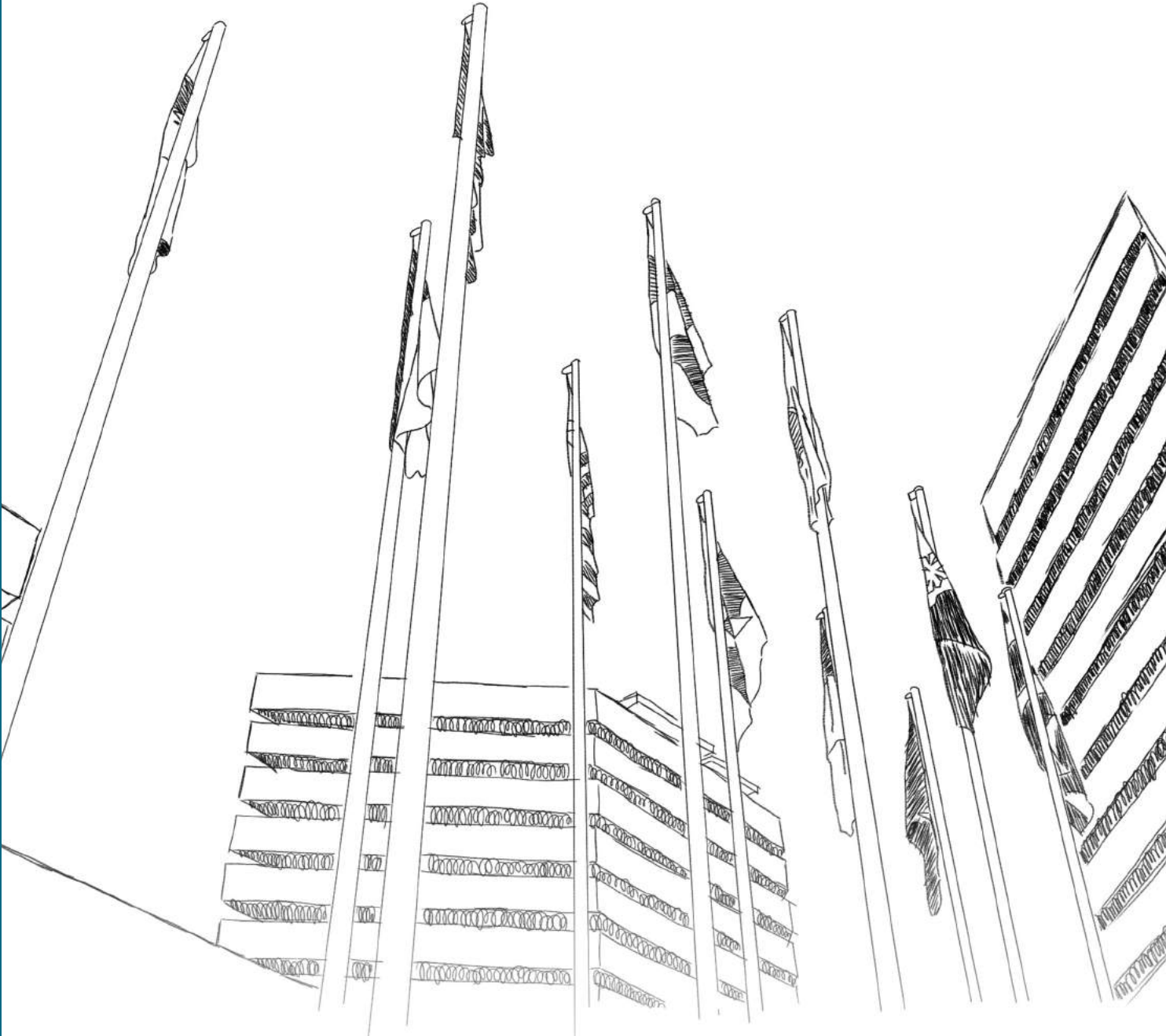


annual report |



2020



Annual Report
2020 edition
ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada



ASEAN
STUDIES
CENTER

FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA

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Foreword

The ASEAN Studies Center was established in 2012 under the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. Our establishment is in line with the Tri Dharma Principles which comprises of three areas, namely teaching, research, and community services related to field of ASEAN studies.

The Center is committed to researching, scrutinising, and examining issues under the three communities of ASEAN, namely the political-security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community. In welcoming the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Center is also committed to become the University's forefront for ASEAN issues through its publications, outreach efforts, research collaboration with international partners and government.

In effort of heightening a sense of belonging among ASEAN citizens, starting from Indonesia, the Center champions the theme of Bringing ASEAN Closer to You. This theme is greatly relevant to the effort of ASEAN Member States in uniting the rich culture and diversity of its people into a single ASEAN identity without replacing inherited national identities. In doing so, our aim is to bring ASEAN closer to our audience while at the same time critically studying contemporary issues of ASEAN.

As one of the oldest and leading ASEAN Studies Centers in Indonesia, the Center will continue to support collaboration and cooperation in the field of ASEAN among the various ASEAN research institutes, think tanks and academia.



Dafri Agussalim
Executive Director
ASEAN Studies Center



Institutional Overview

The Officiation of the Network of ASEAN-United Kingdom Think Tanks (NAUT)

In effort of strengthening external cooperation and expanding the outcomes of its researches, the ASEAN Studies Center officiated the Network of ASEAN-United Kingdom Think Tanks (NAUT), in February 2020. The newly established Network, in cooperation with the United Kingdom Mission to ASEAN and Timor-Leste, was marked by two major events. The Sharing Seminar on Policy Research and Consultancy on "Building an Inclusive Platform of Regional Policy-Making in ASEAN" took place at the Ashley Hotel Jakarta on 21 January 2020. This was followed by a Working Conference on "ASEAN-United Kingdom Relations in the Changing Regional Architecture" which was held on 18-19 February 2020 at the ASEAN Secretariat. Both events invited researchers and faculty members from ASEAN Member States and institutions across the United Kingdom.



United Kingdom
Mission to ASEAN

During the Sharing Seminar on Policy Research and Consultancy on "Building an Inclusive Platform of Regional Policy-Making in ASEAN" researchers identified the similarities and differences in conducting policy-oriented research across ASEAN institutions. Further, the discussion also identified the opportunities which lay ahead in conducting stronger evidence-based researches.

The Working Conference on "ASEAN-United Kingdom Relations in the Changing Regional Architecture" also marked the officiation of NAUT. The officiation not only saw the beginning of comprehensive and better-supported studies on ASEAN with the United Kingdom, it signified close ties with the ASEAN Secretariat as the headquarter and symbol of ASEAN. The Conference was one of the first academic events to take place within the premises of its new building. The new building was inaugurated during the 52nd Anniversary of ASEAN (ASEAN Day) by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, President Joko Widodo, and was attended by Leaders and Heads of Governments of ASEAN Member States. It symbolises the grandeur of ASEAN, its growing role in driving global affairs, commitment towards Community Building and public awareness efforts. Noting this significance, the Center looks forward to conducting more events and gauge the insights of the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN.

The Covid-19 Outbreak

On Wednesday, 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced their assessment of the COVID-19 which was characterised as a pandemic. This assessment lead to the issuing of an Emergency Response by Universitas Gadjah Mada which determined, among the many, the conduct of events within the premises of the University. As such, the International Symposium on a "Rules-Based Community in the Age of Indo-Pacific Order" scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 17 March 2020 at the Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada, was postponed to a later date to mitigate the risks of the outbreak for participants and parties involved.

ASEAN Studies Center Institutional Visits

In February, the ASEAN Studies Center conducted an institutional visit to ASEAN-related institutions namely the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN, Mission of New Zealand to ASEAN, Mission of China to ASEAN, ASEAN Foundation, and Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to ASEAN. These Visits were conducted as the Center's form of commitment in deepening ASEAN connectivity through people-to-people engagement, expand its focus of studies, enhance institutional capacity through networking and fostering deepert cooperation.

During the visits, the Center introduced its recent researches and outreach programmes which would be conducted in 2020. The meetings also explored areas of intersecting interests and potential forms of cooperation. Among the many programmes which were discussed during these visits were the Center's annual ASEAN Youth Initiative and Empowerment Programme (AYIEP), International Conference on ASEAN Studies (ICONAS), and Ambassadorial Lecture series. The visits welcomed positive responses from the Missions, all of which looked forward to participating in the events. During the visit to the Mission of China to ASEAN, discussions took place on establishing an ASEAN-China Study Center to complement the existing areas of research of the ASEAN Studies Center.

