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Local Economic Development And Triple Helix : Lesson Learned From Role of Universities In Higher Education Town of Jatinangor, West Java, Indonesia

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Abstract

University as one of the Local Economic Development (LED) agents have ample space for local community to formulate a specific form of LED, that is elaborated from development from below (bottom-up) and from above (top down). This article describes the terms of role universities play in LED program, forms and mechanisms of interaction the triple helix in program of LED, as well as the positive impact the university's role in LED that can support regional development planning that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of local communities. This article also describe LED which accommodates the role played by universities in a planned manner in the utilization of assets will create a local initiative that integrates with the location of the university.

This study was exploratory, through participation observation based on a few cases in higher education town. Jatinangor is university town acts as stimulator of regional development, strategic regions, science park area, agglomeration of the universities, as well as the collective action of society (local forums). Triple helix and the LED at Jatinangor are important role in driving local initiatives development through collective action that synergize and integrate the interests of community and region.

This study found that the university plays a role in LED based on social glue among universities, active actor in interaction, and behavior of university leadership institute in support of LED. The findings support the explanation that the success of collaboration depends on cohesivity, leadership, mutual understanding, trust, information, and transparency process. Cohesivity of interaction is based on the recognition and fulfillment needs of the actors (individual interest) and interest of the institution (institutional interest), which led to the social glue among the actors involved as well as among agencies.

Interaction amongs actors are process of social interaction and collective learning that gives rise to collective decision-making process for the sustainability of LED program. These process are helping to solving problems, meeting the needs of the region, and disseminating of innovation. Universities that proactive and responsible participation in the planning process will drive local resources, business development services, local needs and socio-economic problem-solving environment around the campus, so its existence to receive recognition from the government, communities and businesses in sustainable development of region

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1. Introduction

Local Economic Development (LED) is a concept development plan that emphasizes the collective action of movement to develop the local economy through efforts to mobilize and utilize local resources, institutional empowerment, and cooperation networks. Local Economic Development (LED) be alternate for the development of the region, by trying to put human beings as objects and subjects of development, formulated the basic human needs, focus on human dignity as actors of development, local economic empowerment, community involvement, and used to principles of sustainable development.

Disequilibrium effort of regional and local development has stimulated local actors looking for a local identity as well as formulate a strategy to react to the local economy to face the competition in national and international. LED also requires local communities have the skills and knowledge self-sufficient in dealing with external dependence (Cox, 1995; Abbot, 1996; Danson, 1997; Nel, 2001; Frenkel, 2001; Rodriguez, 2001, Gertler et al, 2004, Ozcan , 2000; Slaughter, 2004). Within the framework of self-reliance, then the active involvement of local actors in solving local problems and local development interests of synergy is needed. The position of university in LED is strategic, because university is a component determinants and development agency, which can accelerate economic growth and an engine of the economy (Blakely, 1989; Porter, 1999; Blair, 1990; Bingham, 1994). However, the study and practice of LED tended to emphasize the role of government, whereas the role of universities as an element of innovation systems and development agencies is also crucial in building, influencing, and creating conditions for LED. LED-based science and technology that put the university as the main actor is still limited. The role of higher education is very important and strategic role in LED but still rare studies emphasize the university/college as the main focus of study in LED.

Existence of university in triple helix approach and in LED, especially in an area in developing countries needs to be understood in depth. Order forms and processes of interaction becomes explicit, it is necessary to uncover and interpret the conditions of the various relationships, networking, and involvement actors in LED. Local initiatives can come from many sources and actors, to play a role in promoting local economic development. Thus, understanding what the conditions that foster awareness of and willingness to interact in LED university will be very important.

Universities as agents of change and agent of development accelerate economic growth and local driven. In fact, the existence of the university in an area does not automatically associated with LED. The existence of the university in a region does not guarantee an increase in the welfare of local communities. Position and function of universities is often positioned just as the strategic provider of science and technology and labor (educated), or the university as a complement LED. University does not enter explicitly play a role in LED. Universities should be focus of study in the LED, especially the university is the agent or actor who has ability to provide science and technology, overcoming addiction, solve problems, and the synergy of interests.

