

# INDONESIAN POLICY TO RESOLVE THE SMOKE HAZE DISASTER TOWARD MALAYSIA

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## ABSTRACT

Indonesia is a country prone to natural disasters. One of the disasters that became the annual disaster in Indonesia is the forest and land fires which caused haze disaster. The haze does not only affect Indonesia but also Malaysia. The relations between Indonesia and Malaysia have been re-tested with the occurrence of haze disaster. Relations between Indonesia and Malaysia are experiencing tension, because of the smoke that happens almost every year. This study aims to describe, explain and analyze the Indonesian policies in addressing the smoke haze disaster with Malaysia. Indonesia is trying to prevent haze from creating conflict between Indonesia and Malaysia through discussion and negotiation. The policy which carried out by Indonesia is analyzed by using qualitative approach. In this study, the theory used is diplomacy disaster. The smoke haze disaster opened the way for Indonesia and Malaysia to work together and prevent conflict. Disaster diplomacy which was carried out by Indonesia and Malaysia resulted in a collaboration that Indonesia tried as much as possible to stop smoke haze. And Malaysia provides assistance in the form of tools to overcome forest fires and smoke such as several water bomb aircraft, and helicopters to monitor smoke.

**Keywords:** *Indonesia and Malaysia, Indonesian policy, smoke haze disaster, disaster diplomacy.*

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has to face a haze disaster that disrupts the activity and health of the people around the burning forest, almost every year. The disaster is caused by dry season climate

and also because of forest burning in Kalimantan and Sumatra for land expansion (Sari A. , 2015). Indonesia is one of the largest smoke haze contributors in Southeast Asia. The impact of haze is not only accepted by the people of Indonesia but also causes air pollution in some countries in Southeast Asia such as Malaysia, Singapore, and several other Southeast Asian countries. Therefore, the smoke haze has stretched relations between Indonesia and neighboring countries. Some countries that are close to Indonesia are receiving smoke haze that gives terrible impact and many disadvantages.

As two adjacent countries, Indonesia and Malaysia often experience conflicts such as border conflicts and cultural conflicts. Despite the occasional tension, both countries are reluctant to engage in open conflict or war, as any problem can be solved as long as there is a desire to maintain good relations between two countries (Hubungan Indonesia-Malaysia sangat Spesial, 2016).

Recently, relations between Indonesia and Malaysia have been re-tested with the occurrence of forest fires on the islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan which prompted protests from Malaysian society. Already several times, Malaysia delivered a letter of protest to Indonesia about the transboundary smoke haze from Indonesia. The protests came because forest fires in Indonesia have caused a smoke haze that is also accepted by Malaysian society and it is disconcerting people's health and lives. Forest fires in Indonesia are a major problem causing smog in some countries in Southeast Asia. This led to protests from other countries to quickly overcome the disaster haze Indonesia. Neighbouring countries and environmental activists have sent criticism to Indonesia and assessed that the Indonesian government has failed to stop the haze that has become an annual disaster in Indonesia (VOA, 2016). Indonesia's reaction to these protests and demands was stated by President Joko Widodo that smoke haze is a problem that can not be resolved quickly. President Jokowi believes this haze problem will decrease as improvements handling and aspects of law enforcement (Affan, 2017).

Indonesia has made various efforts to overcome this forest fire problem. But the smoke haze is still not resolved completely. The smoke haze that occurred in several provinces in Sumatera and Kalimantan is very severe so that the Indonesian government needs to ask for foreign aid. To solve the haze disaster completely, Indonesia asked for assistance to other

countries, one of them is Malaysia. Indonesia has made a lot of efforts to prevent and tackle the smoke haze caused by forest fires. However, haze prevention can not achieve maximum results due to limited funds and personnel, and the extent of burned land and forest. Therefore, Indonesia needs help from neighboring countries. The assistance needed by Indonesia is not only technical assistance to overcome haze, but also aid in prevention efforts (Suryani, 2016). Malaysia is one of the countries most affected by forest fires in Indonesia. Malaysia is willing to assist Indonesia in overcoming the haze experienced by Indonesia, Malaysia, and several other Southeast Asian countries.