Visit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia



In March 2020, the Director for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Riaz Januar Putra Saehu, paid a visit to the Center. The visit discussed the development of the Narrative of ASEAN Identity which had received endorsement of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) meeting in 2018, and was further presented at the 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting for Culture and Arts (SOMCA) held in September, 2019 in Yogyakarta. The Narrative was initiated by Indonesia in collaboration with civil society organisations and had been consulted among the ten ASEAN Member States. The target is to adopt the Narrative at the 37th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, which will be held later in the year.

The visit also discussed the plan to conduct a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) aimed at mapping and addressing key messages from across Indonesia under each pillar of the ASEAN Communities. This discussion would be one of the first preparational steps ahead of the 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship of Indonesia.



Visit from the Mission of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to ASEAN

On Friday, 6 March 2020 the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, H.E. Ambassador Lim Sunnam paid a visit to the ASEAN Studies Center. This visit was held in conjunction with an Ambassadorial Lecture under the theme of "After the Commemorative Summit, Future of ASEAN-Korea Strategic Partnership" which took place at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada. During the visit, discussions took place on furthering the efforts of the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN in implementing the vision of the New Southern Policy which endeavoured towards a "People-centred Community of Peace and Prosperity".



주아세안대한민국대표부



Cambridge University Southeast Asian Society (CUSEAS): COVID-19 & Health: An Interdisciplinary Webinar

The Centre's Managing Director, Ms. Yulida Nuraini Santoso, participated in the interdisciplinary webinar held by CUSEAS on COVID-19 presenting her views on how COVID-19 had affected policies in Indonesia as well as the region as a whole. Her presentation was based on her op-ed titled "Indonesia, Making Sense of Coronavirus". The webinar brought together researchers and activists from ASEAN countries and neighbouring countries, who focus on the issue of human rights.

The presentation highlighted the difficult position the government had found themselves in. The slow development in finding the balance between investing in health protection to curb the spread of the virus, which at that point had killed 8000 people, and securing adequate socio-economic support for the most vulnerable communities in the country, placed Indonesian under great scrutiny by the international community. Where many had already imposed national or partial lockdowns, Indonesia limited its restrictions to the Greater Jakarta area through its Large-Scale Social Restriction (Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar). The presentation further looked at what this meant for ASEAN as a regional grouping, who were also relatively overdue in responding to the issue. Despite the Special ASEAN Summit held earlier that month, there was yet a single agreed-upon guideline for ASEAN member states to practice as a concerted effort to flatten the curve and place no more lives at risks.

Web Seminar
Regionalism and Global Pandemics

When global and national governance failed, can regional cooperation save the day?

The discussion aims to elaborate and compare the contribution of regional integration projects in Southeast Asia, Europe, and Latin America to the fight against Covid-19.

**Jum'at
 22 Mei
 2020
 13:30-
 16:00**

Speakers

Dafri Agussalim
 Executive Director, ASC UGM

Paramitaningrum
 Vice Chairwoman of KIKE, Binus University

Riza Noer Arfani
 Governing Board Member, SIPAL UGM

Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad
 Executive Secretary, ASC FISIP UI

moderator

Muhadi Sugiono
 Chairman KIKE, UGM

Registration:
<https://bit.ly/RegionalismedanCovid19>

Logos: KIKE | ICES, ASEAN STUDIES CENTER, ASEAN Study Center, SIPAL

Komunitas Indonesia untuk Kajian Eropa-Indonesian Community for European Studies (KIKE-ICES): Regionalism and Global Pandemics

A webinar organised by the Indonesian Community for European Studies (ICES) was held to discuss the issue of Regionalism and Global Pandemics. In light the pandemic, the discussion delved deeper into how regional cooperation around the world, including the European Union, ASEAN, and the Latin Americas had come together to fight this on both health and socio-economic fronts.

The discussion invited experts of regionalism studies, including the Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim, to share his insight on how what the ASEAN Leaders have offered for the Southeast Asian region to tackle the impacts of the virus. In his view, ASEAN, despite its continuously growing cases of confirmed patients testing positive for COVID-19, had been relatively slow to respond. Further to this, it has also received criticism Also presenting their views in the event were Paramitaningrum, Ph.D., Dr. Riza Noer Arfani, and Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad, Ph.D.



Virtual Jakarta Forum on ASEAN-China Relations 2020
ASEAN-China Cooperation in Dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic
 Swipe left to see the lineup of discussants →

Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood
 Special Advisor to the PM of Malaysia on Public Health & Former USG at IFRC in Geneva

Dr. N. Paranietharan
 WHO Representative to Indonesia

Dr. Dinna Prapto Raharja
 FPCI's China Policy Group (CPG)

Lydia Ruddy
 Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

Dato Abdul Majit Ahmad Khan
 Adjunct Professor, Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Dr. Jayant Menon
 Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore

Dr. Vannarith Chheang
 President of the Asian Vision Institute (AVI), Chairman of the Advisory Council of the National Assembly of Cambodia

Dr. Henry Chan
 Visiting Senior Research Fellow Cambodia Institute for Cooperation & Peace

Irene Chan
 Associate Research Fellow, Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) NTU, Singapore

Dr. ZHANG Jie
 Research Fellow, Head of Security and Foreign Affairs Department, National Institute of International Strategy, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

Ms. YANG Yue
 Associate Professor and Deputy Director, Institute of Asian Studies, China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU)

Dr. TANG Qifang
 Associate Research Fellow, Department for International and Strategic Studies, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS)

Dr. Dafri Agussalim
 Director of ASEAN Study Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta

Closing Remarks
Dr. Dino Patti Djalal
 Founder of FPCI

FPCI

Friday 29th May 2020
09:00 - 11:00 | GMT+7 Live Streaming
 Free with registration via **eventbrite**
bit.ly/JakartaForum2020
 Q&A Session via YouTube Live Chat
 Live-stream link will be notified upon receipt of registration for more information visit www.fpciindonesia.org

Mission of the People’s Republic of China to ASEAN and Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI) Jakarta Forum 2020: ASEAN-China Cooperation in dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Jakarta Forum, which held on Friday, 29 May 2020 was organised by the FPCI in coordination with the Mission of the People’s Republic of China to ASEAN. The theme of the conference held this year is “ASEAN-China Cooperation in dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic”, where speakers and respondents were invited to discuss how China has influenced the region in combatting the pandemic. Among the many respondents invited to speak on the issue was Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim.

Dr Dafri is of the view that in operationalising the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in April 2020, greater impact could result from the establishment of a special body focusing health to respond collectively to future pandemics, among the few. This is to be done in order to maintain the momentum of unity in among the ASEAN member states. Despite ASEAN’s close relations with China, this pandemic has forced the member states and China to develop a new form of cooperation in the region of humanity.



**KEMENTERIAN
KESEHATAN
REPUBLIK
INDONESIA**

Director General for ASEAN Cooperation: Updates on ASEAN Cooperation during the COVID-19 Pandemic

—
A sharing session among 68 ASEAN Studies Centers' across Indonesia was held on Wednesday, 20 May 2020. The session was held to disseminate important updates on efforts which had conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in light of the pandemic particularly in the Southeast Asian region. Presentations were made by the Director General for ASEAN Cooperation, Representative of Indonesia to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN, and Head Bureau of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Health.

The question and answer session highlighted a number of points including how Indonesia, as a leading member of ASEAN, has contributed to the regional effort in combatting the virus from further spreading. The discussion also touched upon the ongoing economic dilemmas faced by the region and the way forward. Further to the topic of non-traditional security, participants were informed that tensions among parties involved in the finalisation of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea was still present despite the pandemic. This would require a multifaceted approach by ASEAN member states as well as continuous engagement to ensure a positive outcome.

Public Lecture on Anticipating Traditional and Non-traditional Threats during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Posed Challenge for Indonesia and ASEAN

In collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, the ASEAN Studies Center held a lively public lecture inviting a panel of esteemed researchers and academia to discuss the theme of Anticipating Traditional and Non-traditional Threats during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Posed Challenge for Indonesia and ASEAN. The Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim, one of the three speakers of the panel presented his views on the matter. It was highlighted during his presentation titled "Maritime Security and Non-Traditional Security Threats in the Southeast Asia Region: Common Interests and Challenges for Indonesia and ASEAN", that both aspects of security among ASEAN states, has experienced the impact of COVID-19, with shared maritime space being the common link. As much as the sea has provided for ASEAN member countries, it has also seen heated debates of disputes over territory with external parties. This is particularly the case of the South China Sea. However, the premise holds true for issues such as piracy, robbery, drug trafficking/smuggling, smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, money-laundering, trafficking in firearms, counterfeit goods, wildlife and cultural property, illegal fishing, and other illegal exploitation of marine resources, and some aspects of cybercrime.

