



DPRD Supervisory Function and Paradiplomacy: The East Java–West Australia Sister Province After the 2023 MoU

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ABSTRACT

The growing involvement of subnational governments in international cooperation has expanded the scope of paradiplomacy beyond the activities of executive institutions. However, the implementation of paradiplomatic cooperation also require effective domestic governance and institutional oversight. In the context of East Java-Western Australia sister province cooperation, the role of the East Java's DPRD in overseeing the implementation of paradiplomacy remains insufficiently examined. This study addresses the literature gap concerning legislative oversight in paradiplomacy, which remains underexplored compared with the extensive focus on executive actors and subnational governments. This study aims to analyze the contribution of the East Java Provincial DPRD's supervisory function to the implementation of East Java–Western Australia sister province cooperation following the renewal of the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Using a qualitative approach, the study employs documentation analysis of the Governor's Accountability Reports (LKPD) for 2023 and 2024, DPRD documents, relevant scientific literature, and credible media reports. Data were analyzed through data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. The findings show that DPRD supervision operates through three stages: evaluation, recommendation formulation, and follow-up monitoring. Its effectiveness is reflected in executive responses, policy implementation, and outcomes. The study contributes to paradiplomacy scholarship by demonstrating that legislative oversight can indirectly shape the governance and implementation of subnational international cooperation, extending the understanding of paradiplomatic actorship beyond executive institutions.

Keywords: DPRD, Paradiplomacy, Sister Province, Supervision

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the way countries interact with each other has changed a lot. One sign in the change is that non-state actors are playing a greater role in global diplomacy. The result of this phenomenon, one of them, is paradiplomacy that refers to the behavior and capacity in conducting foreign relations carried out by 'sub-state' entities, in the context of their specific interests (Fantoni & Avellaneda, 2022; Newland, 2023). In Indonesia, this increasingly complex shift in global governance, coupled with the post-New Order decentralization of power, has provided greater autonomy and opened up opportunities for local governments to forge cross-border partnerships (Karim et al., 2024; Utomo, 2022). One of the most common forms of paradiplomacy that occurs in provincial or urban areas is the sister province or sister city (Fortunoff et al., 2025). This cooperation aims to strengthen cooperation in the fields of economy, education, culture, and technology. This shows the relationship between global dynamics and the interests of regional development, especially in the economic, educational, and human resources sectors.

One of the longest sister province cooperation is the cooperation between East Java and Western Australia (Margaretha et al., 2025). This collaboration was initially an informal relationship in the social field, especially engaged in the education of deaf children. The Ministry of Agriculture collaborated with SLB Karya Mulia which was spearheaded by the Harjono and Patricia O'Sullivan Humanitarian Project. This interaction is the bridge to official cooperation at the provincial level which was inaugurated in 1990 through a memorandum of understanding agreed by both parties. This cooperation has also been renewed in 2023, marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by both parties. The update is a form of commitment between the two parties to strengthen bilateral relations at the sub-national level while increasing concrete benefits for the local community.

Previous studies have extensively examined paradiplomacy from various perspectives. Research has explored the evolution of paradiplomacy as an increasingly important component of global governance (Kuestra et al., 2025), the international actorness of subnational governments (Liu & Song, 2020), institutional factors influencing paradiplomatic engagement (Fantoni & Avellaneda, 2022), and the relationship between central governments and subnational actors in managing international activities (Erdoğan & Atar, 2026). Other studies have highlighted the growing influence of subnational actors in multi-level governance structures and international policy processes (Ciesielska-Klikowska & Kamiński, 2022), as well as the role of paradiplomacy in strengthening regional identity and soft power (Chan, 2019). Collectively, these studies demonstrate that paradiplomacy has become an important instrument through which subnational governments pursue economic, political, and socio-cultural objectives beyond national borders. At the same time, several studies have

identified governance challenges in the implementation of paradiplomacy and sister province cooperation.

