privacy and data access. Based on the Law No. 11/2019, the three main actors when generating research, namely the funder, the researcher and the institutions will have the full authority of managing the data that they have the produced.

Regarding data security, BRIN took note on the input that there is a need for special steps to secure the data. Currently, National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN) is the agency which is responsible to guarantee the Indonesian government data security. BRIN will further assess the need for a special encryption or secure line for its database and will try to integrate this in the technical guidelines.

- 9) ***The process of applying both research permit and visa is lengthy, and it seems that researchers need to spend about a month in Jakarta to wait for all permits. Are there any efforts to shorten the process to make it easier and cheaper for researchers who would like to work outside of Jakarta?***

Answer (Bu Tri):

In the last two years, BRIN and Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) have made some efforts to ease the process of applying research and stay permit. Both agencies are currently discussing on the way to increase the interoperability of both systems so that once a researcher acquired BRIN research permit, the system in MoHA is alerted and begin the process of issuing the SPP (*Surat Pemberitahuan Penelitian*) or Research Notification Letter. In addition to these efforts, BRIN will soon have the bilingual website with English version to make the process more understandable by foreign researchers.

***Claudina, DESE, Australian Embassy***

- 10) ***What kind of research that do not need ethical clearance?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

Once a researcher is applying for research permit in BRIN website, there is a self-assessment questions that the researcher must answer. Based on this, the researcher could determine whether their research need ethical clearance process or not.

- 11) ***Some universities in Indonesia (PTN-BH) already have their own ethical clearance processes and claimed that they do not need ethical clearance from BRIN. Is this true? Can foreign researcher use these clearance process provided by their local university partners in Indonesia?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

BRIN encouraged universities to have their own ethic committee and BRIN can acknowledge the result of their ethical clearance process. Under Law No.11/2019 regulation, ethics commission outside of BRIN **shall register to BRIN system first**, so that the applicants can choose any of the registered ethic committees. The mechanism of the registration is still under preparation.

***Simon Ernst, Australian Embassy***

- 12) ***If researchers would like to take multiple short-term research-oriented trips to Indonesia over the period of a year, any suggestions on how they can manage the permit process?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

Unfortunately, we have not yet developed a specific process for short-term research. This issue will be discussed with Directorate General of Immigration. The current ethical clearance is based on the activity, not based on the length of the research itself. Some of the services are already online (ITAS, SPP), so it will ease the process and save time.

### **Session 3**

***Enda, Australian Embassy***

- 13) ***Is there any exception to the material transfer regulation, e.g., the case of vaccine development for genomic sequencing, where some data and materials needs to be analysed outside Indonesia?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

The regulation states that if the test can be done in Indonesia, the test should be done in Indonesia. However, there is a special situation that we faced during the pandemic. There is an open data, and every country can

submit and use the data for genomic sequencing. For this reason, we can give exception for the case of pandemic. So, it is on a case-by-case basis.

- 14) *Our program usually has subsidiary agreement with relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture. We'd like to know whether BRIN have socialized about this research permit with the ministries, and which directorate should we consult with when we develop our agreement?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

BRIN have socialized this procedure to the other ministries. We are trying to have inter-ministerial meeting at least twice a year. However, if there is something that needs to be clarified with us in between those time, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

***Nadia, UK Embassy***

- 15) *Regarding the banning of five researchers by the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, will it affect if one of the five researchers apply for the research permit or visa to do field work in Indonesia?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

Based on the regulation in Indonesia we acknowledged that there is specific permit managed by different ministries. For now, we do not have a single umbrella yet for sectoral research. We are still in close consultation with relevant Ministries on their own approaches and processes.

BRIN have an independent ethic commission and we cannot interfere with the result. We just took note and convey the message to the applicants whatever their decision is.

- 16) *There may be more researchers coming to Indonesia to research on national parks. In this case, the permit issued by BRIN possibly be overlapping with the permit issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as they oversee activities national parks. Are BRIN coordinate with the MoEF about this issue, and other ministries on other sectoral issues?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

Currently we do not have a special coordination meeting yet with related ministries on the permit related issues. However, BRIN will have an informal coordination meeting with related ministries this week to discuss on permit-related issues. This meeting is planned to be held 2-3 times a year to build good solution for the existing problems.

***Andi Muhandi, Australian Embassy***

- 17) *If an Indonesian citizen works in a bimolecular institute in Australia, and he would like to do research in Indonesia, does he need a foreign research permit?***

Answer (Bu Tri)

This depends on the condition. If the Indonesian citizen works in a research institute in Australia, this means that the funding of the research came from foreign funding. In this case, he/she will need a research permit when they work in Indonesia

Answer (Pak Ayom)

The Indonesian citizen who worked for foreign research institutes shall also do the data deposit at BRIN (primary data). It is encouraged for researchers to upload their primary data into BRIN repository.