

## Indonesia-South Korea Defense Cooperation in Indonesian Defense Diplomacy: Opportunities and Challenges

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**ABSTRACT:** This research focuses on understanding Indonesia's defense diplomacy efforts in strengthening defense cooperation with South Korea. This research specifically looks at opportunities and challenges in defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea using defense diplomacy. This study uses a qualitative method using two types of data: primary data through interviews and secondary data collected from various sources such as electronic publications and electronic media. This study finds that Indonesia has built defense diplomacy that opens up new opportunities for defense cooperation and strives to overcome challenges in defense cooperation between the two countries through various forms of defense diplomacy. This study concludes that Indonesia's defense cooperation with South Korea in Indonesia's defense diplomacy is a strategic step to improve Indonesia's defense capabilities. The implications of the results of this study are to improve the quality and quantity of bilateral contacts between military defense officials and defense diplomacy strategies and show the importance of defense diplomacy in maintaining relations with other countries.

**Keywords:** Defense Diplomacy, Defense Cooperation, Indonesia, South Korea, Challenges, Opportunities



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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia actively encourages various global partnerships to strengthen the country's defense ([Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, 2015](#)). Indonesia has established defense diplomacy with many countries, including the United States, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, ASEAN countries, and so on ([Isjchwansyah, 2024](#); [Wenas Inkiriwang, 2021](#)). This research aims to comprehensively discuss the opportunities and challenges of defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea, using defense diplomacy to overcome obstacles and increase collaboration.

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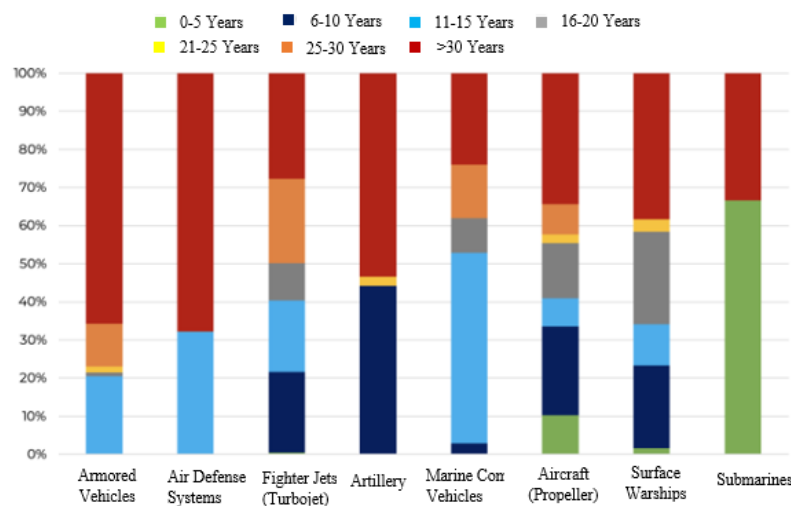


Figure 1. Proportion of Active Defense Equipment Age by Type

Source: (Sabana et al., 2023)

Based on its quality, most of the defense equipment is in a condition that has exceeded the maximum operational limit, and its quantity is also limited (Wibowo & Baliyanto, 2020). Most TNI defense equipment has been in operation for a long time, with armored vehicles, air defense systems, and artillery being the weapons with the most age of over 30 years (Sabana et al., 2023). To overcome this problem, Indonesia has made efforts to improve the capabilities of the Air Force and Navy through international purchases and technology transfer cooperation with various countries, including South Korea, such as the procurement of 4.5 generation KF-21 fighter jet and the joint construction of submarines (Jihyuk, 2024; Vavasseur, 2021).

Defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea includes various activities by signing the Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA), including dialogue, defense information exchange, professional education and training, and joint visits and research (Kementerian Pertahanan RI, 2013). With the principle of cooperation based on trust and mutual benefit, Indonesia and South Korea have established various defense cooperation. Indonesia has been the destination country for the export of KT-1 and T-50 aircraft from South Korea to the ongoing KF-21 fighter jet joint development project (Da-gyum, 2023). The Indonesia-South Korea defense cooperation agreement in procuring submarines and fighter jets expands opportunities for Indonesia with the technology transfer program implemented by the Indonesian government in purchasing defense equipment from abroad, a strategic step to strengthen Indonesia's defense industry (Condro, 2017).

