

## HEALTH SILK ROAD: CHINA STRATEGY TO APPLY ITS GEOPOLITICAL AMBITION

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### Abstract

*As globalization is developing, universal health has become an essential issue. The pandemic which happened in the last few years and its contamination globally has become the main concern in making the international joint venture arrangement. This paper will analyze what China would like to reach through HSR Policy. It is through HSR China is providing ways of dealing with Covid-19 for the countries who is in favor of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A humanitarian aid provided by china has become china soft power to attract more sympathy as well as support as much as possible from more countries all over the world and slowly but sure eliminating the domination of USA. For Indonesia itself, the aid given by China has been a tool to set a multilateral joint venture to cope with covid-19 due to its universal spread. As the representative of the people, The house of Representative of Indonesian need to urge the government to have more cooperation with the countries all over the world specially in sharing the information as well as providing health equipment to deal with the covid-19 patient.*

### Introduction

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the most ambitious geo-economic vision in china modern history as it involves more than 70 nations or equal to more than two third global population. Certain countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe have become the main target to put china initiatives into reality. Owing to the fact mentioned, China has made a lot of efforts in promoting BRI by building the network in trading and a wide investment. US 40 Billion is provided as an initial capital for BRI activities through the establishment

of an Infrastructure Investment Bank Asia (AIIB).

China use its status as the world leading trade in promoting BRI but BRI helped to improve their interests in the global economy through trade and investment. China investment spreads everywhere and have taken over the role of the us. Up until the year of 2000, USA was still The main partner of more than 80% countries in the world in trading. Consequently the figures fell 30 % in 2018, on the contrary 128 out of



190 world nation had become the main business partner of China. Holding the new status as the world best economic country, China developed BRI based on the hub and spoke with China as their hub.

One of the most crucial part of BRI is Health Silk Road (HSR) or health joint venture for the BRI member. HSR has been well planned by china in the period of 2015 -2017. The planning is now implemented massively in dealing with Covid-19. According to hub and spoke approach, HSR is obviously showing the important role of China in leading the international health agreement in the future. Having been successful in economic development encouraged China to have more role universally. China has strengthened its direct involvement in dealing with the covid-19 pandemic in order not to disturb its relation strategy through BRI. This paper analyze what china would like to achieve through HS

### **HSR and Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Covid-19 pandemic which destroyed global health system, has impacted the economy as well as the survival of the people internationally. China's dream is to strengthen and spread its interacted agreement in order to create the solid network based on the mutual economical bounding, social as well as politics by omitting the feeling of disbelief among nations and encouraging the feeling of being secure. It is through HSR China wish to put a stop on covid-19 pandemic not only for BRI nation but also for the nation worldwide. The nations which are in need of

help including WHO which got a fund help of 20 Billion US.

When Covid-19 began to spread and the nations worldwide was trying very hard to find the solution, China has placed itself as the leader in world health. It is because of China ability to control Covid-19, they could now help the countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

Bilateral medical assistance and counseling provided by the Chinese government is announced officially by the local embassy in Malaysia, Philippines, as well as in Greece. On another case, medical supplies are provided by the company involved in BRI overseas project, such as Huawei or China communication Construction Company. Jack Ma and Alibaba foundation have sent so many humanitarian aids to so many countries starting from Uganda all the way to Ukraine and United states. Economic support has also been given by China to some countries suffered from covid-19 including concessive loan worth 500 million US from US to Sri Lanka.

Apart from that, China has acted as the coordination agent in many multilateral occasions to show its empathy in covid-19. In addition to that, President Xijiping in his speech virtually to the G-20 leader stated that China had had a deep discussion with Asian countries, settling the "17+1 mechanism with UE countries and with African Union who admire China leadership in dealing with covid-19. Those various activities were actually part of soft power effort built by China.

## Chinese Geopolitical Ambition

China build soft power needed to intensify competition with the United States. When Europeans become the center of the spread of the virus, China increased its assistance to each the government there. It is the right thing to do as United States is facing the exact same problem The result of a battle to win back the hearts of the European community and sympathy has been won by China.

At least for now After being relieved of pandemic Covid-19, China has the facilities to deal with the disease so as to be in a position to offer assistance. The aid is very much needed by Europe so that China is consciously have been making use of the soft power they had. For China, aid to European countries is part of an attempt to restore international leadership after being made busy preventing the virus not to spread beyond its border.

When Europe became the center of Covid-19 transmission (before turning to US), US and some UE countries were not helping each other. To set an example was Serbia and Estonia that did not receive any help from UE and instead getting the help provided by China. China expanding its network to each governments in Europe. China has got the experience and infrastructure that is needed in many countries so it held an advantageous position to provide help although there are a number of European countries also criticized the handouts from china because they are considered low quality

regardless of what really happened, in that situation China has used its soft power to persuade the country who were about to receive the humanitarian aid from them.

By doing that China has stepped into the role dominated by the Western country in Covid-19, natural disaster or health emergency of the people all over the world. UE countries were definitely being in weaker condition of covid-19 crisis. While Donald Trump in USA is busy with isolated strategy by putting an end to fund the WHO which he considered in favor of China.

If there was a big impact on the global economy because of the spreading of Covid-19 then it could be ensured that the powerful country will have the right to show its leadership. These conditions have provided opportunities for china to take the roles of larger political in the international promiscuity On this level the western countries agreed to let China overtook some of their strategic international position in order to stabilize the global economy.

China had experienced of trying very hard to expand its relationship with as many countries as possible within two decades and so far trading has been one sector to do that. China used the trading and investment to show its superiority, and in the Covid-19 case, China got the advantage of producing the medicine as well as has already been championed in the past few decades, China has the power to relieve the building partnerships with as many countries as in the world .To be exact china

rely on trade and investment to show their superiority, and in the case of Covid-19, China held an advantageous position as the largest maker of medicines and the equipment for own security all over the world. A significant expansion of China leadership around the issue of Covid-19 will be the global crisis leadership of the first magnitude without any involvement of the US. When the world has been the scene of the plague Ebola a couple of years ago, the United States still lead the war against that infectious disease.

Now, failure to face of global pandemics Covid-19 both in Europe and the United States, has been given a leadership platform to China to prove that its model work, and this could potentially gain geopolitics advantage in a tangible manner. However health assistance which is produced by China to the countries of the world reflects China and its geopolitical ambition as well as the humanitarian issue.

How does Indonesia face HSR China, policy particularly relates to Covid-19 reduction? Still fresh in our memory, how China is making fun of Indonesian sovereignty when stealing fish in Indonesian Ocean in ZEE Northern part of Natuna. To Face Covid-19, pandemics the best way to do for Indonesia is to provide their own needs for tackling Covid-19. The aid provided is only as complementary for Indonesia to avoid its dependence and pressure upon negotiating with China. Indonesia had to be able to establish a multilateral cooperation scheme to cope with Covid-19 owing to the fact of their cross-border transmission, and

first is, by making use of the world health organization as a receptacle cooperation of all member of the UN, and second is, in providing an essential medical equipment, and a medication as well as, the vaccine.

### Closing

China realize the global infectious diseases and the increase in mobility has increased a challenge to global health security. China use Covid-19 crisis capacity to show leadership in tackling the cross border transmission of the infectious disease. Perhaps it was too early to say that the spirit of managing world health will change its international role. But the EU countries and the US did not respond properly in dealing with the pandemics of Covid-19 on a global level. This is where China have plenty of room for responding and take the roles of. As representatives of the people, the house of representatives need to urged the government to make coordination with the countries in the world especially in exchange rate of information and the provision of medical equipment.

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 ISSN 2088-2351