Bincang ASEAN
Mengantisipasi Ancaman Keamanan Tradisional dan Non-Tradisional di Era Pandemi Covid-19

Tantangan Indonesia dan ASEAN

Kata Sambutan:
Duta Besar Dr. (HC) Lutfi Rauf, MA (Deputi II Bidkooor Polhukam Kemrenko Polhukam)
Prof. Dr. Erwan Agus Purwanto, M.Si. (Dekan Fisipol UGM)

Pembicara:
Duta Besar Chilman Arisman (Fungsional Diplomat Utama Kemlu)
Dr. Dafri Agussalim (Direktur ASEAN Studies Center, UGM)
Dr. Muhammad Rum (Senior Research Fellow ASC UGM & Dosen HI UGM)

Moderator:
Dr. Randy Wirasta Nandyatama (Senior Research Fellow & Dosen HI UGM)

Penanggung:
Dinna Prapto Raharja, Ph.D (Associate Professor Binus)
Abdullah Zulkifli, S.T., M.Si. (Adeop Karja Sama ASEAN Kemrenko Polhukam)

Kamis, 23 Juli 2020 | Pukul 10.00-12.00 WIB |
via Zoom Video Conference

Formulir Pendaftaran: ugm.id/registba4 Gratis sertifikat elektronik



The discussion session during the online public lecture was lively and also invited Ambassador Chilman Arisman, Dr Muhammad Rum, PhD, senior research fellow of ASC and lecturer of International Relations, Dinna Prpto Rahardja, PhD, Associate Professor Bina Nusantara University, and Abdullah Zulkifli, MSi, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs to share their perspective on the topic.



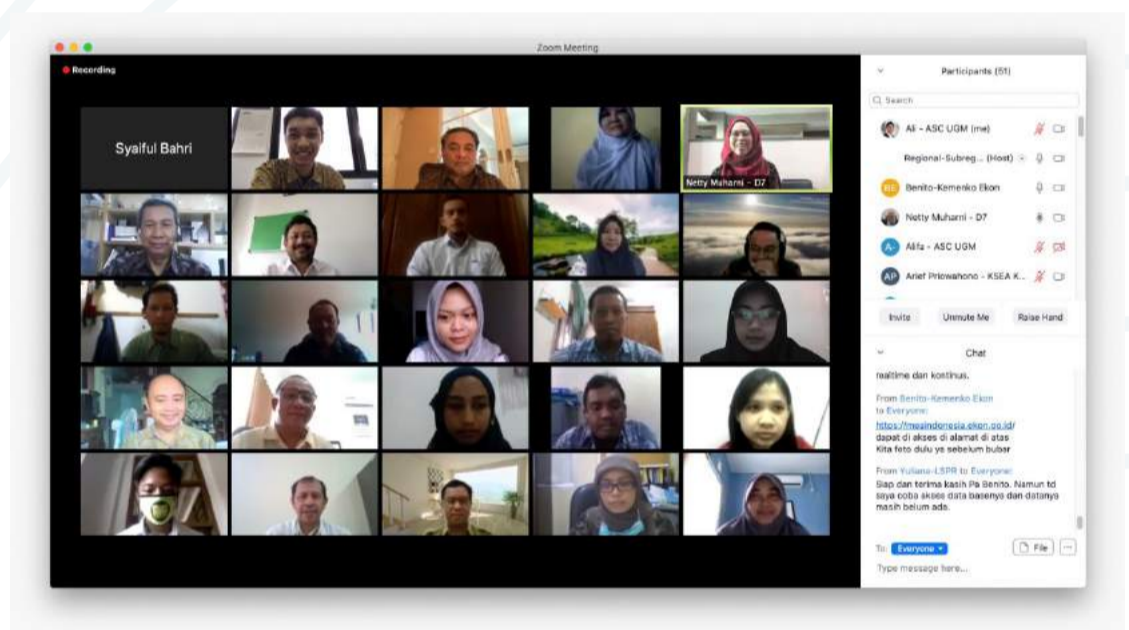
Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the Implementation of the *Sistem E-Monitoring Implementasi Masyarakat Ekonomi ASEAN (STORMEA)* in an Effort to Support the National Economy

An FGD was held on 30 July 2020 to discuss the implementation of the STORMEA as initiated by the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs. From the perspective of a think tank and research institute, there are various ways that the academia can be involved and contribute to the effort of supporting the national economy. Further, this will also help to prepare Indonesia for its Chairmanship due in 2023.



Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim, suggested several points to highlight the role of academia in supporting this positive initiative. They are as follows: to carefully study the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Indonesia to map their preparedness for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), highlight potential sectors and way that the local government can empower local SMEs to enter the ASEAN market, produce policy briefs and empirical in-depth researches to synchronise local-level policies, national-level policies and the dynamics of the ASEAN market. The role of which can be played by the academia is important in amplifying vital sectors of the national economy if Indonesia wishes to engage and gain the most from the increasingly competitive market.

The FGD held by the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs also invited perspectives from representatives of the Indonesia Malaysia Thailand-Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) UN-IMET and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to share their views on the matter.



Ahead of the ASEAN Chairmanship Indonesia 2023: ASEAN Political-Security Community



With only a few years to go before the ASEAN chairmanship of Indonesia in 2023 and the chairmanship of G20, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiated a public lecture to visit the ideas of academia and experts in the field of ASEAN to understand what areas of political-security is in need of heightened attention to prepare for a successful chairmanship. Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim, presented his views on the Contemporary Geopolitical, Geostrategic, and Geo-economic Developments: Rivalry among the United States of America and China and its Impacts towards ASEAN. This issue has increasingly gained worldwide traction particularly after the release of the ASEAN Outlook of the Indo-Pacific which was then adopted at the 34th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings in April 2019. The document, as proposed and led by Indonesia, has become even more relevant today with more countries producing their own version of the Outlook.

With the US and China in constant rivalry it has become an arduous task for ASEAN to “walk the Centrality talk” while at the same time, amplifying its role in the political-security sectors of the South east Asian region. Its current strongest mechanism, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is itself facing criticism of being the missing piece in the debate about future regional order. With increased tensions, can ASEAN remain a united voice despite bilateral ties among its ten member states with both veto countries? This will remain the utmost important question for ASEAN to prove.

The public lecture included high profile speakers namely H.E. Dr. Hassan Wirajuda, as keynote speaker, Prof Dewi Fortuna Anwar, PhD, LIPI, H.E. Ambassador Ade Padmo Sarwono, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN, and Edy Prasetyono, Ph.D, Executive Director of the ASEAN Studies Center Universitas Indonesia.



Photo by Afif Kusuma

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the Opportunities and Potentials of Cultural Tourism in Yogyakarta Ahead of the Indonesia ASEAN Chairmanship

A FGD was held by the Directorate of Foreign Policy and International Development Cooperation, Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (Bappenas) on 15 October 2020 at the Bilik Kayu Heritage, Yogyakarta. This FGD was aimed at capturing strategic recommendations from the academia, civil society organisations, and business entities to further optimise cultural tourism in Yogyakarta in light of Indonesia's chairmanship in ASEAN which will commence in 2023. In recognition of the economic impact of the COVID-19 across major sectors in Indonesia, this FGD provided and prepared for a post-pandemic economic recovery strategy, particularly in the tourism sector.

Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim, highlighted the several roles that the academia could play in supporting the tourism industry post-pandemic and ahead of the Chairmanship in 2023. Firstly, the academic community are able to play the role of supporting government's efforts in empowering Small and Mid-size Enterprises (SMEs) in tourism which target the ASEAN market. Secondly, the academia can provide their intellectual support in conducting in-depth studies of problems faced in the tourism industry (particularly in Yogyakarta, or in general) related to ASEAN. Lastly, the academia can develop policy briefs to map strategic steps for the future.

Sharing the stage with ASC to shed light on their views of this topic are Head of the Yogyakarta Provincial Tourism Office, Chairman of Association of the Indonesian Tours & Travel Agencies (ASITA) Yogyakarta, and renowned artist Butet Kartaredjasa. The discussion was lively and was attended by numerous participants from across Yogyakarta.



Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks (NACT) Working Group Online Meeting: Future of Labor in ASEAN and China: Challenges and Responses

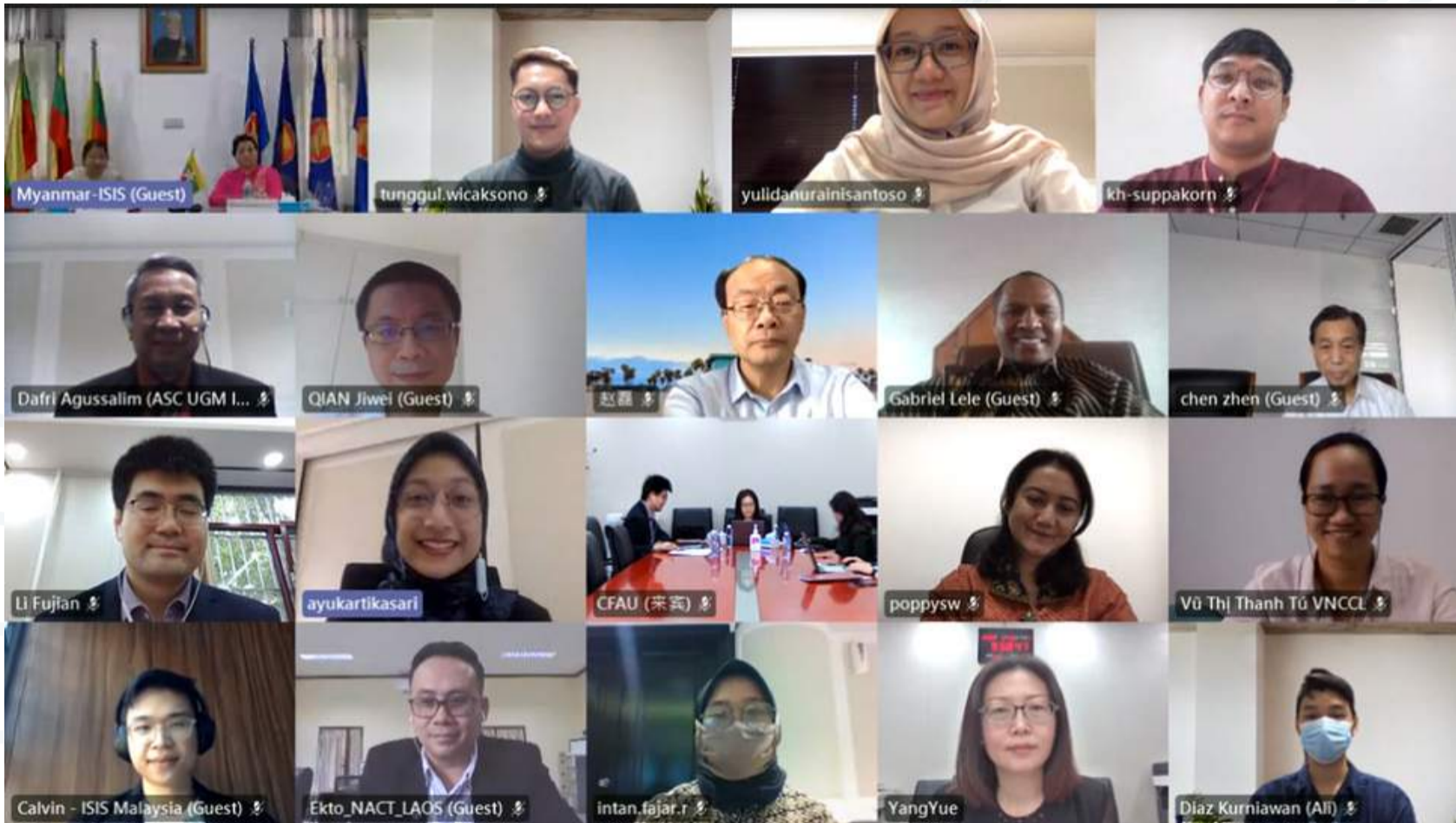
■ The triannual NACT-WG Meeting among think tanks and researchers across ASEAN member countries and China was virtually co-hosted by the ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) with China on 30 September 2020. Researchers from various institutions gathered to discuss the timely topic of labor, in light of the pandemic and how it has severely affected the marketplace across the globe.

Representing Indonesia in this forum is Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Gabriel Lele. The issue of labor covers the social, political, economic, and to some extent, ideological dimensions. Compared to other ASEAN member countries, its “traditional practices” has yet to accommodate the demographic bonus, mitigate immediate impacts of globalization, but at the same time harness the opportunities of the 4IR. Most workers are employed in the informal sectors most of whom are unskilled laborers. In other words, worker competency is very low. Indonesia ranked 65 in terms of the Human Capital Index (compared to Singapore (11), Malaysia (33), Thailand (40), and Vietnam (64)). The fragmentation of the government’s initiative worsens this situation despite good intentions to develop artificial intelligence (AI) as the final aim.

The meeting agreed on numerous policy recommendations for ASEAN policy makers namely to

- **emphasize people-centric approaches** as vulnerable workers are immediately affected by any national-level policy. To guarantee sustainability, together we must develop regulations which balance protection and flexibility, governs virtual employment, accommodates soft and hard infrastructure development, actively share and transfer knowledge among members, and enhance student mobility
- **Enhance policy audit mechanisms.** Despite on-going efforts in the region to activate a progressive labor market, many have stumbled across barriers, including workforce, resources, and experience. Through rigorous checks and balances, there is a greater chance that the region will see a more secure policymaking and policy implementation in the labor sector while preventing previous and on-going policies from becoming dormant.
- **Start from the micro-level** in creating a workable and systemic solution. It is necessary to start approaching labor from a micro-level aspect before scaling up towards macro-level challenges that arise from poor policy implementation and mapping of issues on the ground. Moreover, the skills will be more demanded. The only way to address this challenge is to improve the training program.
- **Actively promote the protection of labor rights.** In promoting the rights and security for labor, particularly women, non-standard/informal workers, and the aging community, this will inevitably boost the rate of productivity and the quality of performance. With a lack of attention being given to society's vulnerable communities, technological advancements will make the vulnerable even more vulnerable to changes. Lack of promotion of labor rights will also continue to restrain national security systems.
- **Extensive collaborative research among think tanks across ASEAN and AMS.** In addressing the labor sector's core issues, policies will require data and empirical approaches in mapping out the way forward. As such, the role of academia and like-minded think tanks are crucial in achieving this output. The research will help highlight each country's experiences in its particular context and as a Southeast Asian region member. In doing so, this will help to provide input for evidence-based policies.





- **ASEAN to play the leading role of catalyst** for positive change in the landscape of labor transformation by providing workable regional framework/an umbrella policy. With the rise of the 4.0 Industrial Revolution, most countries' socio-economic demography has significantly become impacted. The revolution may have presented with looming opportunities in efficiency and effectiveness. However, it has also called for a more significant push from Leaders of ASEAN to install a positive future for its citizens.
- **ASEAN must address this issue with China through cohesive and resilient cooperation.** Particular attention must also be given to each of every AMS since they experience different obstacles. This way, ASEAN can draw a lesson in leveraging the digital economy through business type to boost employment efficiently. It is also worth noting to put people's life and health first during the COVID-19 outbreak. On agriculture sector, both China and ASEAN can establish a cooperation where it enables knowledge transfer through learning and training on the Smart Farming program for farmers from ASEAN countries, facilitated by Chinese farmers or experts on agriculture that has adopted advanced technology.
- **Facilitate public-private collaboration.** Our industrial world is profoundly shaped by extensive technological innovations, and our workplaces are to be empowered and transformed by those fast-changing technologies too. These new economic activities are largely initiated by private players, i.e., digital platforms, leading firms in various sectors, and scientists in private labs. New technologies including big-data, cloud computing and blockchains will decentralize the way how capital manages and organizes labor and production. As a result, the future of our labor relations governance system is unable to be successful without proactive participation of private players. In light of this, we ought to institutionalize innovative mechanisms for effective dialogue and collaboration between the states and the private sector in our governance system, meaningfully decentralizing our decision-making process, and establishing a workable tripartite system with the mission of concluding a new social pact that regulates our gradually digitalized society.