Indonesia's defense relationship with South Korea has been built through various agreements and cooperation, even before the signing of the Indonesia-South Korea defense cooperation agreement in 2013, where Indonesia and South Korea signed an MoU on defense and military in 1995, which was followed by defense cooperation in the form of exports of KT-1 trainer aircraft in 2001 (Ina et al., 2022; Manafe et al., 2020). Through defense diplomacy, Indonesia opens up many opportunities to improve the TNI's defense capabilities and professionalism with various forms of cooperation with other countries (Pramono, 2020). The defense cooperation that has

been carried out between Indonesia and South Korea has brought many opportunities for increased collaboration between the two countries. Although this cooperation brings many opportunities to improve Indonesia's defense capabilities, there are also challenges. One of the challenges is the geopolitical dynamics involving the United States in the KF-21 project. In addition, in the KF-21 project, Indonesia has delayed payments several times, which has shaken relations between the two countries ([Yu-jeong, 2024](#)). The two countries' commitment is also faced with the issue of data theft of the KF-21 fighter jet by Indonesian engineers, which adds complexity to this bilateral relationship ([Jasmine, 2024](#)).

Geopolitical factors influence defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea. Indonesia's decision to strengthen its defense posture is influenced by technical needs and challenges from neighboring countries with more substantial military capabilities, such as Singapore and Australia. In addition, Indonesia's strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region, amid great power competition from countries such as the United States and China, affects Indonesia's defense policy to maintain the balance of power ([Yani et al., 2016](#)). Then, the South China Sea dispute and China's increasing aggression forced Indonesia to increase its defense fleet to maintain maritime security and national sovereignty ([Nah, 2021](#); [Riyadi & Dewi, 2022](#)).

Topics that discuss defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea have been researched in various aspects, such as military and economic aspects, especially related to the KF-21 fighter jet project and other defense industries. However, there is still little in-depth research that explores opportunities and challenges in the context of improving TNI capabilities and professionalism, as well as obstacles in strategic projects such as KF-21 ([Darmawan et al., 2020](#); [Manafe et al., 2020](#); [Marghanita, 2023](#); [Navalino, 2022](#); [Nurrohman et al., 2019](#)).

This research aims to comprehensively discuss the opportunities and challenges of defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea. Through the defense diplomacy approach, this study seeks to understand Indonesia's defense diplomacy efforts in opening up opportunities for defense cooperation and overcoming challenges arising between the two countries. Thus, this research is expected to provide an understanding of the importance of defense diplomacy in strengthening defense cooperation with other countries. Therefore, this study will discuss the opportunities and challenges of Indonesia-South Korea defense cooperation using the defense diplomacy approach to open up opportunities for collaboration and solve challenges in Indonesia-South Korea defense cooperation.

### Defense Diplomacy

The origins of defense diplomacy can be traced back to classical diplomacy. It has existed since ancient times and underwent major changes in the 1990s, with the emergence of complex interdependencies, new actors in the global arena, and the emergence of public diplomacy. This allows for a broader conception of defense diplomacy ([Cheyre, 2013](#)).

The essence of defense diplomacy can be used as a military dialogue, with military actors using diplomatic purposes to build dialogue and networks of trust with soldiers from other countries.

This dialogue is maintained during peacetime through various military cooperation, visits, and joint military exercises that can improve relations between the two countries ([Charillon et al., 2020](#)).

Many works discuss defense diplomacy, one of which is Cottey & Forster (2004), which states that "Defense diplomacy, in contrast, involves the peacetime cooperative use of armed forces and related infrastructure (primarily defense ministries) as a tool of foreign and security policy."

The Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces have been effective tools for building cooperative relations with other countries and supporting their partner countries' military reform process. This shows that the military is not only used for its traditional role in carrying out the use of force but also as a new role of defense diplomacy. Then, Cottey & Forster, 2004 mentioned defense diplomacy activities that make it possible to support the state: "1) Bilateral and multilateral contacts between senior military and civilian defense officials, 2) Appointment of defense attaches of foreign countries, 3) Bilateral defense cooperation agreements, 4) Training of foreign military and civil defense personnel, 5) Provision of expertise and advice on the democratic control of armed force, defense management and military-technical areas, 6) Contacts and exchanges between military personnel and unit, and ship visit, 7) Placement of military or civilian personnel in partner countries defense ministries or armed forces, 8) Deployment of training teams, 9) Provision of military equipment and other material aid, 10) Bilateral or multilateral military exercises for training purposes"

### Defense Cooperation

Defense cooperation was initially used in a long-standing realpolitik role to support the armed forces and allied security. Then, current defense cooperation is also used to achieve broader foreign policy and security objectives. In recent decades, defense cooperation has shifted: First, the use of military cooperation and assistance is no longer limited to its traditional function as a counterweight to adversaries but has evolved into an instrument for building cooperative relationships with former or potential adversaries, referred to as strategic engagement ([Cottey & Forster, 2004](#)).

