Understanding State Planned Cluster through the Lens of Location: A Comparative Study of Puspiptek Science Park, Indonesia and Cyberjaya Cluster, Malaysia

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Countries in Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) have followed a policy of developing industrial zones and knowledge clusters (Evers, Gerke et al. 2011). Yet how has location been taken into account in the trajectory of state planning of cluster in two countries? The paper will try to answer this question by means of a comparative study. The study presented herein unfolds the story how centrally planned clusters materialised in Puspiptek Science Park located in Tangerang, Indonesia and Cyberjaya Cluster located in Peninsular Malaysia. Indonesia is one of the hubs in Asia integrating cluster development in its Economic Development Master Plan 2011-2025 (Menko-Perekonomian 2011). Malaysia, through its Tenth Malaysia Plan 2011-2015 (Evers, Nordin et al. 2010; Nordin 2012), developed economic corridors in different parts of Malaysia: Peninsular Malaysia and the Borneo part of Malaysia (i.e. Sabah and Sarawak). The study attempts to bring an empirical contribution on the study of cluster development in Southeast Asian countries. The Indonesian case study shows that most of industrial clusters in Indonesia were indeed managed by private companies (Hakim and Parolin 2009; Hudalah and Firman 2011; Purwaningrum 2012). The only exception is Puspiptek Science Park which was built during the period of high technology modernism in Indonesia (Sulfikar 2007). Puspiptek Science Park was massively developed during the period of Habibie when he was the Minister of Research and Technology (Juoro 1993). Cyberjaya cluster has been developed from Greenfield sites with a strong control by political elites. Both cases exemplify the dynamics of a state planned cluster which show how location is utilised (and captured) by the centrally planned mode of (urban) planning. Methodically, the paper is based on qualitative analysis from interviews with policymakers and secondary materials. The Indonesian case study is based on an intensive fieldwork of 9 months in 2010-2011. The Malaysian case study is built utilising the data required during ten months of fieldwork from April 2009 to February 2012.

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