The smoke haze that occurred in Indonesia is the result of forest fires in the peatlands, so the fire is in the ground. Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to immediately extinguish forest and land fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan, including in other areas. The Malaysian government will help extinguish the burning forests and land that caused the smoke haze, especially peatlands, because of their different handling, the fire is a deep depth of land (Waluyo, 2015).

Malaysia has an important role in dealing with the haze disaster in Indonesia. In this regard, Malaysia is one of the countries that are ready and willing to help Indonesia to handle the smoke haze that occurred in Indonesia. The assistance and cooperation offered by Malaysia are in the form of cooperation to extinguish forest fires and smoke-generating lands, joint training in smog handling, as well as assistance in the form of tools needed to deal with forest fires. The offer of cooperation is posted in the form of a letter containing a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Original Resources and Nature Around Malaysia and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment (Suryani, 2016).

## **METHODOLOGY**

Research Method is a scientific way to get valid data with the purpose to be found, proved and developed knowledge so that turn can be used to understand, solve and anticipate problems (Sugiyono, 2009). A branch of science that discusses ways of conducting research (i.e., encompassing activities of searching, recording, formulating, analyzing and preparing its report) based on scientific facts or symptoms (Wirartha, 2006).

In this study the authors use data collection techniques as follows:

1. Library Research

The technique of collecting data by Library Research method that is collecting data collected by library study that is studying, researching, studying, and studying literature in the form of books, journals and papers related to research to obtain materials that will serve as the theoretical basis.

## 2. Online Research

Data collection techniques derived from the official website that discusses and contains various information needed in the study.

The literature or source of data used is the literature relating to the theme of this thesis, which is like a source that discusses the smoke haze was occurring in Indonesia, disaster diplomacy, as well as relations between Indonesia and Malaysia.

In this study, the authors used a qualitative approach. By using a qualitative approach, it means the data collected is not a number, but the data comes from interviews, field notes, personal documents, notes, memos and other official documents (Moelong, 2004). It is analyzing data without calculation based on figures but on views, opinions, and thoughts on data analysis. In this research, the writer takes the data from some books, website, electronic journals, news and other relevant data that related to the issues.

The type of research conducted in this study is descriptive research, which is a study that seeks to describe the specific and systematic situation, social setting, or a relationship between phenomena investigated through data collection (Newman L. , 1997). And descriptive research is a study that gives an idea of a particular individual, state, symptom, or group. In this thesis, the author describes the relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia related to the smoke haze happening in Indonesia. As well as describing Indonesia's policy towards Malaysia, regarding the smoke haze disaster.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Forest fires in Indonesia are a difficult problem to overcome. Forest fires that occur almost every year make the government continues to improve the system for handling forest fire and haze disasters. The smoke haze that happened in Indonesia was a major disaster for Indonesia and also countries in the Southeast Asia region. Smoke haze not only enveloped the Indonesian region but also spread to several Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia,

Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, and the Philippines. Therefore, the haze that occurs in Indonesia is not a local disaster but is said to be a cross-border disaster. One of the countries that get the most significant impact from Indonesia's haze disaster is Malaysia. Malaysia is a country in which the territory is directly adjacent to Indonesia so that it receives the worst effect. Therefore, Indonesia has a responsibility to deal with the smoke haze disaster.

Forest fires in Indonesia, have been occurring for a long time and have not been explicitly handled by the Indonesian government. The factor of forest fires is triggered by a tropical climate and causes the forest to be very susceptible to fire. However, the primary factor in the occurrence of fires in Indonesia is caused by human factors triggered by efforts to open land and exploit natural resources. Forest fires and haze significantly disrupt community activities, not only in Indonesia but also in Malaysia. These fires disrupt community activities so that they can harm the country's productivity.

In 2015, President Joko Widodo instructed four things, there are: first, TNI must carry out firefighting with artificial rain and water bombing. Second, the police and units of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry together with the Ministry of Home Affairs are obliged to take legal action against the perpetrators of forest fires. Third, the President instructed the handling of health problems, because many people were affected by upper respiratory infections due to haze. Fourth, the Ministry of Health will disseminate the hazards of smoke haze and its impact on health. The President also requested the establishment of posts in areas affected by the haze and invited the community to participate in extinguishing the fire (DPR, 2009).