In LED, the process of participatory planning and public decision-making required to meet collectively shared interests and common services that are useful. Harmonization, empowerment and partnership networks among actors (government, local governments, businesses, communities, and universities) is a principle and an important step in developing the local economy (Coffey and Polese, 1984; Bartik, 1999). Interaction among actors will benefit the region in solving local problems, the formulation of regional development act together, facilitate decision making, and networking and system innovation. University can be a basis of development in order to develop the strength of local interests. Universities as a source of innovation and building community capacity is an agent of change that bridges the effort to fulfill the public interest and care with respect to relevance to local needs and external opportunities. Research questions posed in this study were (1) what role the university requirements in LED program, (2) how the structure and mechanism of interaction in the process of university cooperation program LED, (3) how the impact and role of universities in LED action.

Jatinangor region as the area that the focus of study was chosen based on the consideration that the existence of the Higher Education Town (HET) to act as a stimulator of regional development, strategic regions, agglomeration of the university, as well as the collective action of society (local forums). LED is important in considering HET Jatinangor Jatinangor has the potential of natural resources, social, economic, physical support for the development of the region.

2. State-of-the-art

The concept of Triple Helix (Etzkowitz, 1997) suggests a reciprocal relationship government agencies, industry, and universities at different levels within the space of knowledge, consensus space, and space innovation. Knowledge space is defined as a focus of regional innovation environment in which the different actors to improve environmental conditions. Reciprocal relationship among institutions (academic, public, private) that generate ideas and strategies in the "triple helix" is called the space of consensus; further efforts to realize the goals of space knowledge and consensus with the strengthening of private and public relations (a combination of capital, technical knowledge and business) is called the innovation space. Several studies link the concept of university relations and space, industrial, and government (Etzkowitz, 2000, 2001; Lester, 2001; Witten, 2003; Florida, 1999; Niosi and Bas, 2001) describes the provision of basic knowledge and innovation, the drive for knowledge can be used, adopted and developed. This concept is adaptive, generative and development with economic-oriented knowledge based. Some of the instruments used in the application is resources mobilization, collaboration companies, the capitalization of knowledge, incubation, new business, science and technology parks and research centers. This concept is more oriented to economic development and efforts that emphasize the importance of industry, universities, and government at the national/macro. This concept does not pay attention and consider the community as a key component (not a complement component) in the interaction, where the community is the subject of the LED.

Synergies asset utilization for local development (Mabin, 1995; Rip, 2002; Gatrell and Neil, 2001; Gupta, M Das, et al, 2004; Mathie et al, 2003; Trani, 2002 ;) explained the need synergy actors, regions, activities, and policy synergies from outside to inside (the outside in) and asset-based strategies that can make connections from inside to outside (the inside out). Some of the instruments used in the application is resource mobilization, networking areas, clusters, formal and informal associations. This concept is oriented towards community-driven.

LED is a collective action for efforts to plan and develop the region. This concept will be more complete by incorporating elements of the collaboration of various actors that play a role in boosting local economic activity. The role of universities in local economic development means to interact directly with the local university and there is something that results from such interactions. This situation suggests that the role of universities in the triple helix model of LED as describing the lateral relationship the university and hybrid organizations, communities and governments. This relationship led to urge the university to contribute in the innovation system and plays a role in local economic development naturally. Region and the existence of the university into a single unit, are complementary and have a dependency and connectedness to one another. Cooperation with public universities to encourage the various initiatives LED, since the university merged and united together with the surrounding community in a partnership to solve a problem. University with the community work together in making decisions to revitalize the economy, create jobs, and build health cities or regions.

Strengthen linkages universities with local interests, placing the university is not as an ivory tower, no longer solely or supplements. University becomes a key component in the process and as an important instrumentation of LED, so universities play a positive role to bridge the public interest for develop the business sphere, economic growth, community empowerment, and local initiatives.

3. Methodology

This study used a qualitative approach to seeking the truth through discovery of the essence of something, to put a human as research instrument that is responsive and adaptive. Conducted participant observation approach, the researcher is directly involved as active agents and sources of information, participate actively participating in learning process directly, or be passive recipients of information, as well as melting together researchers in the research process as an insider and outsider simultaneously. Case study approach is expected to unveil and explore the phenomenon and context that includes a focus on the role of universities in LED.

With this approach the researcher is expected to be able to understand the processes, and the local context that relates to the role of universities in LED. Framework role of universities in the LED be operated, then focus of study include cohesivity and leadership, the kind of university participation in the working together, and the impact of the role of the university.

This study was exploratory, through participation observation based on a few cases in higher education town. Jatinangor is university town acts as stimulator of regional development, strategic regions, science park area, agglomeration of the universities, as well as the collective action of society (local forums). Triple helix and LED at Jatinangor are important role in driving local initiatives development through collective action that synergize and integrate the interests of community and region. HET of Jatinangor has potential of natural resources, social, economic, physical assets for its development of the region.

