

Developing Local Government Capacity for SDI Development in Indonesia

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Key words: Capacity building; GSDI; local government, capacity, SDI development, law and regulation

SUMMARY

Abstract Indonesia has just enacted the Law on Geospatial Information no 4/2011. This law is aimed to foster the development of geospatial data and information as well as their utilization throughout the whole government institutions. In the aspect of spatial data infrastructure, prior to the enactment of this law, there is the presidential Decree 85/2007 on the National Spatial Data Network. Amongst government regulations, these two regulations serve the needs of central and local government. Their implementation is facilitated, managed and directed by Badan Informasi Geospasial – BIG (the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency). With regard to the numerous geospatial data that have been produced nationally, the current effort is directed toward more effective and efficient data sharing among key stakeholders in the framework of national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI). Developing an NSDI for a vast archipelagic country with more than 500 districts/cities and 34 provinces possesses a unique challenges. The geographical location of Indonesia that spans more than 5,000 km east to west, 1,500 km north to south, and spread over ten thousand of islands is the first big challenge. It creates difficulty and high cost for developing a reliable internet connection, not to mention about the production of large scale map covering the whole region. The second challenge is the availability of trained and skilled staff at the local government level. The third is on the different level of political will of each local government as a result of regional autonomy. The form and size of local government agencies mandated to manage spatial data are varied, from none to sufficient. Funding difficulty is also important factor hindering the creation of local SDI. To respon to these challenges, BIG developed several strategies, including: providing technical assistance, develop a national geoportal based on proprietary and open source software, conducting focus group discussion and training, as well as engaging local universities as strategic partners. This paper is part of the research on NSDI development to acknowledge SDI leverage in the local regional capacity development, describes efforts in detail, identify issues and challenges, and presents the findings.

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