In 2015, President Jokowi instructed relevant ministries and agencies to cooperate in handling the haze problem. In addition to extinguishing fire points, health care for the community must be immediately provided at the location of the smog handling post. President Jokowi also asked for input from various experts on the proper and sustainable handling of peatlands. This is done so that we do not always experience the same problems from year to year. President Jokowi also reminded the importance of law enforcement that must be continued (Presiden RI, 2015).

Indonesian legal regulations to tackle forest and land fires that occur in Indonesia can be said to be more than enough. Indonesia has made various efforts to overcome fires and haze. It can be seen from the explanation above that there are a lot of government regulations and the Law on smoke haze disasters. However, various regulations regarding forest fires and haze still cannot optimally control the smoke disaster.

The government has made various efforts to extinguish the fire. Various efforts by the Indonesian government have not been able to resolve forest fires and haze. Every year, fires occur again with the same causes and wider impacts. To maximize the handling of the disaster, Indonesia needs help from other countries to deal with the catastrophic forest fires and haze, one of the countries affected is Malaysia. Malaysia is the country that received the worst impact from the haze. The disaster of smoke haze caused various responses from the Malaysian side which created tensions between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Indonesia's haze caused tensions between Indonesia and Malaysia, especially tensions between communities. To reduce tensions between Indonesia and Malaysia, the two countries carried out bilateral negotiations related to handling the haze disaster. Bilateral negotiation between the two countries has the aim of preventing significant conflicts between Indonesia and Malaysia, and haze can be handled quickly. Negotiation is a key element in diplomatic activities. With the occurrence of this haze, Indonesia and Malaysia use disasters as an instrument of diplomacy or can be called disaster diplomacy. Disaster diplomacy is a disaster, both at the international, and domestic levels, which then gives birth to some political, social, economic, conflict resolution activities related to the disaster event (Surwandono & Herningtyas, 2016).

Disaster diplomacy as a form of diplomacy can reduce conflict between the disputing parties. This is because there is an understanding between the conflicting parties that the people affected by the disaster are the top priority that must be prioritized. According to Ilan Kelman, relations between countries based on efforts to respond to a disaster when the disaster occurred did not long last. However, the existence of cooperation in disaster management can minimize the possibility of widespread conflict (Kelman, Disaster Diplomacy "How Disaster affects Peace and Conflict", 2012).

The haze disasters that occurred in Indonesia and impacted Malaysia caused tensions between the two countries. Malaysia often sends protests and criticisms, while Indonesia is considered slow in dealing with disasters. From year to year, the haze that took place was getting worse, and in 2015, smog was very thick in Malaysia. Putting aside the conflict, Indonesia and Malaysia are negotiating in dealing with the haze disaster.

Indonesia and Malaysia held several meetings between ministers and heads of state to work together to overcome smoke. The cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in tackling smoke does not long last. Because after the smoke is finished, the cooperation will also end. However, at least with the cooperation in the smoke disaster management, it can prevent the possibility of widespread conflicts. The disaster of smoke has also caused the effect of inter-community relations. Where the people of Indonesia and Malaysia throw criticism and satire at each other, one of them through social media. Not only people, some Malaysian organizations and media have also criticized and urged Indonesia to deal with smoke that has not been completed. Therefore, Indonesia and Malaysia need to do diplomacy and cooperation related to smoke to prevent the spread of conflict.

In handling the haze disaster, Indonesia and Malaysia held discussions and negotiations involving the government. Disaster diplomacy regarding the smoke is not a negotiation between communities or groups, but between representatives of the state, ministers, prime ministers, and presidents. Disaster diplomacy is carried out in the hope of maintaining good relations between Indonesia and Malaysia caused by the haze disaster. With the existence of diplomatic activities, haze disasters that have impacted Malaysia can be resolved without major conflicts.

Disaster diplomacy with an inter-state basis between Indonesia and Malaysia is divided into two levels, namely disaster diplomacy in ministerial level and disaster diplomacy in summit level.