There are three case studies that were examined, namely business development services (BDS), business incubators, university forum / culture of science and technology parks (CSI Park / TBIT). BDS is a specific case in the center of development objectives, cluster, and business development services that carried out by university and comes from government programs. Business incubators show specific activity of university for business development of community, and CSI Park / TBIT is an activity that initiated by the universities collectively involving government, business, and society.

Triangulation of sources on the role of universities in each case is done by checking data that obtained through sources from academia, local government officials, community leaders, NGO activists, activists Jatinangor Forum, and the local community to interact / engage in LED activities undertaken with the university. The information requested obtained his agreement to the sources of data, or sources of information (member check). In line with this, also conducted further discussion to the relevant data sources to ensure that the data can be considered correct and his point of view which may vary. In addition, conducted interviews and observations are repeated at different times and situations, so as to obtain accurate data.

4. Findings and interpretation

This study found that the university plays a role in LED based on social glue among universities, active actor in interaction, and behavior of university leadership institute in support of LED. The findings support the explanation that the success of collaboration depends on cohesivity, leadership, mutual understanding, trust, information, and transparency process. Cohesivity of interaction is based on the recognition and fulfillment needs of the actors (individual interest) and interest of the institution (institutional interest), which led to the social glue among the actors involved as well as among agencies. The involvement of the university can increase entrepreneurial capacity, stimulate business opportunities, increase production capacity, providing access to information and markets, and assist in solving local problems.

The universities cohesivity be based on efforts to gain recognition and needs of actors involved themselves (individual interest) and interest of the institution (institutional interest). This situation indicates weakness of social ties to local universities, so that the low effectiveness of a LED. This situation is essential in order to maintain social bonds LED HET stakeholders. The study supports the concept that a sense of comfortability, security, and social glue universities and the government, society, and business. Universities are participated in the process of the local resource planning, business development services, the meeting local needs and socio-economic problem-solving environment around the campus, created information access, as well as the provision and dissemination of innovation.

Interaction dynamics of the relationship among actors brought critical attitude and openness each others, capacity building, experience sharing, resource sharing, and dialogue in LED planning process. Interaction among actors is a social glue and collective learning processes that gave rise to collective decision-making process for the sustainability of LED. This process is helping to solving problems, meeting the needs of the region, and dissemination of innovation.

This study found that LED has a variation, even evolved. Development center of innovation in a region is an instrument and strategy of LED, while the university is an instrument of innovation development centers that

provide considerable contribution to the development of the region. Thus the interaction of universities in developing the local economy is crucial to efforts to LED. What's more local initiatives directly related to the location of the university is located, so that local initiatives require universities play a positive role in LED,

The success of a local initiative is determined by the joint efforts communities, government, business, and academia in developing innovative solutions. The initiatives to develop local economy makes interpersonal relationships among the actors that interact in LED. It is regarding involvement of interpersonal relationships, communication process, ability to relate, establish mutual expectations, understanding, trust and empathy. Interpersonal relationships among actors LED will also affect the care of the actors involved in the efforts of conflict resolution, facilitation, group dynamics, participation in problem solving and decision making, establishing working groups, and appreciation of each stage and the results of activities carried out.

Involvement, awareness and motivation is an element of collaboration as well as a condition of the university would play a role in LED. Universities will collaborate in local initiatives to take into account the clarity of position and goals of the LED scheme, the availability of funding, and activity initiation process. Interaction actors in LED is a process of collaboration and communication, so the relationship is quite important to determine the effectiveness of interpersonal interaction. This relationship among actors regarding participation that is continuous or follow the activity as long as possible, access to resources (time, financial, administrative, information), and the joint work among actors.

In the context of HET Jatinangor, universities participating in local forums, provides technical assistance and financial support, and seek legitimacy and legality of the policies that affect the development of HET area and stimulate local economic activity, include transportation, housing, SME's, and business development services. LED planning process collectively embody interaction among actors of universities, businesses, and government (local, province, and center government). These interactions build synergy relationships among institutions for local economic development, although in the case Jatinangor KPT is still embryonic.