Research on the Yogyakarta–Gangwon-do partnership found that weak coordination, communication, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms contributed to the ineffectiveness of cooperation (Aisyah & Deniar, 2025). Meanwhile, studies on the supervisory function of regional legislatures (DPRD) have largely focused on domestic governance issues, including budget oversight (S. Anam & Anwar, 2020), public service delivery (Kariem & Iqbal, 2023), and government accountability (Saleh et al., 2021). These studies generally conclude that legislative oversight plays an important role in promoting accountability but is often constrained by limited institutional capacity, weak follow-up mechanisms, and political factors. Despite these contributions, existing literature has rarely examined how DPRD oversight functions within the context of regional international cooperation. Consequently, the relationship between legislative supervision and paradiplomacy remains underexplored, particularly in the implementation of sister province cooperation. This study seeks to address this gap by analyzing the contribution of the East Java Provincial DPRD's supervisory function to the implementation of the East Java–Western Australia sister province cooperation following the renewal of the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

In the study of international relations, the effectiveness of paradiplomacy depends on the governance that regulates its implementation as much as on the cooperation activities themselves (Hocking, 1999). Local governments as sub-national actors in the executive field play a major role in this implementation, but legislative sub-national actors such as the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) formally hold a supervisory function over government policies and programs. In many international relations studies, paradiplomacy tends to highlight executive roles, while managerial oversight roles rarely receive attention.

Then, the renewal of the MoU in 2023 between East Java and Western Australia can be set as an important point to analyze the monitoring mechanism running. In the framework of multi-level governance, supervision at a certain level can have an impact on the overall effectiveness of cross-border cooperation. Therefore, this research is important to fill the literature gap while making an empirical contribution to strengthening the role of regional legislators in paradiplomacy in Indonesia. This study specifically examines the mechanism of the East Java DPRD's supervisory function on the implementation of sister province cooperation after the renewal of the 2023 MoU, and it assesses how effective this supervision is in influencing the implementation of the cooperation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research approach to examine the supervisory function of East Java's DPRD in the implementation of the East Java–Western Australia sister province cooperation following the renewal of the 2023

MoU. A qualitative approach is appropriate because the study seeks to understand institutional processes, policy mechanisms, and the relationship between legislative oversight and the implementation of subnational international cooperation instead of measuring these phenomena statistically (Creswell & Creswell, 2023).

The East Java-Western Australia sister province cooperation was selected as the case because it represents one of Indonesia's longstanding subnational international partnerships and has been formally renewed through the 2023 MoU. The renewal provides a relevant institutional point for examining how regional international cooperation is supervised within the framework of multi-level governance. In addition, while previous studies have extensively discussed paradiplomacy and the role of subnational governments, the involvement of regional legislatures in supervising the implementation of paradiplomatic cooperation remains relatively underexplored. Therefore, this case provides an opportunity to examine the relationship between legislative oversight and the implementation of paradiplomacy at the subnational level.

The research uses documentary data obtained from official government and DPRD documents, particularly the Governor of East Java's Accountability Reports (LKPD) for 2023 and 2024 and East Java Provincial DPRD Decree Number 40 of 2022. These sources are complemented by relevant scientific literature and credible media reports concerning East Java-Western Australia cooperation and its implementation. Data were collected through documentation study, focusing on information related to the supervisory mechanism of the DPRD, policy recommendations, executive responses, and the implementation and outcomes of cooperation programs.

Data analysis follows the qualitative data analysis process of Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, consisting of data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification (Miles et al., 2020). Information relevant to the research questions was selected, organized, and categorized according to the stages of DPRD supervision and indicators of its effectiveness, then displayed descriptively to identify patterns and relationships within the sister province cooperation. To strengthen the credibility of the findings, document triangulation was applied by comparing information from DPRD documents, executive accountability reports, scientific literature, and credible media reports. This process was used to identify consistency or differences across sources and reduce reliance on a single institutional account. However, because the study relies primarily on secondary and official documentary sources without interview data, the findings are interpreted within the limitations of document-based research.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

East Java DPRD Supervision Mechanism on the Implementation of Sister Province Cooperation

The supervision mechanism carried out by the East Java Provincial House of Representatives (DPRD) on the implementation of sister province cooperation between East Java and West Australia is basically carried out through an institutional framework that is formal, indirect, and based on the local government accountability system. In accordance with the Indonesian government system, the DPRD is not a foreign policy implementer, but rather a legislative institution that carries out the function of supervising policies and programs implemented by local governments. The supervisory function of the DPRD is regulated in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. In it, it is emphasized that the DPRD is a party that has the authority in the form of supervision over the implementation of regional regulations, budgets, and local government policies (UU No. 23 Tahun 2014, 2014). Specifically, the DPRD is authorized to provide opinions and considerations to local governments on regional international agreement plans, give approval to international cooperation plans carried out by local governments, and request accountability reports to the regions in the implementation of government. So here, sister province cooperation is part of regional paradiplomacy activities and is included in the object of DPRD supervision.