Defense cooperation includes principles that contain norms and standards that must be observed and applied by all parties who sign cooperation agreements. Some of the principles in question are 1) Mutual respect for the independence of each party, 2) Mutual benefit, 3) not aggression against each other, and 4) full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country (Supriyatno, 2014).

The Defense Cooperation Agreement is a formal bilateral agreement forming the institutional framework for routine defense cooperation. In essence, DCA represents a new form of defense cooperation. Substantially, these agreements describe the long-term institutional foundation for conducting regular bilateral defense relations, including defense policy coordination, joint military exercises, working groups, and committees, the exchange of training and education programs, defense research and development, and procurement processes. As a framework, the DCA provides detailed details on implementing relevant implementing protocols and regulations (Kinne, 2018).

## METHOD

This study uses qualitative research methods to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under study, focusing on the meaning and processes that shape international relations ([Lamont, 2015](#)) to answer the problem formulation by referring to the established conceptual framework. This study uses two types of data sources: primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through a one-hour online semi-structured interview with Iis Gindarsah, a researcher from Lab 45, focusing on the defense diplomacy process and challenges. Secondary data were sourced from scientific journal articles, government reports, news media, and other publications, selected based on credibility and relevance to the topic.

The qualitative analysis in this study follows the framework by Miles and Huberman, which consists of three concurrent activities: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. The analysis begins by reviewing all data collected from various sources, including interviews and secondary materials. Data are then reduced by filtering relevant and significant information, ensuring focus on the research objectives. Key statements from the interview are preserved to maintain the authenticity and validity of the findings. These data are systematically presented to identify main patterns and themes, which are integrated to draw meaningful conclusions that align with the conceptual framework of this research (Morissan, 2019). Integrating primary and secondary data emphasizes how the defense diplomatic process is formed and carried out and its implications for the research objectives.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Indonesia-South Korea Defense Cooperation in Indonesian Defense Diplomacy

Indonesia's defense diplomacy with South Korea was strengthened through the 2013 Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA), ratified by Law Number 7 of 2018. This agreement builds on previous collaborations, including defense material assurance (1999), defense industry cooperation (2000), the KF-X project (2010), and the establishment of the Defense Industry Cooperation Committee (2011). The DCA outlines areas of cooperation such as bilateral dialogues, defense information exchange, personnel training, joint research, technology transfer, and logistical support. This partnership enhances Indonesia's defense capabilities, human resources, and technological development ([Adolf, 2018](#); [Kementerian Pertahanan RI, 2013](#)). The scope of defense cooperation in the defense cooperation agreement between Indonesia and South Korea supports the enhancement of Indonesia's defense industry.

Over the decades, the collaboration between the two countries, driven by diplomacy, has resulted in defense projects such as the purchase of KT-1 trainers used for basic and aerobatic training by the Indonesian Air Force's Jupiter Aerobatic Team. This purchase was made in 2001, as many as 17 units, and in 2018, with 20 units ([Eui-rae, 2023](#); [Hyunho, 2024](#)). The strengthening of aerospace cooperation between the two countries continues with the purchase contract of the T-50i Golden Eagle supersonic jet aircraft in 2011, with as many as 16 units. In purchasing the T-50i aircraft, the two countries carried out a reciprocal purchase mechanism in which the T-50i was bartered for a

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product owned by PT Dirgantara Indonesia, namely the CN-235; this aircraft can be used for military operational needs ([Tampubolon, 2023](#)).

Indonesia and South Korea cooperate in constructing submarines, with two units in South Korea and one at the PT PAL facility in Surabaya. As a subsidiary of Len Industri, PT PAL plays an important role in producing maritime defense equipment ([Sulistijono, 2017](#)). Currently, the three submarines have been operated by the Indonesian Navy. The first submarine, the KRI Nagapasa (403), arrived in Indonesia in August 2017. The second ship, KRI Ardadedali (404), arrived in Indonesia in June 2018. Moreover, the third submarine, the KRI Alugoro (405), arrived in Indonesia in March 2021. Unlike the previous two submarines, the components of the third submarine are made in Okpo, South Korea, and the assembly process is carried out at the PT PAL shipyard, Surabaya ([Funaiole & Bermudez Jr, 2021](#)). Submarine development cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea shows strategic efforts to strengthen Indonesia's maritime defense industry through technology transfer.