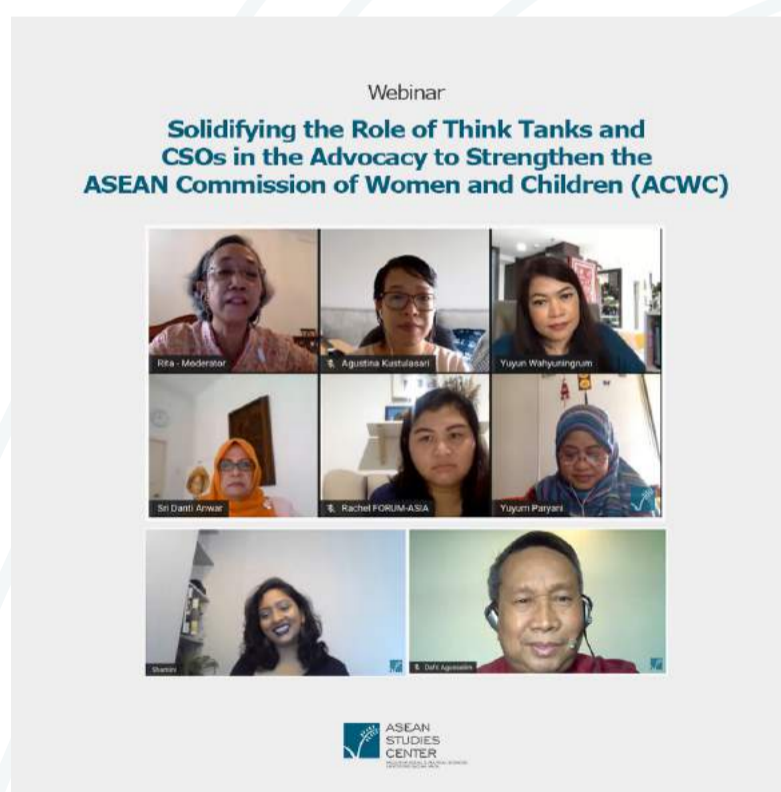


Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC)

On 8-9 October 2020 consecutively, ASC with the support of FORUM ASIA and the Netherlands Embassy, conducted a Public Lecture and Diplomatic Briefing with the theme of Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ACWC. The event was held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the ACWC and commemorate its work in the field of women and children empowerment across ASEAN member countries.

In his opening remarks conveyed during both events, Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim, mentioned that throughout the past ten years, ACWC has endured criticism, scrutiny, but at the same time, it has also seen positive development and a strengthened role in the region. This webinar could not have happened at a better time, as we continue to hear reports of violence towards women and children in a difficult time like this. The pandemic, and consequent call for strict distancing in public places, has further highlighted the importance of promoting protection against abuse and violence, respect towards gender justice, the role we can play as a member of the society, and to a further extent, the role that ASEAN can play in securing the highest level of protection for its citizens. The mandate that ACWC carries therefore, is particularly important, as women and children serve as some of the most important members of the community. It is our belief that women and children are a crucial foundation for an empowered generation. In turn, empowered women and children will also lead the nation to a greater success in the future.

The event invited five keynote speakers, namely Rachel Arinii Judhistasari (FORUM-ASIA East Asia and ASEAN Advocacy Programme Manager), Sri Danti Anwar (Indonesia's ACWC Representative for Women's Right), Yuyun Fhahni Paryani (Indonesia's ACWC Representative for Children's Rights), Yuyun Wahyuningrum (Representative of Indonesia to the AICHR), Agustina Kustulasari (Senior Fellow, ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada), and Dr. Ratchada Jayagupta, (Thailand's ACWC Representative for Women's Rights). Discussions taking place throughout both events were lively and fruitful.







Program Division

Sharing Seminar on Policy Research and Consultancy: *Building an inclusive Platform of Regional Policymaking in ASEAN*

Sharing Seminar on Policy Research and Consultancy was held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 under the topic of Building an Inclusive Platform of Regional Policy-Making in ASEAN. Taking place at Ashley Hotel, Jakarta, the event aimed to be a platform to share the best practices of formulating strategic policy-making with the government and think-tanks in ASEAN. The event invited the researches from the ASEAN Member States alongside ASEAN entities and government officials. Consisted of two sessions, the first session of the sharing seminar discussed the nature of research and policymaking in Indonesia while the second session examined the various researches used to achieve the change in policymaking. The researches from eight ASEAN Member States were given the chance to share their experiences in policy research, the difficulties met, achievements, and proposed the way forward.



Working Conference on ASEAN-UK Relations in the Changing Regional Architecture

The Working Conference under the theme of “ASEAN-United Kingdom Relations in the Changing Regional Architecture” was held on 18-19 February 2020. It brought together experts from the ASEAN Member States and Southeast Asian experts from the United Kingdom to exchange ideas on creating strategic partnership avenues between ASEAN and the United Kingdom with acknowledgment of the rapidly changing regional architecture. The conference was held at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. The first session discussed upon the institutional agility and internal cohesion of ASEAN’s centrality, historical references of ASEAN and its present, and an extensive discussion on Brexit, Britain, and the world. The second session covered the “ASEAN External Relations” with a focus on the proposed narratives of researchers from the UK and Singapore, Britain’s historical role in Southeast Asia, and the UK’s engagement to ASEAN post-Brexit specifically towards ASEAN Chairmanship. The third session highlighted the role ASEAN entities play in strengthening the ASEAN Community with presentations from several ASEAN entities. The conjoined fourth and fifth sessions highlighted ASEAN and its people-centeredness, the role of the UK in ASEAN’s digital ambition, and ASEAN regionalism. The output of the working conference is a commitment to solidify the Network of ASEAN-UK Think Tank (NAUT) and to look into possibilities of mainstreaming ASEAN studies in the UK.





Ambassadorial Lecture South Korea Mission to ASEAN

After the Commemorative Summit: Future of ASEAN – Korea Strategic Partnership

— Ambassadorial Lecture by Ambassador of The Republic of Korea to ASEAN, H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Lim Sunnam was held on Friday, March, 6th 2020 at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences UGM. Under the theme of “After the Commemorative Summit, Future of ASEAN-Korea Strategic Partnership” the lecture discussed four topics, namely the Korean Miracle, The ASEAN Miracle, Current ASEAN-ROK Relations, and the Future of ASEAN-ROK Relations. Some of the key points highlighted during the lecture by the Ambassador was the “Miracle of the Han River” which tells about the history of the Republic of Korea that had endured the brutality of colonialism and how the country evolved from the Second World War to become a developed nation. The second point emphasized by Ambassador Lim Sunnam was about the cultural relations between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea and the future collaboration between two regions. After the lecture, it was continued by the question and answer session and the exchange of token of apperception session. In the opportunity, Ambassador Lim Sunnam presented an antique map of Asia from the 18th century to UGM. The event was attended by scholars from around Yogyakarta, including UGM, UII, and several notable institutions and student organizations in Yogyakarta.



Bincang ASEAN: The Past and the Future of ASEAN Health Cooperation

ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada held its first Bincang ASEAN Webinar on Tuesday, 5 May 2020, inviting Ahmad Rizky Mardathillah Umar, M.Sc, a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, Australia and former Executive Secretary of the Center. Umar shares his take on the current COVID-19 pandemic focusing on the past and future of ASEAN Health Cooperation. Looking closely at ASEAN's collective response towards the pandemic, Umar highlights ASEAN's constrained policies while analysing the history of ASEAN's health cooperation to understand its nature and possible future trajectories of regional health cooperation. Its current dynamics in responding to the outbreak and its implications can be traced back to the SARS and avian flu crisis in 2000, where it was relatively reactionary and resulted in feedback which was insufficient to address a large-scaled outbreak. This precedence has further shaped ASEAN's responses which leads us to today's marginalised policies.



Bincang ASEAN: Sharing Session in Collaboration with Sobat Nugas

ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada collaborated with Sobat Nugas, held its second Bincang ASEAN Webinar on Monday, June, 22nd 2020. Muhammad Diaz Kurniawan, as a Programme Coordinator at ASEAN Studies Center UGM shared his experience and his expertise, particularly about project management skills with Sobat Nugas, an on-line platform community directed to the students all around Indonesia. Muhammad Diaz shared his views on the tips and tricks related to the project management, reflecting his experience as a program coordinator at ASEAN Studies Center UGM.



Internship

On August 31, 2020, the ASEAN Studies Center of Gadjah Mada University held a farewell event for participants of the internship program period 1 in 2020. The event was opened by Yulida Nuraini Santoso as Managing Director of ASC UGM and continued with the remarks from Executive Director of ASC UGM Dr. Dafri Agussalim. The 6 participants joined the internship program from March to August. During this period, participants not only had the opportunity to participate in various office activities but also received training through our series of capacity building program. Through this internship program, participants produced several out-puts in the form of articles on ASEAN Notes, Working Papers and the ASEAN Day Celebration program which was held on August. With this internship program, the ASEAN Studies Center UGM is committed to provide opportunity for youth to contribute on mainstreaming ASEAN to the wider community and also to provide training for youth prepare for their future career path.