In the East Java–West Australia sister province cooperation, the formal mechanism taken reflects the procedures that have been arranged. After the end of the sister province cooperation period in the previous period on September 14, 2022, the then Deputy Prime Minister of Western Australia visited East Java and conducted a mapping of potential cooperation. Then based on the results of the exploration, the East Java Provincial Government proposed the extension of the sister province cooperation period to the East Java Provincial DPRD. This proposal was discussed and mutually agreed upon at the plenary meeting of the East Java Provincial DPRD on November 9, 2022. This is stated in the Decree of the Provincial DPRD Number 40 of 2022 (Keputusan Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Provinsi Jawa Timur Nomor 40 Tahun 2022 Tentang Kerja Sama Sister Province Antara Pemerintah Provinsi Jawa Timur Dan Pemerintah Negara Bagian Australia Barat, 2022). This mechanism shows that the DPRD has a role in the early stages of a region's process to agree on agreements or cooperation, provide cooperation and formal approval.

One of the other main instruments in the DPRD's supervision mechanism is related to the discussion of the Accountability Report (LKPJ) to the regions. This annual report contains program achievements, strategic policies, problems, and follow-up in accordance with the recommendations of the DPRD in the previous year. Through the Governor's LKPJ, the DPRD conducts a thorough evaluation of local governments, including in the field of international cooperation. The DPRD

strives to monitor and ensure the implementation process of cooperation in accordance with the MoU and can achieve the desired targets. In practice, the DPRD's supervision mechanism for sister province cooperation can be identified through three stages, namely: evaluation, recommendation formulation, and follow-up monitoring. The following is an explanation for each stage:

1. Evaluation stage

This is the initial stage carried out by the DPRD, here the DPRD evaluates the performance of local governments through the discussion of the LKPJ in commission meetings and forms a special committee in charge of discussing the LKPJ. The evaluation carried out includes an analysis of program achievements, policy effectiveness, and the suitability of program implementation with regional development plans.

When linked to the context of paradiplomacy, this evaluation includes programs related to international cooperation, such as cultural promotion, strengthening international networks, and foreign investment, which are part of the implementation of international cooperation that is being carried out. This can be seen from the DPRD's assessment of the Governor's LKPJ in 2024, in which it was mentioned that the problem of equitable investment distribution outside the Gerbangkertasusila area was not optimal. This is based on LKPJ data in 2023 on page 160, East Java's Investment Realization in 2023 is ranked 3rd compared to other provinces in Indonesia of IDR 145.1 trillion or 10.2 of Indonesia's investment realization. Meanwhile, PMA Realization is ranked 5th with US\$ 4.7 Billion (Rp. 70.2T) and PMDN Investment Realization is ranked 3rd with (Rp. 74.9 T). These findings then became the basis for the DPRD to provide recommendations to be followed up by the provincial government.

2. Recommendation Formulation stage

After the DPRD evaluates the problems found in the 2024 Governor's LKPJ, the DPRD will formulate policy recommendations to overcome the problems that occur. In this investment issue, the DPRD gave recommendations that DPM PTSP is expected to coordinate with other Regional Apparatus related to efforts to expand the investment area (investment) outside the Gerbangkertasusila area in order to have an impact on the formation of new economic growth points.

This recommendation shows that the DPRD is a sub-state actor that provides the direction of regional development policies and influences the orientation of regional international cooperation indirectly. The East Java DPRD tries to ensure that the sister province cooperation can be in accordance with its plans and targets, so that the DPRD provides policy recommendations that can be used to solve problems that arise in the process of implementing this cooperation. So, although the DPRD is not

directly involved in diplomacy, this institution has a significant influence on regional decision-making (Kuznetsov, 2014).

3. Follow-up and Monitoring

As a form of follow-up to the recommendations given by the DPRD regarding these problems, the Provincial Government will implement various concrete programs that are in accordance with the recommendations and are considered to be able to solve the problems that arise. We can see by taking the example of the investment case used in the next stage. Of the various programs implemented, one of them is investment promotion activities through business forums and exhibitions in the country, as well as overseas promotion through international webinars and business meetings. Its overseas promotions cover several countries including Australia, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, the People's Republic of China, and Vietnam.