The study explained that the planning process is a process of dialogue among actors of LED programs. University interaction with government, business and society is a social and collective learning processes. This interaction supports the efforts to use local resources and ensure continuity of LED activity for the common good fulfillment of the interests of universities, governments, businesses, and communities. University's role as analyst, organizer, mediator, advocator, activist, providers, and educators in every stage of LED. Interactive planning process can assist raise self-reliant behaviour (self help), mutualistic scheme, and trust as the 'radius of trust' as stated Fukuyama (1995). Local forum be basis for collective activities of a number of community members (ABGC) bonded to each other and thought together to contribute to each other. Local forum is a miniature community that share responsibility for improving the region and encourage local economic activity.

LED planning process is played by the university has produced and impact community capacity building in order to develop business activities, economic growth, business networking, and proactive participation of university in decision-making process for regional economic development. Dynamics of interacting actors in LED have impact for behaviour changes on understanding and experience of the actors who involved and university institutions assist solving local problems. The University also role as instrument of develop capability of local resources through collaboration and partnerships that impact benefits for business development, economic empowerment of communities, and development of science and knowledge

LED activities undertaken to benefit the university's development of local capacity by facilitating education and training, technology deployment, business networking, network information, network marketing, although the extent of cooperation for the sake of short-term goals. This study indicates that the impact of the university's role in the LED at HET Jatinangor as follows :

1. Public participation process in LED takes time and space that needs seriously and patiently action of all perpetrators.
2. Synergies asset utilization for local development requires a synergistic activity among actors and both individuals, groups, and institutions.

3. Policies and strategies both from outside to inside (the outside in) and from the inside out (the inside out) of HET area that pursued in synergized of LED programs will shape collective action of community-based development.
4. LED-oriented community-driven instruments be used to mobilize resources more effectively and enhance local capacity and networking.
5. The role of university with local community accelerate development of HET and encourage economic development, transfer knowledge and innovation, strengthen movement of local people, establish local organization, improve of corporate culture, stimulate business development services.

5. Conclusions

The success of local initiatives be determined by joint efforts of the community, government, business, and academia in developing innovative solutions to address local socio-economic problems. This research has also contributed in the formulation of the active form of universities engagement with other actors and public participation in the development of HET.

Activity of the actors involved and the sustainability of LED program requires active participation, caring, and sincerity led universities and research institutions dedicated to the community is continuously and consistently. The successful collaboration with the university community and the government depends on leadership, mutual trust, information, and the process of openness, as stated Chrislip and Larson (1994).

LED planning process actors collectively, realize the interaction with the public universities, businesses, and governments to build synergistic relationships for local economic development, although in the case Jatinangor HET is still embryonic. The partnership the university community, business and government to help the legitimacy of the existence of a local forum. Local forum to bridge the communication actors and institutions that synergize with the interests of the academic activities of local community services. Interaction actors in a local forum to bring the dynamics of the relationship of the critical attitude and openness, capacity building of actors, share experiences, share resources, and dialogue LED planning process.

6. Policy implications and directions for further research.

Regional and national policy should accommodate the university's active role in every format of the policy as an integral part of the urban and sectoral development plans. Local government (district and provincial) should actively involve the university in every sectoral policy and territorial planning that relates social, economic, physical at a HET. Regional policy should provide flexibility to the LED program that focuses on local community groups and demonstration effect and diffusion of innovations directly to local communities that build networks of cooperation (among sector and region).

The process of formulation and implementation of strategies played by universities in LED. LED is a process of social transformation and economic development and dissemination of innovation, so that the interaction should be included in the agenda ABGC (Academic, Business, Government, Community) in LED strategy. Catalysis is carried out in universities ABGC interaction requires resources (financial, time, people, skills) which is continuous and consistent, so planning of LED at HET must be included in planning university (Master Plan of University) and local planning documents (local public medium-term and long-term plan) through in clear stages. Planning is openly communicated and known of entire community of ABGC. Local forum for media interaction ABGC need to be given space in the policy areas that will benefit all parties.

HET of Jatinangor is nodal region, so policy requires adjustment criteria of their development of the region by incorporating components of the active role of the university formally. Lodging in HET of Jatinangor element, it is very important and urgent to give the universities an opportunity to play an active role in regional development

planning system which is directly related to the development of urban areas Jatinangor and institutional development.

This research is a study of local deep search, combined with local characteristics (Jatinangor) and limited use of case studies. Attempts to replicate the study at different sites requires a participatory research by exploring case studies in the areas of local economic development varies according to the more typical locations. Replication of similar studies for other areas need to be taking into consideration the characteristics of location (agglomeration universities) and the type of LED program.

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