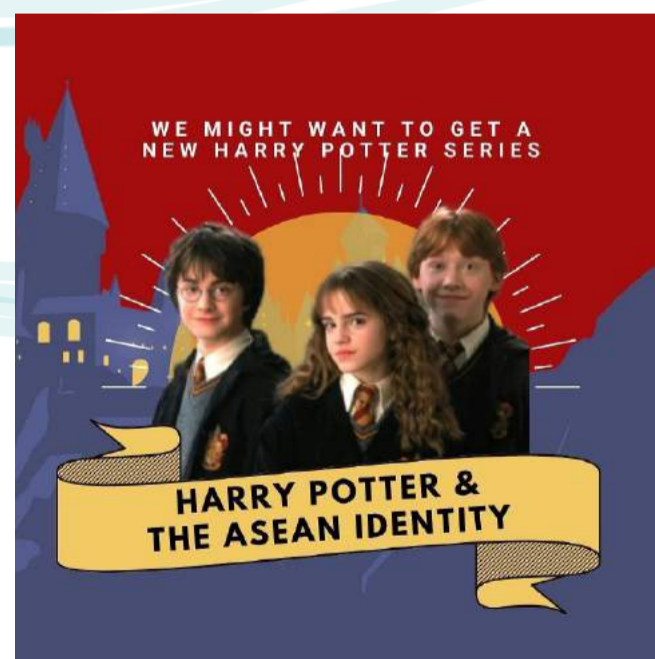
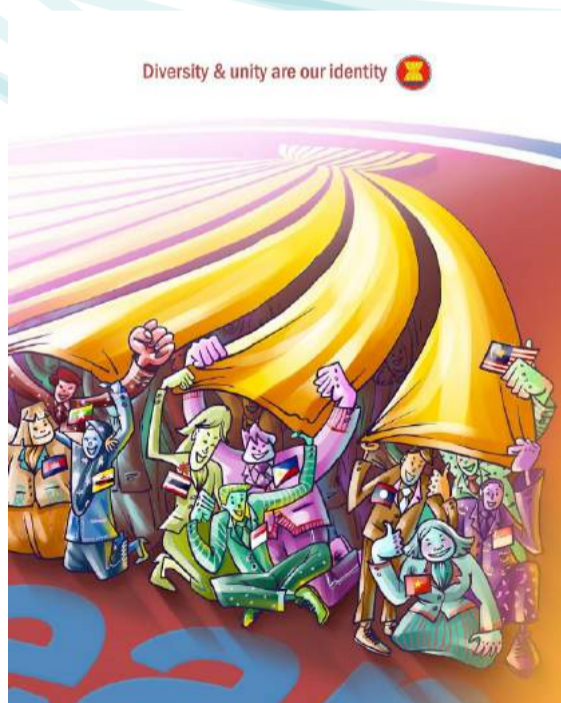
Bincang ASEAN: Mengantisipasi Ancaman Tradisional dan Non-Tradisional di Era Pandemi Covid-19: Tantangan Indonesia dan ASEAN

The fourth edition of Bincang ASEAN Webinar was held on Thursday, 23rd July 2020. Co-hosted by the ASEAN Studies Center and the Coordinating Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs (Kemenkopolhukam), the event invited five keynote speakers namely: H.E. Ambassador Chilman Arisman (Chief Diplomat of the Directorate of ASEAN political and security cooperation), Dr. Dafri Agussalim (Executive Director of ASC UGM), Dinna Prapto Raharja Ph.D. (Associate professor Binus University), and Abdullah Zulkifli, S.T, M.Si (Assistant Deputy of ASEAN Cooperation at the Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs. The topic of the webinar is "Anticipating traditional and non-traditional security threat in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges for Indonesia and ASEAN". The topics discussed within the webinar are divided into four parts : 1. Achieving regional stability with APSC; 2. ASEAN roles on establishing health cooperations; 3. Bridging between Indonesian and ASEAN commonalities in interest; 4. Escaping resource scarcity to establish stability within the region.

ASEAN Creative Content Competition

#ASEANYouth2020 : Embracing ASEAN Identity to build a resilient community

ASEAN Creative Content Competition is a competition that was held under the theme of #ASEANYouth2020 : Embracing ASEAN Identity to build a resilient community to celebrate ASEAN DAY 2020. The event was held from 9th of August till 30th of August 2020. The competition was open for all youth from ASEAN member states who are between the ages of 18 and 30 years old. The participants could choose their submission in the form of three categories: poster or artworks, videos, and short writing to be uploaded in their social media.



ASEAN Day Webinar : *Indonesia, Youth, and the ASEAN Identity*

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, ASEAN Studies Center UGM held the first webinar series to celebrate ASEAN DAY 2020. The webinar entitled Indonesia, Youth, and the ASEAN Identity invited Iqbal Darmawan, the winner of ASEAN Youth Ambassador 2019. The webinar discussed about the narrative of ASEAN identity, the role of ASEAN Youth Ambassador in disseminating the narrative of the ASEAN identity in Indonesia, and how ASEAN identity matters to the development of the three pillars of the ASEAN community, as well as the role of the youth to the strengthen the ASEAN identity.

The poster is for a webinar titled "Indonesia, Youth and the ASEAN Identity" presented as a conversation with Iqbal Darmawan. It features a large photo of Iqbal Darmawan on the left and a smaller circular photo of Truston Yu on the right. The text includes the event title, the date and time (Wednesday, 12 August 2020, 1.00 - 2.00 PM GMT+7), the platform (YouTube Live Stream), and the host (ASEAN Studies Center UGM). It also mentions a "Free E-Certificate!" and identifies Iqbal Darmawan as the "Duta Muda ASEAN Indonesia 2019-2021". The ASEAN Youth 2020 logo is in the top left, and the ASEAN Studies Center logo is in the top right.



ASEAN Day Webinar : *Community Engagement in Shaping the ASEAN Identity*

Wednesday, August 19 2020, ASEAN Studies Center UGM held the second webinar series to celebrate the ASEAN Day 2020 as well to enliven the ASEAN Day competition. The webinar entitled "Bincang ASEAN: Community engagement in shaping the ASEAN Identity". The webinar invited Mr. Mahmudi Yusbi Head of Programme, ASEAN Foundation. It discussed about how ASEAN foundation incorporate ASEAN identity in its projects, the importance to have an ASEAN identity, and how it correlates with the pandemic, and what should the way forward for ASEAN Foundation and the youth in shaping the ASEAN identity.

The poster features the ASEAN Youth 2020 logo at the top left. The main title is "Webinar Community Engagement in Shaping the ASEAN Identity". It lists the speaker as Mahmudi Yusbi, Head of Programme, ASEAN Foundation, and the moderator as Fakhri Abdurrohman, program intern at ASC UGM. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, 19 August 2020, from 1.00 - 2.00 PM (GMT+7) via YouTube Live Stream. The URL ugm.id/ba6aseanfoundation is provided, along with a "Free E-Certificate!" offer. Logos for ASEAN Studies Center and ASEAN Foundation are also present.



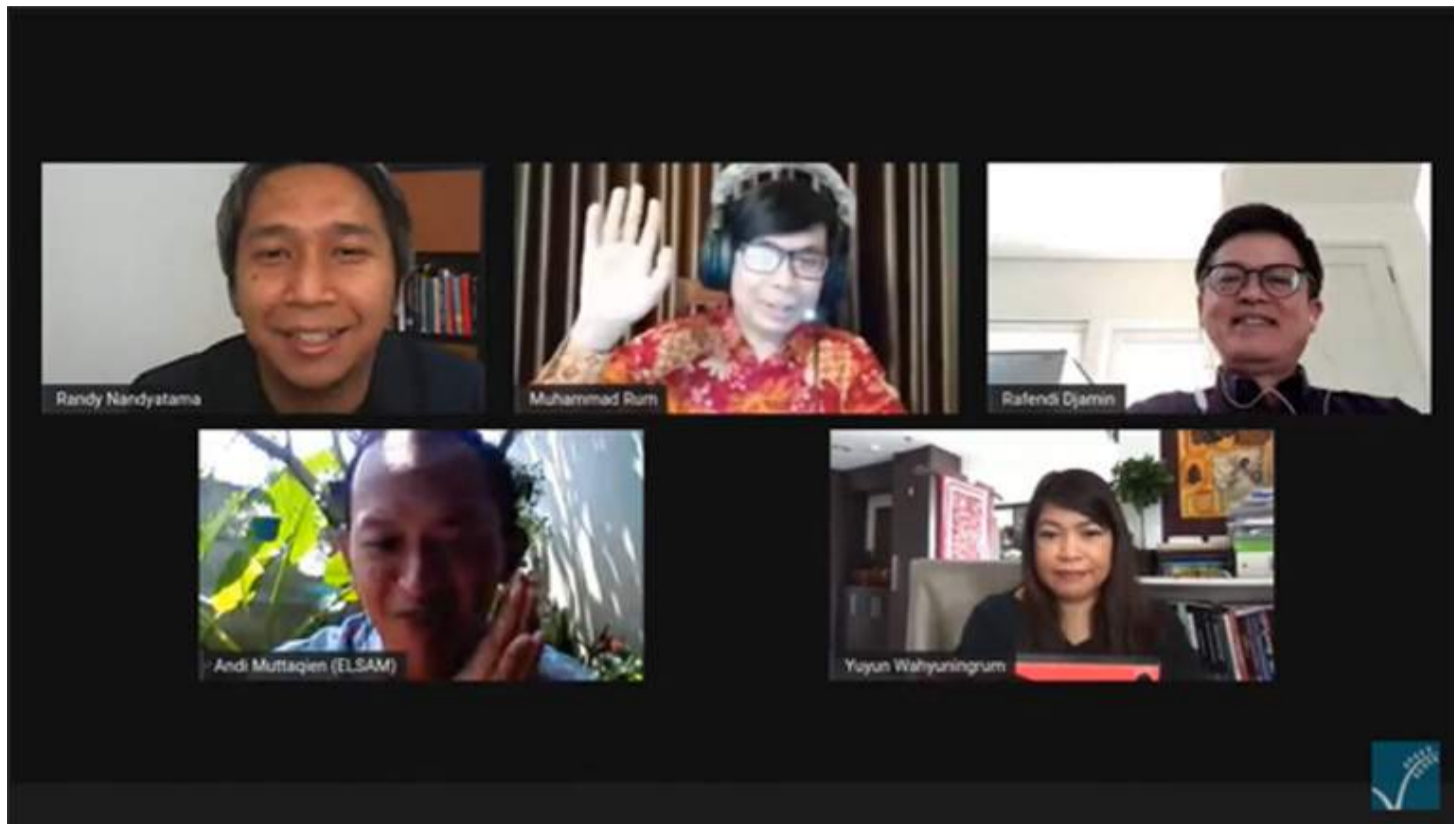
ASEAN Day Webinar : *Embracing ASEAN Identity to build a Resilient Community: Perspectives of the ASEAN Youth Organization*