Joint development of the KF-21 generation 4.5 fighter jet has operated since 2015. After starting system development in late 2015, the KF-21 entered its first mass production stage in 2024 after eight and a half years ([Hyo-joo, 2024](#)). Through the KF-21 project, Indonesia seeks to increase the operational range of fighter jets to meet the defense needs of a wide area. The KF-21 fighter jet is developed by PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PT DI) with Korea Aerospace Industry (KAI). Despite concerns regarding technology transfer from South Korea, Indonesia uses diplomacy and the media to strengthen its negotiating position ([Jiyun, 2015; Won-woo, 2021](#)).

Indonesia aims to improve its defense manufacturing capabilities by utilizing South Korea's technology and knowledge transfer for fighter aircraft manufacturing ([Sari, 2021](#)). Indonesia's defense cooperation project with South Korea, which receives technology and knowledge transfer, can encourage Indonesia's efforts to encourage the independence of the defense industry. Through this project, the Indonesian Air Force is also trying to increase its air fleet to ensure the effectiveness of air surveillance and increase its capabilities. Indonesia's air fleet is also still limited in number, so an additional air fleet is urgently needed ([Nah, 2021](#)).

Defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea has strategic value, especially in procuring military equipment and developing defense technology. Indonesia's choice to buy and partner in defense equipment with South Korea is not solely based on product quality. Still, it is also influenced by the view that the two countries are in a relatively equal position as middle powers. Therefore, this encourages the creation of bilateral relations based on mutual respect ([Teo et al., 2016](#)).

Building on the collaboration established through the joint development of the KF-21 fighter jet and submarine, Indonesia and South Korea have expanded their defense partnership into broader areas of cooperation, opening up significant opportunities for enhancing military capabilities and advancing shared strategic interests.



## Defense Cooperation Opportunities

### Joint Military Exercises

Indonesian National Army (TNI) and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Korea signed a cooperation agreement in July 2023 to strengthen the capabilities of peacekeeping forces in conflict areas. By signing the Memorandum of Understanding on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (MoU UN PKO), both are committed to improving the capabilities of their soldiers by UN standards through the exchange of knowledge, experience, trainees, and instructors in the future. In addition, members of the Indonesian troops have undergone training at the South Korean Presidential Security Force facility ([Felix, 2023; Haninpost, 2023](#)). This defense cooperation aims to improve TNI soldiers' professionalism through Education, training in the procurement of defense equipment, and technology transfer ([Komara, 2019](#)). Defense cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea has become increasingly close and mutually beneficial for both countries. Efforts are being made to increase cooperation in peacekeeping operations and military training and defense industry development.

With defense cooperation strengthening the relationship between the two countries, opportunities for bilateral joint military exercises are increasingly open. Currently, military exercises with the two countries are only being carried out multilateral, such as the "Super Garuda Shield," attended by more than 20 Indo-Pacific countries, including South Korea. This joint exercise aims to strengthen relations between countries and promote regional security (Costa, 2024). In the future, bilateral military exercises can be a strategic step for the two countries to strengthen and improve their defense capabilities and maintain regional security.

### Defense Industry Collaboration

Indonesia has been a joint development partner in the KF-21 project since 2009 when a Letter of Intent was signed. This reflects the two countries' commitment to actively participate for mutual benefit. Through the KF-21 project, Indonesia intends to improve its defense manufacturing capabilities by utilizing technology and knowledge transfer from South Korea to produce fighter jets, aiming to strengthen the domestic defense industry and expand Indonesia's capacity to develop advanced defense systems ([Sari, 2021](#)). The project reflects efforts to acquire more advanced defense technology. It signals the dynamics of power and strategic interests in the region ([Iiyun, 2015](#)).

In 2011, Indonesia carried out joint development cooperation for three submarines with the South Korean company Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME). In addition, there is a second batch of submarine projects signed in 2019; the two countries again signed contracts for three submarines, but this project has not yet run because the South Korean side is still waiting for a letter of credit from the Indonesian side ([Mariska, 2023](#)). If this second batch of submarine projects is implemented, it can be used to obtain more technology transfer and optimize technology transfer from previous projects. Optimizing the transfer of previous technology to produce submarines independently also provides an opportunity for PT PAL to develop domestic

submarines to meet the needs of the Indonesian Navy ([Asmoro et al., 2018; Condro, 2017; Jihyuk, 2024](#)).