The existence of Australia as an investment promotion target shows the relationship between the DPRD's recommendations and international cooperation established by East Java. It is also remembered that the investment sector is one of the priority areas of East Java-West Australia sister province cooperation. This also includes Australia which is the 15th ranked country for investment in East Java, where there are a number of companies operating in a number of industrial estates such as in SIER, PIER and some have started to explore in JIPE. In addition, the DPRD also highlighted the high amount of investment overall but not proportional to the number of workers absorbed. If included in the concept of paradiplomacy, this shows that the DPRD ensures the implementation of cooperation whose programs must provide long-term and sustainable benefits (Keputusan Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Provinsi Jawa Timur Nomor 40 Tahun 2022 Tentang Kerja Sama Sister Province Antara Pemerintah Provinsi Jawa Timur Dan Pemerintah Negara Bagian Australia Barat, 2022). Thus, this recommendation not only has an impact on domestic policies, but also contributes to strengthening the economic dimension of regional paradiplomacy. Furthermore, monitoring will be carried out through the submission of reports related to the implementation of provincial government programs.

Based on the description of each stage of the DPRD evaluation with an example of an equal investment case, it shows that the supervisory function of the DPRD does not stop at administrative evaluation. The DPRD relies on reports prepared by the provincial government as the main source in assessing the implementation of obligations. It was found that the DPRD's monitoring mechanism for the implementation of sister province cooperation is still dominated

by document-based evaluations, especially through the local government's LKPJ. The DPRD's recommendations that encourage the expansion of investment abroad have indirectly directed the East Java Provincial Government to expand economic networks to the international level. Thus, the relationship between legislative oversight and paradiplomacy is not linear, but interdependent. The DPRD does not act as a diplomatic actor, but through its supervisory function it shapes policy preferences which are then translated by the executive into the form of international cooperation activities

Effectiveness of DPRD Supervision

The effectiveness of the supervisory function of the East Java Provincial DPRD is not enough just to be assessed from the existence of a formal mechanism, concrete evidence is needed of its ability to produce policy changes and its impact in the implementation of the recommendations given. The effectiveness of the supervisory function of the East Java Provincial DPRD on the cooperation between the East Java-West Australia sister province can be measured by the following three indicators:

1. Executive Response

How the DPRD is able to influence local government decision-making and the response of the executive institution to the recommendations of the DPRD. In the case of East Java Province, there are indications that the recommendations of the East Java Provincial DPRD are well responded, through concrete policies and programs. As seen in the Governor's LKPJ of the Year on recommendations related to expanding investment and strengthening foreign cooperation relations, the East Java Provincial Government follows up on these recommendations through the process of promoting cross-border investment and strengthening networks in the fields of education and culture. One of the real activities carried out by the East Java Provincial Government in expanding its economic network abroad is investment promotion and business networking activities in 2024 which is a meeting of industry networks and involves the Australian Consul General, Austrade, and the Australia Business Council. This activity aims to increase two-way trade and investment and open up new investment opportunities in East Java. This activity is actually designed to support Australian investors looking for new investment opportunities in East Java (Pratama, 2024).

Next is the problem related to the implementation of Investment Promotions which does not attract the interest of potential investors to invest in East Java. The East Java Provincial Government takes concrete steps to follow up on the recommendations of the DPRD with collaborative and interactive investment promotion through the

implementation of Trade and Investment Missions both at home and abroad, especially in countries that have the potential to contribute to the realization of investment in East Java, through investment forums, webinars and One on One Meetings as well as Business Forums with other stakeholders (related OPDs, Legislative). In an effort to expand the investment area (investment) outside the Kertasusila Gate area, DPMPTSP has coordinated with the Regency/City Regional Government and the Regency/City DPMPTSP to encourage the existence of new Industrial Estates, especially outside the Kertasusila Gate area. And together with the East Java Provincial Disperindag, the Tourism and Culture Office and the Cooperatives and MSMEs Office through Trade and Investment Mission activities offer investment potential outside the Gerbangkertasusila area. Furthermore, technology-based innovation to increase the ease of regional investment, through:

- a. POINT East Java, a platform to promote East Java's investment potential, especially IPRO which is designed based on digital maps, and displays information on investment carrying capacity. JOSS and JOSS Gandos, a business license application service platform that is the authority of the Province online and through smartphones. MPP Digital, an electronic-based public service for the Regional Government that is integrated into one application platform, where people can easily find information and apply for licensing services through smartphones and PCs
- b. EJI HUB, an interactive platform that provides information to business actors and the wider community about investment opportunities, regulations, ease of doing business and helpdesk
- c. Helpdesk, complaint portal and consultation of business licensing services in East Java
- d. Sinona, an information system service that accommodates reports on the implementation of PTSP in Regencies/Cities in East Java.