Wednesday, August 26 2020, ASEAN Studies Center UGM held the last webinar series to celebrate the ASEAN Day 2020 as well to extend the ASEAN Day competition. The webinar entitled "Bincang ASEAN: Embracing ASEAN identity to build a resilient community: Perspectives of the ASEAN Youth organization" The webinar invited Mr. Lyndon the Program Director Youth Empowerment, ASEAN Youth Organization (AYO). It discussed about AYO's view of the narrative of ASEAN Identity, how the ASEAN Youth Organization (AYO) incorporate ASEAN identity through its agendas and projects among the youth, and the importance to have an ASEAN identity, especially for the youth.



The poster features the ASEAN Youth 2020 logo at the top left and the ASEAN Studies Center logo at the top right. The main title is "Webinar Embracing ASEAN Identity to build a Resilient Community: Perspectives of the ASEAN Youth Organization". It includes a photo of Lyndon Lee, Director of Youth Empowerment at ASEAN Youth Organization, and a photo of Fadia, Moderator, program intern at ASC UGM. The event details are: Wednesday, 26 August 2020, 1.00 - 2.00 PM (GMT+7) via Youtube Live Stream, with the link ugm.id/ba7ayo. A "Free E-Certificate!" badge is also present.





Bincang ASEAN: *Business and Human Rights in ASEAN*

Monday, September 21, 2020, the ASEAN Studies Center UGM held an ASEAN Talk webinar entitled "Bisnis dan HAM di ASEAN: Mencari Bentuk". This webinar discusses the opportunities and challenges of integrating human rights values with business within the framework of the ASEAN Economic Community and its implementation in each member country. Panelists in this event are Dr. Muhammad Rum, UGM International Relations lecturer and ASC senior researcher; Rafendi Djamin, former Indonesian Mission to AICHR and senior advisor on HRWG Indonesia; Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Indonesian Mission for AICHR; and Andi Muttaqien, Deputy Director of Advocacy, ELSAM.



Public Lecture and Launch of the FORUM-ASIA Report on the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) 10th Year Commemoration

Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC)

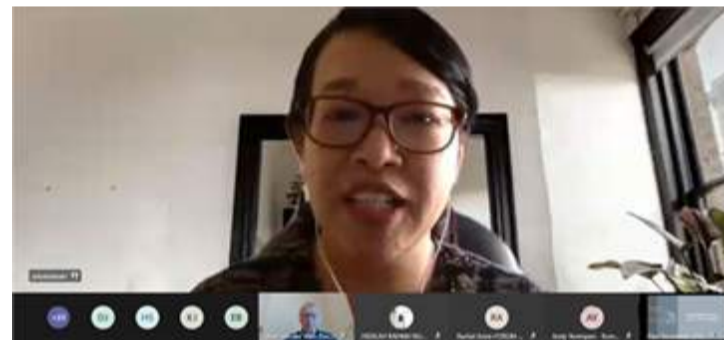
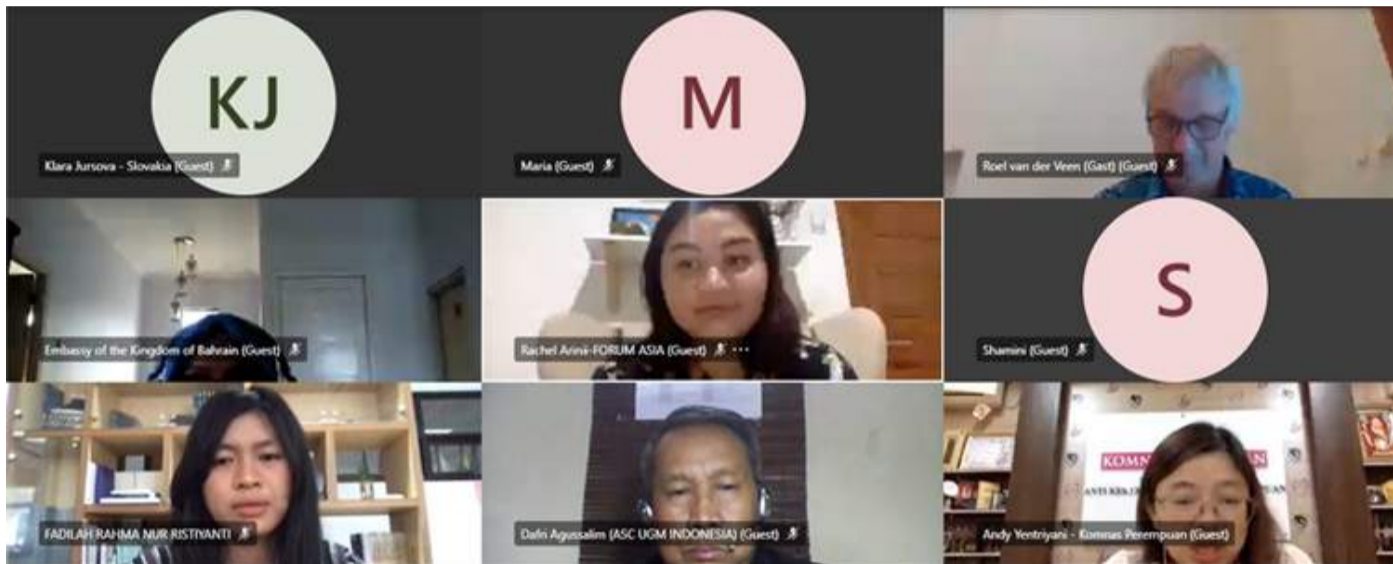


On Thursday, 8 October 2020, ASEAN Studies Center UGM held a webinar under the theme of Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC). The webinar, with the support of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and FORUM-ASIA has invited five keynote speakers, namely Rachel Arinii Judhistasari (FORUM-ASIA East Asia and ASEAN Advocacy Programme Manager), Sri Danti Anwar (Indonesia's ACWC Representative for Women's Right), Yuyum Fhahni Paryani (Indonesia's ACWC Representative for Children's Rights), Yuyun Wahyuningrum (Representative of Indonesia to the AICHR), and Agustina Kustulasari (Senior Fellow, ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada) to share their perspective on ACWC and provide important feedback for the improvement of the institution.



Diplomatic Briefing

Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC)



In continuation of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Studies Center UGM conducted a Diplomatic Briefing discussing the Commission's work in the past decade and future outlook of its work. This event was held virtually on Friday, 9 October 2020, also with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and FORUM-ASIA. The discussion session of the Diplomatic Briefing which attended by diplomatic communities was moderated by Andy Yentriyani Commissioner of the Committee for the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) followed by the presentation from Rachel Arinii Judhiastri (FORUM-ASIA) and Agustina Kus-tulasari (ASEAN Studies Center UGM). H.E. Dr. Ratchada Jayagupta, ACWC Thailand, invited to provide overview on the implementation of TOR in ACWC Thailand.