Indonesia and South Korea leverage bilateral and multilateral forums like the Defense Industry Cooperation Committee (DICC) to strengthen defense cooperation. The DICC, involving government and defense industry representatives, focuses on strategic projects, including joint development and production. This annual forum also evaluates ongoing cooperation programs and explores new opportunities, aiming to reach mutually beneficial agreements and solutions ([Jaehyun, 2012; Kementerian Pertahanan RI, 2019](#)).

The two countries' leaders noted the importance of active strategic communication to strengthen the defense cooperation that the two countries have already undertaken and agreed to explore new consultation mechanisms, which can be used to develop cooperation in the defense industry sector. Indonesia and South Korea are committed to increasing joint research, development, and production capacity in defense industry cooperation. In addition, important dialogues and meetings, such as the 2+2 meeting between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of Indonesia and South Korea, have helped strengthen bilateral relations and facilitate better coordination in defense ([Duk-kun, 2017](#)). These forums are not only a place for technical coordination but also important as a means of defense diplomacy to strengthen commitments and address strategic challenges in defense cooperation between the two countries. With consistent and sustained defense diplomacy efforts, Indonesia and South Korea remain committed to maintaining long-term mutually beneficial cooperation in line with the common interest of maintaining regional peace and stability ([Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2018](#)).

While Indonesia and South Korea have made significant strides in strengthening defense cooperation through strategic communication, joint initiatives, and key diplomatic forums, this collaboration has challenges. Geopolitical factors, transparency issues, and payment delays present obstacles that require careful navigation to sustain and advance their partnership.

## Challenges of Defense Cooperation

### Geopolitical Challenges

South Korea's alliance with the United States, established through the 1953 mutual defense treaty, ensures strong military interoperability and defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific (Orta, 2024; VOA Korea, 2024). In contrast, Indonesia's non-aligned foreign policy limits its involvement in military alliances, creating challenges in projects like the KF-21. Although the U.S. is not directly involved in the KF-21 project, its significant influence on South Korea's defense industry through technology and military cooperation complicates the Indonesia-South Korea defense collaboration ([Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, 2015; Navalino, 2022](#)).

According to Gindarsah, the geopolitical differences between Indonesia and South Korea can challenge the two countries' defense diplomacy. South Korea has an alliance with the United States and has received extensive assistance and cooperation in defense technology to improve its defense industry capabilities. This alliance greatly influences South Korea's geopolitics. This relationship



has become important to South Korea's defense strategy, especially with the ongoing escalation of tensions with North Korea.

In the KF-21 project scheme, although the United States does not play a direct role in the cost-sharing, labor, or project management, the influence is still significant because South Korea cooperates with the United States in the development of the T-50 Golden Eagle fighter aircraft and the purchase agreement for 40 F-35 aircraft accompanied by a technology offset agreement, which provides an important technological contribution for South Korea in developing the KF-21 fighter jet. Thus, the position of the United States is crucial, not only in alliance ties but also in the capabilities of the technology transferred ([Navalino, 2022](#)).

The KF-21 project encountered setbacks due to the U.S. refusal to transfer critical technologies, forcing South Korea to develop these independently and delaying progress ([Fitri, 2018; Hyo-joo, 2024](#)). Indonesia's access to these technologies was also limited, reflecting the political dimensions of global arms markets. Indonesia's neutral foreign policy restricts its access to U.S. military technology. However, if managed strategically, its position in the Indo-Pacific could enable it to leverage partnerships with the U.S. for advanced defense technology ([Yani et al., 2016](#)).

Geopolitical differences between Indonesia and South Korea are one of the challenges in defense diplomacy, especially in the KF-21 project. South Korea's reliance on the alliance, including developing the fighter jet the KF-21, creates complexity in cooperation with Indonesia, which needs more access to core technologies. Even so, Indonesia's strategic position in the Indo-Pacific provides the potential to strengthen defense cooperation if managed with the right approach.

