MARTIME CULTURE AND LOCAL WISDOM

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I. INTRODUCTION

Maritime Culture and local wisdom are 2 matters that adhered to life of Indonesia people, particularly for they who stay in areas adjacent to sea. Particularly, both matters for Indonesian people are related to 2 objective factors that adhered to their life, that is geography or more accurately is territorial and history between these two factors occurs interaction that shapes or affects appear and development of maritime culture and local wisdom.

II. COMPREHENSION

1. Before we discuss 3 factors abovementioned, it is appropriate that in this context we restrict in advance comprehension of maritime culture and local wisdom meaning. Culture, originated from words of moral and capacity, moral means noble or glorious conduct, not otherwise that has character of destructive. When this activity in associated with maritime, such maritime can be seen as location for life and viability. Accordingly, efforts or activities to utilize sea as “lebensraum” in the form of settlement by sea, sea traffic, fishing, cultivation, trade, transportation, etc., were born.

2. Awareness against various benefits of maritime for life and viability, and knowledge restriction and ability to see sea that so gigantic are seen from energy/power view in the form of wave, natural resource that are contained inside, and beauty that is reflected when sun will shine and approach sunset and in full moon. It raises question, who creates it, who controls it, etc. Such variety of local wisdom are united by geography environment where they live from such ability restriction. In Indonesia, this variety is reflected in various myth legend, believe, custom, obeyed habit. Such as in Papua, libation to ondoafi for fishing result, in Bali has offerings, in Java has Ngarung, even there is believe that Indies Ocean which is located in southern of Java also referred to as southern sea under control of Kanjeng Ratu Kidul, as one and only master. In Sulawesi, beside Amanagappa, which is a rule on accident concerning boat utilization that among other things gives sign, that to be boat crew, must pull/push boat when boat is withdrawn into the sea initially.

3. After comprehension concerning maritime culture and local wisdom, we continue to discus objective factors of geography and history and interaction between two factors.

III. INTERACTION IMPAC OF OBJECTIVE FACTORS

1. Prior to talk about Indonesia in meaning of Unity State of the Republic of Indonesia which is geographically constitutes one unity state, it is better to remember what has been described by world philosopher Plateau, then known from research result during 30 years by Prof. Arsyo Santos, that Indonesia is believed as Atlantic, we cite
partly (see book of Abblaite page 2 and 3). Atlantic is described by Plateau as ‘heaven’ with tropical climate and full of beauty and wealth: extensive lands and beautiful agricultural field, valley and mountains, precious stones and metals from any types; fragrant woods, perfumery, and plunging materials that have high value; plenitude rivers, lakes and irrigation; the most productive agriculture; gold scattered palaces, silver wall, and fortress; elephant and all type of wild animals, and so forth. In Ice Age, when almost of spheres on earth surface were still covered by snow or even dried off as a result of no rain, that made impossibility for civilian to develop, the only sphere that gives characteristic as mentioned by Plateau could be existed was Equator sphere. One more time, according to Prof. Santos, if we contemplate this condition thoroughly, it is easy for us to realize that most of this wealth are specific to East Indies, particularly Indonesia. Indonesia is place where the astonished “island of spice” (Moluccas or Maluku) is lied. From such citation, it is not surprisingly that in Indonesia, since yore, has had maritime culture and local wisdom. Indonesia with geographic position lies on intersection of world road, according to term from Prof. Arsyo Santos, splits Asia continent and Australia continent, and splits Indies Ocean and part of Pacific Ocean, with natural riches that are contained on land, sea and air and their beauty is so interesting foreign countries to come with various motives.

2. The Coming of Outsider

a) Prior to the coming of outsider to Indonesia, local kingdoms had been established and had orderly arrangement concerning constitutional system, governmental, trade, agriculture, transportation, etc.

For kingdom where its territory adjacent to sea, geography position and condition and natural riches and beauty that are possessed by Indonesia constitute traction for outsider to visit Indonesia and encouraged by various motives, from Asia there are India’s people, China and Arab with trade culture and religion motives.

b) After that, people from western such as Portuguese, England, French, and Dutch were encouraged by trade motive, that was, seeking spices in Maluku Island which at that time spices price in Europe was more expensive than gold. Their coming created interaction between entrepreneurs in Indonesia (King/Sultan) and corner parties and certainly, had influences against maritime culture and local wisdom in Indonesia. It is necessary to propose in context of these maritime culture and local wisdom, the existence of big kingdoms prior to the coming of western people such as Samudera Pasai in NAD, Sriwijaya Kingdom in South Sumatera and their heroic sailors conquered Indies Ocean until western hemisphere of Africa (Madagascar) . One more big kingdom that was centered in East Java, that was, Majapahit. Under King Hayam Wuruk and Great Chief Minister Gajah Mada had issued Palapa Oath that contained oath for not to eat Palapa fruit prior to uniting entire Nuswantara Tan Hamusti Palapa, lamun durung puma hamusti Nuswantara11. Under this great willpower Majapahit was able to be the biggest kingdom with its territory more than Unity State of the Republic of Indonesia now, including Temasik (now, Singapure), Malay Peninsula, southern of Laos, and Cambodia, and southern of Philippines. Success of Majapahit was supported by 2 orientation matters in developing state into archipelago state and maritime culture. Because it was
impossible to unite great archipelago state without having maritime and maritime culture vision.