These programs demonstrated how the East Java Provincial Government translated the DPRD's recommendations into concrete policy and administrative measures. The development of investment information, licensing, complaint-handling, and reporting platforms indicates an executive response aimed at improving the accessibility, transparency, and efficiency of the regional investment environment. From an oversight perspective, these measures provide concrete evidence that the Regional People's Representative Council's (DPRD) recommendations are not merely political statements but are followed by policy implementation within the executive branch. Furthermore, within the framework of multilevel governance, this implementation illustrates

the interaction between subnational legislative oversight and executive action, in which the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) influences policy direction through its oversight function while the Provincial Government retains the authority to implement the resulting programs. Thus, these initiatives represent an indirect contribution of the DPRD's oversight to strengthening regional economic governance and support

The follow-up steps taken by the Provincial Government show tangible results, the value of Western Australia's investment in East Java will increase by 2025, especially in strategic sectors as part of the sister province's cooperation. Australia is also listed as the 15th ranked country for investment in East Java.

These findings show that the DPRD's recommendations have political power in the face of politics. In paradiplomacy, the executive response is important because it shows that the policy direction is also determined by the DPRD as a sub-state actor that has a supervisory function.

2. Policy Implementation

The effectiveness of the supervisory function by the East Java Provincial DPRD will be seen from how the DPRD's recommendations are translated by the local government into various concrete activities as seen in the various efforts that have been made by the provincial government mentioned in the previous section. The connection between the DPRD and the implementation of the program is able to encourage the creation of provincial government policies to internalize the recommendations of the East Java DPRD. Thus, at the policy process level, the supervision of the East Java Provincial DPRD can be considered effective because it is able to ensure that the recommendations given are responded to and implemented in real programs.

3. Outcome

One of the outcomes of policies that follow up on the recommendations of the DPRD in the cooperation between the sister provinces of East Java and West Australia can be seen in the education and human resource development cooperation sector. In this sister province cooperation, there are various programs such as student exchanges, university cooperation, and joint research activities involving educational institutions in both regions, including the cooperation of a consortium of state universities through the establishment of the Western Australia East Java Universities Consortium (WAEJUC) (Anam, 2023). This consortium brings together students from both regions and allows them to visit each other's campuses for short-term study and cultural

experience. Thus, in certain sectors, especially education and capacity development, the effectiveness of DPRD supervision is not only seen at the policy process stage, but also at the stage of more identified outcomes. This condition strengthens the argument that the DPRD plays an effective role in encouraging the implementation of sister province cooperation, although the measurable level of impact can differ between policy sectors.

Based on these three dimensions, the supervision of the East Java Provincial DPRD can be categorized as effective in the dimension of the policy process, especially in influencing the direction of local government policies and encouraging the implementation of international cooperation in the form of real programs. The findings of this study support previous research emphasizing the importance of governance, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms in determining the effectiveness of sister-province cooperation (Aisyah & Deniar, 2025). for example, found that weaknesses in coordination, communication, monitoring, and evaluation can reduce the effectiveness of cooperation among local governments. This study confirms this argument by demonstrating that monitoring and evaluation are crucial components in the implementation of the East Java–Western Australia partnership. However, the findings also indicate that these mechanisms do not rely solely on executive bodies, as the East Java Provincial Legislative Council (DPRD) contributes through its formal oversight functions—specifically by evaluating the Governor’s accountability reports, formulating recommendations, and monitoring their implementation.

These findings also expand upon previous studies on legislative oversight, most of which have examined the role of regional legislative councils (DPRD) in domestic governance, public services, budgeting, and government accountability. Previous research has generally identified legislative oversight as a crucial mechanism for accountability, while also highlighting limitations such as institutional capacity, weak follow-up mechanisms, and political factors. In contrast, this study situates the oversight function of the DPRD within the context of subnational international cooperation and demonstrates that legislative oversight can indirectly influence the direction and implementation of paradiplomatic activities. The DPRD does not function as a direct diplomatic actor; rather, its contribution operates through domestic governance processes by influencing policy priorities and holding the executive branch accountable for the implementation of international cooperation.