#### A. Disaster Diplomacy in Ministerial Level

Disaster diplomacy in ministerial level is diplomacy carried out by ministers. Indonesia and Malaysia held several meetings to discuss the haze that hit the two countries. To deal with haze and prevent major conflicts, the two representatives of

the country often hold meetings and discussions. Indonesian and Malaysian state representatives who held a meeting discussing smoke were the ministers of both countries.

In 2005, the Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Malam Sambat Kaban met with the Malaysian Minister of Environment Adenan Satem at the Polonia airport in Medan to discuss the issue of smoke. The haze has sparked anger at Malaysians because their daily activities have been disrupted (Media Indonesia, 2005).

Thick smoke caused by forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan continues to cover several areas of Malaysia, including Kuala Lumpur. In 2005, the Malaysian government also sent the Minister of Plantation and Commodity Industry, Peter Chin to visit Indonesia. During the visit, Peter Chin met with the Indonesian Minister of Forestry to discuss the smoke disaster that hit the two countries. Previously the Malaysian government had offered to help the Indonesian government overcome the forest fires that often occur. The increasingly smoke haze in Kuala Lumpur caused the public activity to be disrupted. At that time, air quality in Malaysia reached dangerous levels and Indonesia often received protests from Malaysia (Detik News, 2005).

In June 2013, Malaysia's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, met with the Minister of Environment Balthasar Kambuaya to discuss haze prevention due to forest and land fires. Datuk Seri wants to solve the problem of handling the disaster of forest and land fires with the Indonesian side. For this reason, Datuk Seri is trying to get this problem resolved soon. On this occasion, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Malaysian Environment presented a letter from the Malaysian Prime Minister addressed to the President of the Republic of Indonesia. In the letter, Malaysia offers assistance in suppressing hotspots in forest and land fires. Balthasar also said that Indonesia continues its efforts to overcome forest fires (Menteri SDA Malaysia kunjungi Indonesia bahas kabut asap, 2013).

The Indonesian government has made various efforts to deal with the haze. Indonesia is also taking legal action, as it is known that there are some foreign companies, especially those belonging to neighboring countries, which are suspected



of having cleared land and forests by burning. This eventually triggered a thick haze that was blown to Malaysia. At the end of the meeting, Malaysian Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, and Indonesian Environment Minister Balthasar Kambuaya agreed to tackle forest and land fires by cooperating such as exchanging information and taking concrete steps to solve the smoke disasters (Menteri SDA Malaysia kunjungi Indonesia bahas kabut asap, 2013).

In July 2013, the Minister of Environment Balthasar Kambuaya held a meeting and discussion with the Minister of Environment from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Brunei, in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting discussed ways to prevent forest fires in Indonesia, which triggered haze in several neighboring countries. In 2013, forest fires in Sumatra were blown to Malaysia and Singapore. Smoke haze is considered to be getting worse compared to the previous year. Smoke haze caused tourists to cancel visits, schools were closed, and caused increased cases of respiratory problems, especially in the Malaysian Region (BBC, 2013).

In 2015, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Malaysia Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar visited Indonesia in terms of discussing long-term efforts to overcome the haze disaster, together with the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Ahmad Zahid Hamidi stressed that Malaysia would cooperate with Indonesia to overcome the haze problem. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi stated that Malaysia and Indonesia would implement long-term measures to overcome the problem of cross-border haze. Also, he said he would continue to monitor the development of the smoke haze disaster and discuss efforts to address this issue with the Malaysian Ambassador to Indonesia Zahrain Mohamed Hashim (Sari, 2015).

In the same year, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Malaysia Ahmad Zahid Hamidi met with the Coordinating Minister for Political Law and Security Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan to discuss measures to anticipate forest fires on the islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan. Malaysia is one of the countries affected by the haze of plantation fires in Indonesia. The meeting discussed the haze and steps that the Indonesian Government could take to address the problem. During the meeting, both parties also discussed solutions or long-term plans that could be done (VIVA, 2015).

In October 2015, the Malaysian Government sent a permit to the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to fly the aircraft to Indonesia, and the aircraft departed on 9 and 16 October 2015. The request for permission was to send the Bombardier CL415 water bomb and Hercules C-130 aircraft which carried the crew, equipment, and land firefighters, and also small helicopters to survey and guide water bombings (BBC, Lima Negara Bantu Indonesia atasi Kabut Asap, 2015).

Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno L. P. Marsudi held a meeting with the Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs and discussed smoke. Regarding the problem of smoke, Indonesia has received letters from the governments of Malaysia and Singapore. For this reason, Foreign Minister Retno took the initiative to make a trip to the neighboring country (Hanggoro, 2015).

The Indonesian and Malaysian ministers held several meetings and negotiations about the haze disaster, with the aim that the haze could be resolved quickly. Meetings are often held so that the two countries can discuss the steps that must be taken in dealing with smoke. Also, Indonesian and Malaysian Ministers discussed the cooperation and assistance needed to stop the smoke. Negotiations on smoke between Indonesia and Malaysia are often carried out by state ministers. This can be seen from the explanation above, that Indonesian and Malaysian ministers often hold meetings to discuss the handling of smoke.

Several meetings conducted by Indonesian and Malaysian ministers showed that the two countries had tried to work together to overcome the haze disaster. Indonesia and Malaysia choose the diplomatic path by conducting various discussions between ministers so that the handling of smoke can be carried out optimally and quickly completed.

The diplomatic activity carried out was to ease tensions between the two countries. Malaysia has sent a protest note to the Indonesian government several times and had threatened to bring the problem to international justice. To prevent major conflicts, Indonesia and Malaysia try to negotiate and work together to deal with smoke. This shows the creation of inter-state diplomacy at the ministerial level between Indonesia and Malaysia. The ministry level is when Indonesia and Malaysia were negotiating smoke with involving ministers.

## B. Disaster Diplomacy in Summit Level

Forest fires and haze occur almost every year in Indonesia. From year to year smoke haze is considered to be increasingly disrupting the lives of Indonesian people as well as Malaysia. The problem of smog that has not been finished makes Malaysia increasingly worried and always expresses protest to the Indonesian government. To prevent problems that do not accumulate and conflict does not grow, Indonesia and Malaysia held discussions on the smoke disaster.

Meetings between Indonesia and Malaysia have often been held, among the ministers of the two countries. However, related to smoke disasters, diplomacy does not only occur at the ministerial level but also at the level of Indonesian and Malaysian heads of state. Diplomacy that conducts by the head of state of Indonesia and Malaysia is diplomacy in summit level.

According to Weilemann, summit diplomacy can be interpreted as the practice of diplomacy carried out in formal and informal forums by state officials. Summit diplomacy is carried out by heads of government or heads of state, political leaders, as well as the highest representative of an international organization where the meeting held is aimed at resolving a major problem. The difference between the summits of diplomacy and other diplomacy is not just the use of words. Diplomacy in summits level is categorized as high-level diplomacy, and it is because the participants are executive officers, including heads of state and leaders of international organizations such as NATO, ASEAN, IMF, etc. Another specialty of summit diplomacy is that leaders can communicate face-to-face with other leaders without requiring a series of ceremonial events to show the seriousness of commitment in diplomacy (Weilemann, 2000).

From the explanation above, it can be said that summit diplomacy is the final / highest level of diplomacy. In this case, the disaster diplomacy at summit level between Indonesia and Malaysia is inter-state diplomacy which conducted by the highest officials of the two countries. Inter-state diplomacy at the summit level is a meeting of the heads of state of Indonesia and Malaysia in discussing the haze which causes increasingly heated problems.

Smoke haze in Indonesia that happens almost every year makes Malaysia often protest. The social conflict between the people was unavoidable, the Malaysian government also often expressed protests through the media and even sent a protest note to the Indonesian government. Meetings and discussions have often been carried out at the level of Indonesian and Malaysian ministries. To deal with the haze to quickly complete and prevent greater conflict, the Indonesian President and the Malaysian Prime Minister held a meeting to discuss the issue of haze.

In October 2015, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak met with President Joko Widodo and discussed the haze problem. The arrival of Prime Minister Najib Razak visited Indonesia along with his wife, Rosmah Mansor, Minister of Commodities and Industrial Plantations Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, as well as a range of other Malaysian governments. The meeting discussed the smoke haze that had indeed covered the Malaysian sky (Radityo, 2015).