Furthermore, when people from West came, at that time in Indonesia had stood local kingdoms adjacent to sea such as Sultanates of Ternate, Tidore, Goa, Mataram, etc. The coming of people from West which was initially only would seek spices in Maluku Island grew to be willingness to conquer trade stripe on sea between Maluku and Europe, which was then grew bigger by founding harbors and finally colonizing Indonesia. The coming of Western People, particularly, Dutch had raised reactions from King/Sultan and caused wars such as Bugis kingdom in Makasar with Sultan Hasanudin, Sultan Agung Hanyokro Kusuma, etc., had affected maritime order that was existed previously with production of various International agreement between King/Sultan and Company’s Troops of Dutch (VOC).

To secure interest of profitable spices trade, Dutch had issued regulation concerning Forced to Cultivate, that forced Indonesian People to cultivate plants which were profitable in Europe. This was “Cultuur Stelsel”. Together with implementation of this policy, propaganda which was originated from thought that Indonesia was agriculture country was proposed. Indonesia People were good farmers that had been internalized continuously with systematic method. Background of this thought was to change existing maritime culture and had outward looking characteristic, into agriculture alias inward looking. Therefore, Indonesia People had no longer desires to interact with foreign countries that could jeopardize dominance of Dutch. This agriculture practice has been still adhered to the rulers in Indonesia until now. Ironically, in Java island, although that agriculture practice has been internalized long enough, however remainders of maritime culture still alive and can be met in use of term “iwak” for “fish” for all type of side dish as companion for eating rice. Whatever type of side dish (meat, chicken, etc.) referred to as “iwak”. In North and south coast of Java, ceremony or offerings are still met, that describe reward, believe or influence of “sea master” to request blessing at the time of fishing or huge wave.

IV. BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENCE AGE

1. Approaching the fall of Dutch Indies administration, “Maritime Krigen Ordonantie” was issued to arrange sea territory wide in each island with 3 miles and beside that, there were sea connecting one island to other island with status of high sea. Maritime culture and local wisdom prevailed for only local environment. On August 17th 1945 of Independence Proclamation, which was proclaimed as the territory of Unity State of the Republic of Indonesia was entire former territory of Dutch Indies, including ‘West Irian” (now called as Papua de West Papua) however Dutch still had desire to rule, even though there had been Round Table Conference (RTC) agreement in 1949 between Republic of Indonesia and Dutch and Dutch agreed to hand over West Irian to Indonesia, however, this was realized in 1963 through UNTEA.

From entire described above, it is clear that the coming of foreigners into Indonesia with various motives and their actions have impact against tidl of maritime culture and local wisdom. However, one certain matter, whatever
interaction occurs, objective factor of geography can not vanish existing maritime culture and local wisdom. The fact raises impact on the tidal of maritime culture in Indonesia.

V. UNCLOS

On December 13th 1957, Indonesia Government issued Government Announcement concerning Indonesia Waters that changed Maritime Kringen Ordonantie, as adjustment action against State Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Principally, implementing an Indonesia Principle as Archiphilagic State, that determined extensive of sea territory which was initially 3 miles around each island, into 12 miles based on straight base line system. This action constituted unilateral action from Indonesia as sovereign state, and then struggled on international forum that obtained acknowledgment at UCLOS, particularly article 46, etc. concerning Principle of Archiphilagic State. Requirement for acknowledgment as archiphilagic state must be islands group that constituted one unity territory, politic, economy and according to history, it was admitted so “Regarded Assah”.

Accordingly, with this acknowledgement, Law No. 17/1984 was issued as ratification evidence and Law concerning Indonesia Waters, that stipulated entire waters around islands, among and that connected islands which constituted national territory of Indonesia lied under Indonesia sovereignty.

If history recorded that kings/sultans in Indonesia of the past constituted master of sea territory that had local characteristic, except Majapahit kingdom era, the born of Unity State of the Republic of Indonesia under the Law No. 17/84, this sovereignty of Unity State of the Republic of Indonesia on sea territory constituted one unity, as abovementioned, that geographic and history factors for Indonesia had interaction against maritime culture and local wisdom, political change in Indonesia into Unity State of the Republic of Indonesia, clearly affected on applicable laws and regulation on sea territory and furthermore on maritime culture and local wisdom. Principle which was followed in national law was that common law/local wisdom tradition and local maritime culture became elements in establishing national law. However, generally, inheritance of agriculture history which was internalized by Dutch colonizer still existed. That matter can be seen on government policy that were still land based oriented - agriculture practice.

VI. CHANGE IN DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION

1. Although constitutionally and in international law has admitted that Indonesia is archiphilagic state that has Indonesia archipelago characteristic with geographic data as follows Number of big and small islands 17584, total territory 5.193.250 KM SQ, Sea territory 3.166.163 KM SQ, land territory 2.027087 KM SQ, coast length 2.700.000 KMSQ ZEEI, total jurisdiction 80.791.421 KM SQ.

There should be orientation change in development from Land Base Oriented Development to Archiphilagic Base Development, until in utilization of territory and entire resource shall cover dimensions of land territory, sea territory and air territory as one unity of territory. Objective condition that comparison of land territory against sea territory is 2 : 3, with such orientation change gives possibility to maritime culture and local wisdom to develop better.
2. To develop maritime culture and local wisdom, beside orientation change in development, things that must be conducted is to determine development direction with adjustment to objective condition as archipelagic state which is called as Nusantara. Determining goals that shall be achieved, that is, Indonesia becomes Great, Strong, and Prosperous Maritime State. Objective conditions to achieve this goals have been available.

Thus, this brief description concerning geographic condition and interaction with history matters in maritime culture and local wisdom context.

Completed, date July 12th 2010, at 22.30, Tuesday