Decentralization and the challenges of local governance in Indonesia

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Decentralization and the Challenges of Local Governance in Indonesia:
Four case studies on public service provision and democratization in Papua and West Papua

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1. Decentralization in Indonesia has generated new relationships among actors. In achieving officially stated policy goals, these actors face difficulties in adapting to the new governance structure induced by decentralization with regard to monitoring and supervision, incentives alignment, accessibility, coordination, and accountability (Chapters 6).

2. Both autonomy and subordination have drawbacks when they are insufficient or excessive. To govern effectively, an equilibrium needs to be found between sufficient control and adequate discretion (Chapter 4).

3. Our understanding of the problems in Papua and West Papua is still predominantly focused on the political realm, while (local) institutions and geography have not drawn much attention (Chapter 5).

4. The practice of decentralization in Papua and West Papua demonstrates that decentralization results in unintended outcomes if it is not supplemented by a proper design of institutions and a consideration of geographical factors (Chapter 6).

5. Papua's special autonomy has been attenuated by the imposition of "one-size-fits-all" top-down policies at the national level. The lack of awareness to recognize the variety of local contexts is counterproductive and leads to policy failures (Chapter 2).

6. Geographical challenges in terms of distance and difficult terrain have affected the effectiveness of governance in Papua and West Papua. In other words: places matter for good governance (Chapter 3).

7. "In some settings, however, rampant opportunistic behaviour severely limits what can be done jointly without major investments in monitoring and sanctioning arrangements" (Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, 2015, p. 36).

8. "Poor countries are poor because those who have power make choices that create poverty. They get it wrong not by mistake or ignorance but on purpose" (Daron Acemoglu & James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, 2012, p. 68).

9. "Economic unfreedom can breed social unfreedom, just as social or political unfreedom can also foster economic unfreedom" (Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, 1999, p. 8).

10. "If, when the mind experiences something pleasant or unpleasant, it simply understands things as they are, then there is no suffering" (Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens,* 2014, p. 251).