Therefore, these findings contribute to the study of paradiplomacy by broadening our understanding of the role of subnational actors outside the executive branch. Although the existing literature on paradiplomacy tends to emphasize the international capacities and activities of subnational executives, this study shows that the effectiveness of paradiplomacy can also be influenced by internal

institutional relationships between legislative and executive actors. From a multilevel governance perspective, the case of East Java illustrates that interregional international cooperation is embedded within domestic institutional processes, where legislative oversight and executive implementation interact to shape policy outcomes. Thus, this study does not contradict previous research but rather expands upon it by demonstrating that the governance of paradiplomacy involves not only cross-border relations but also vertical and horizontal institutional dynamics within subnational governments.

Table 1 DPRD Supervisory Stages and Their Effects on East Java–Western Australia Cooperation

Supervision Stage	Executive Response	Policy Implementation	Outcome
Evaluation	The DPRD identifies problems and assesses the implementation of government programs through the LKPJ	Evaluation findings provide the basis for identifying programs requiring improvement or adjustment	Evaluation establishes the basis for assessing whether cooperation programs are aligned with regional development objectives
Recommendation Formulation	The DPRD formulates recommendations in response to problems identified during evaluation which require a response from the executive	Recommendations provide policy direction for the Provincial Government in implementing corrective measures and cooperation programs	Recommendations are intended to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of cooperation and its benefits for regional development
Follow-up and Monitoring	The executive responds to DPRD recommendations by reporting subsequent actions and programs	Recommendations are translated into concrete programs, including investment promotion, business networking and institutional innovations	Implementation can generate tangible outcomes, including strengthened economic networks and cooperation and human resource development

Source: Processed by the author (2026)

CONCLUSION

This study finds that the supervisory function of the East Java Provincial DPRD plays a significant, although indirect, role in strengthening the implementation of paradiplomacy within the East Java-Western Australia sister province cooperation after the 2023 MoU renewal. The supervision mechanism operates through a formal and institutionalized process consisting of evaluation, recommendation formulation, and follow-up monitoring, primarily based on document analysis such as the Governor's LKPJ. The findings show that DPRD supervision does not function as direct diplomatic engagement but instead as a governance instrument that shapes policy direction. Through its recommendations, the DPRD is able to influence the priorities and strategies of the provincial government, particularly in expanding investment networks, improving policy implementation, and aligning international cooperation with regional development goals.

In terms of effectiveness, the DPRD's supervisory role can be considered relatively effective at the policy process level. This is reflected in the responsiveness of the executive in translating DPRD recommendations into concrete programs, such as international investment promotion, institutional innovation, and cross-border collaboration initiatives. In certain sectors like education and human resource development, this supervision has contributed to tangible outcomes, including academic exchanges and institutional partnerships. However, this supervision remains largely indirect and dependent on executive reporting mechanisms, which may limit its capacity to ensure comprehensive and measurable outcomes across all sectors. While the DPRD has demonstrated an important contributory role, strengthening oversight mechanisms beyond document-based evaluation would enhance the overall effectiveness and sustainability of regional paradiplomacy.

This study has several limitations that should be taken into account when interpreting its findings. It employs a single-case design focused on the East Java-Western Australia sister-province partnership, which limits the generalizability of these findings to other forms of subnational international cooperation. In addition, it relies primarily on secondary and official documentary sources, specifically the Governor's Accountability Report (LKPJ), Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) documents, scholarly literature, and credible media reports, without triangulation through interviews with relevant legislative or executive actors. This reliance on documentary evidence may limit access to perspectives and institutional processes not explicitly recorded in official documents, and the LKPJ itself is a self-compiled performance report that may contain institutional or reporting biases, including a selective presentation of achievements and limitations. Future research could address these limitations by incorporating interviews with relevant DPRD members and executive officials, utilizing additional independent

sources, and conducting comparative studies of various cases of subnational international cooperation. Overall, this research contributes to bridging the gap in the literature by emphasizing that legislative institutions, although often overlooked, are crucial actors in shaping the governance and effectiveness of subnational international cooperation within a multi-level governance framework.

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