### Transparency Issues and Payment Delays

Although the relationship between Indonesia and South Korea has been upgraded to a strategic partnership, there are no limits to implementing joint projects. One of the main challenges is Indonesia's delay in payment for the ongoing KF-21 fighter jet project. Initially, Indonesia agreed to pay 1.7 trillion won as a commitment, but then Indonesia asked for a reduction in payments of 600 billion won ([Kadidal, 2024; The Korea Times, 2024b](#)). Indonesia has submitted a request to reduce the payment amount and delay payments until 2034, but South Korea stressed that payments must be made before the 2026 construction deadline. These financial challenges raise questions about Indonesia's commitment to the KF-21 project and could affect the continuation and outcome of the project ([Eun-jung, 2024; The Korea Times, 2024b](#)). South Korea has approved a proposal to reduce payments for the KF-21 project submitted by Indonesia in response to Indonesia's financial difficulties. This reduction reflects a decrease of almost two-thirds from the initial agreed contribution. Nonetheless, Indonesia will still receive technology transfer and participation in the production of the KF-21 ([IBP, 2024](#)).

According to ([Ina et al., 2022](#)), the reduction in payments that indicate the lack of Indonesia's defense budget can affect the smooth running of defense cooperation. This payment reduction includes the risk of non-compliance or termination of the contract, which could damage the trust of the two countries. South Korea also sees Indonesia as more focused on diversifying defense resources than completing financial commitments in the KF-21 project. Seeing Indonesia buying

fighter aircraft that are available faster, this move may be part of a strategy to meet the needs of the Air Force and close operational gaps. However, it may also raise questions regarding Indonesia's commitment to the KF-21 project ([Jihyuk, 2024](#)). Financial commitment is a major concern because Indonesia can potentially suffer reputational damage if it cannot meet its obligations. Especially for Indonesia's defense partners, this will be a barrier for Indonesia to get other defense projects. This situation can also hinder the transfer of technology and knowledge, which is crucial for developing Indonesia's defense industry.

According to Gindarsah, the difference in defense budget allocation priorities between the two countries shows how each country prioritizes using its defense funds. This mismatch of priorities can challenge the implementation of defense diplomacy between the two countries. In addition, differences in budget allocation can also affect the collaborative projects that are carried out.

In February 2024, another challenge arose regarding the alleged theft of data on the KF-21 fighter jet by two Indonesian engineers involved in the KF-21 fighter jet development project in South Korea. Investigations were conducted against the two engineers, and the South Korean government banned the two engineers from leaving the country during the investigation process ([Shofa, 2024](#); [The Korea Times, 2024a](#)). In response to this situation, the Indonesian government is committed to gathering all relevant information and has initiated a thorough investigation through the Indonesian Embassy in South Korea ([Wonju, 2024](#)). This case emphasizes the importance of transparency between the two countries and the commitment to maintaining trust; this is sensitive for both countries because it can interfere with the defense diplomacy efforts they have carried out and ongoing defense cooperation.

With the issue of transparency and delayed payments, projects such as the KF-21 were delayed and required the Defense Ministers of Indonesia and South Korea to negotiate and agree to ensure rapid and continued defense industry cooperation as cooperation mutually; this "symbolizes the strong trust between the two countries" ([Soo-hyang, 2021](#)), this reflects the importance of bilateral relations between the two countries. Despite the challenges, these efforts reflect the importance of maintaining trust and collaboration in the face of obstacles and show that defense diplomacy remains central to the partnership between Indonesia and South Korea.

## CONCLUSION

Indonesia's defense diplomacy has opened up more opportunities for defense cooperation in various sectors with South Korea. The expansion of defense cooperation between the two countries also helps Indonesia in its efforts to improve its defense capabilities. Through various defense diplomacy efforts, such as bilateral and multilateral contacts between military defense officials and defense cooperation agreements carried out by Indonesia and South Korea, it is a strategic step in opening up more defense cooperation, including in the defense industry. Defense cooperation between the two countries is faced with geopolitical challenges and transparency that have disrupted the progress of defense projects between the two countries. Seeing disruptions to the defense projects of the two countries, the Indonesian government carries out various defense diplomacy activities that seek to resolve challenges and misunderstandings between the two countries. Defense diplomacy efforts carried out by the Indonesian government are an important

instrument that can resolve misunderstandings. It takes sustained diplomacy to maintain defense cooperation between the two countries and resolve the challenges faced. Bilateral contacts in defense forums are important for affirming mutual commitment to cooperation.

This study's limitation is the need for empirical data from the Indonesian Ministry of Defense regarding the implementation of the defense cooperation agreement between Indonesia and South Korea. Future researchers should conduct in-depth research exploring the implementation of Indonesia's cooperation agreement with South Korea. That way, researchers can see changes or developments in the implementation of defense cooperation agreements between the two countries and new opportunities and challenges in their implementation.

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