After the meeting, Prime Minister Najib Razak said that President Joko Widodo regretted the problem of the smoke disaster that had not been completed. To Malaysian Prime Minister, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said he promised to immediately overcome the smoke because no one deliberately let this disaster happen continuously (Mohamad, 2015). The smoke that hit these two countries is not a new problem, because smoke has been happening for a long time. And at the meeting, President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Najib Razak discussed the issue of smoke because the smoke disaster is now at a dangerous level, so the two leaders discussed it further.

In October 2015, Malaysia officially assisted the National Disaster Management Agency in extinguishing fires in South Sumatra. Malaysia deployed a 415MP Bombardier to transport land personnel, seven helicopters and three water bomb transport aircraft (Mohamad, 2015). Prime Minister Najib Razak also stated that Malaysia was willing to send more help, both human resources and technology to overcome the haze. The smoke haze that occurs in Indonesia is caused by forest fires as a result of the slash and burn burning method to clear land (Abdullah, 2015).

Indonesia and Malaysia have held various meetings among ministers to discuss haze. In 2015 the smoke haze that occurred was the biggest smoke haze. So the impact received by Malaysia is worse than the previous year. Therefore at a meeting, President Joko Widodo and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak discussed the issue of smoke. The discussion of smoke haze carried out by the two heads of state was conducted to discuss the handling of haze and to reduce tensions between the people of Indonesia and Malaysia.

The collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia from the results of the disaster diplomacy is not only aimed at overcoming the haze disaster that hit Indonesia and Malaysia. But it also gives hope for the future relations between Indonesia and Malaysia to avoid major conflicts. Relations between close neighboring countries can be more vulnerable to conflict, but both countries also need each other. Like Indonesia and Malaysia which are two neighboring countries that are prone to conflict and need each other. Therefore, with the cooperation in handling this smoke, it is expected to reduce the possibility of conflict between Indonesia and Malaysia.

## **CONCLUSION**

Forest fires that cause haze in Indonesia affect the harmony of relations between Indonesia and Malaysia. The relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia has gone through many good and bad things. Indonesia and Malaysia have a harmonious relationship, although sometimes there are few friction and conflicts between the two countries. With the smoke haze, Indonesia and Malaysia often hold state meetings and visits that discuss the haze disaster. This shows that the haze disaster not only has a negative side but has a positive side. Indonesia and Malaysia held various meetings to discuss cooperation in dealing with smog. Despite tensions between the two countries, Indonesia and Malaysia continued to maintain good relations by trying to discuss and negotiate the haze disaster that hit both countries.

Indonesia has implemented various efforts and policies regarding haze, but the smoke haze still cannot be handled completely. The smoke haze that occurred in Indonesia worsened in 2015, and this led to various protests and pressure from Malaysia. To maximize the handling of

smoke, Indonesia needs help from other countries, one of which is Malaysia. The diplomacy between Indonesia and Malaysia was marked by several meetings held at the ministerial level which discussed smoke haze. Therefore, diplomacy between Indonesia and Malaysia can be said to be the implementation of inter-state disaster diplomacy in ministerial level.

The discussion of haze was not only at the ministerial level but also at a higher level, namely the head of state. Discussions between the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Najib Razak, is a form of inter-state diplomacy in summit level. In 2015, forest fires and haze in Indonesia were believed to be the most severe smoke disaster in history. Malaysia has repeatedly sent protest notes to the Indonesian government. Therefore, at a meeting, President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Najib Razak discussed the smoke. The Malaysian Prime Minister explained that President Joko Widodo promised to overcome the smoke immediately.

By carrying out several negotiations and meetings, Indonesia and Malaysia worked together to resolve the haze disaster. The assistance and cooperation offered by Malaysia are in the form of cooperation to extinguish forest fires and smoke-generating lands, joint training in smog handling, as well as assistance in the form of tools needed to deal with forest fires. In 2015, the Malaysian government sent a Bombardier CL415 water bomber and a C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying crew, forest and land firefighting equipment, and a small helicopter to survey and guide water bombings.

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