Ambassadorial Lecture

The Role of ASEAN Youth in Promoting Peace

with H.E. Amb. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja,
Executive Director of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)



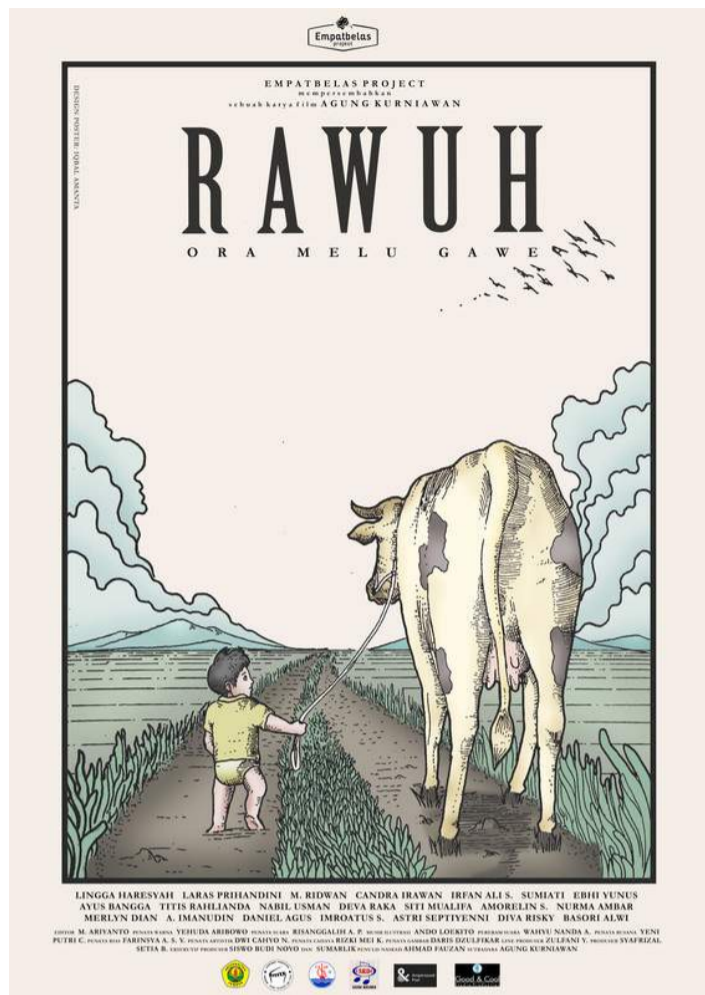
20 November 2020 | 10AM - 11AM (GMT+7) | free registration & free certificate | the lecture will be streamed through our Youtube channel: ASEAN Studies Center UGM

ugm.id/amblectAIPR

Ambassadorial Lecture *The Role of ASEAN Youth in Promoting Peace*

On Friday, 20 November 2020 from 10 to 11 AM, ASC held a webinar entitled "The Role of ASEAN Youth in Promoting Peace" with H.E. Amb. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja as the speaker. In the webinar, H.E. Amb. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja discussed about the history of peace implementation on ASEAN, the role of youth and AIPR in promoting peace, and how technology can affect peace implementation. Youth plays a significant role in determining the future. Amb. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja closed the webinar by stating a quote, "(The peace) can not only be doing by individuals of you, but we have to be together, because if you want to go fast you walk alone, but if you want to go far you walk together".





Bincang ASEAN x IOM Global Migration Film Festival

In order to welcome international migrant day which falls on December 18, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) collaborates with the ASEAN Studies Center to hold a Global Migration Film Festival on December 11, 2020. On this occasion, ASC UGM invites students, activists and the wider community to watch a film by Director Agung Kurniawan with the title "Rawuh". After the screening of this migration-themed film, the event was continued with discussions by the film director, Gita Agnestasia (Counter Trafficking Unit, IOM Indonesia) and Muhammad Diaz Kurniawan (Research Analyst, ASC UGM).



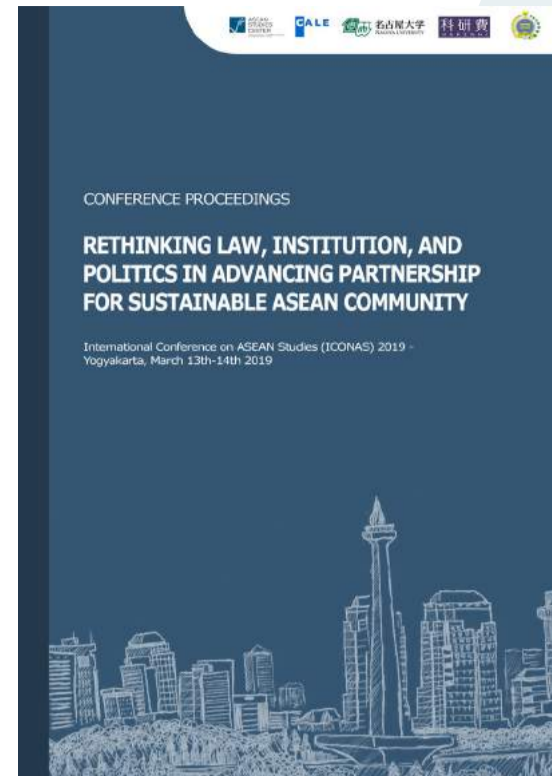
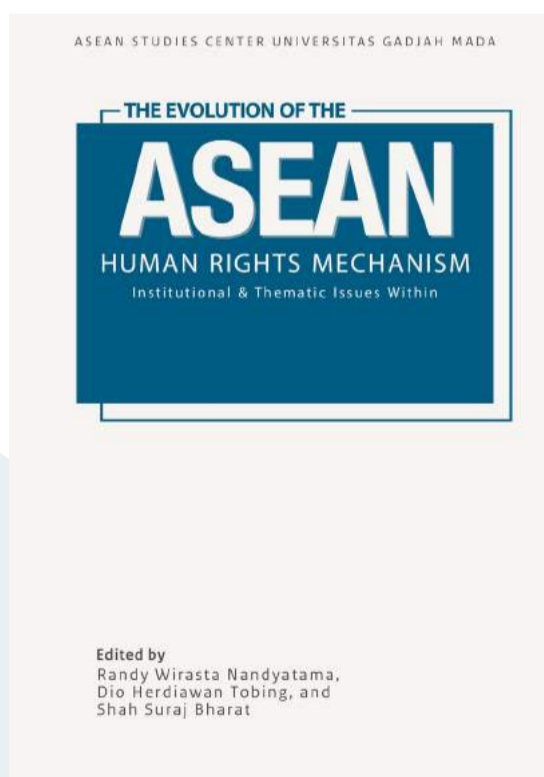


Research Division

Book Launching

ASEAN Studies Center UGM successfully launched a book titled *The Evolution of the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism: Institutional and Thematic Issues Within* in commemoration of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)'s 10th Anniversary. Several scholars and academia were invited to contribute to the chapters of this book on the Western perceiving of human rights and how to contextualize human rights to become more relevant in the Southeast Asian region. Although human rights has its 'rule of game', ASEAN is made up of diverse Member States with full implementing sovereignty. Thus, the question posed in the book is how to go beyond these rules and make ASEAN relevant in implementing human rights? This book also lays the basis for a holistic explanation on the opportunities and challenges of human rights implementation in ASEAN.

This milestone is hoped to enflame more publications in the near future with prospective themes, including the changing nature of the workforce, non-traditional security, Indo Pacific Outlook, and ASEAN rule-based mechanism.



ICONAS Proceeding 2019

ICONAS is an annual academic conference on Asian studies, which is open to practitioners, businesses, and the academic community, including researchers, lecturers, and all levels of students from various scientific backgrounds. ICONAS also invites academic and research institutions along with ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners. As an outcome, we released a proceeding which includes a series of selected pieces. These academic writings are compiled into three sections to mirror the pillar of ASEAN, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). Compartmentalization based on the pillars of ASEAN Community is necessary to develop a better understanding of fundamental principles, prominent issues, change and continuity that ASEAN faces today and forward.

This publication will be released soon in the online platform such as ASC UGM website, and we also provide a printed edition. Furthermore, we are eager to hold an international conference this year which will invite prospective speakers from across the region to speak on a salient and robust theme.

Article Release

An op-ed piece on “Indonesia, Making Sense of Coronavirus” by Yulida Nuraini Santoso, Managing Director ASEAN Studies Center UGM was published by Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia (SHAPE-SEA) and also appears under the ASEAN Notes of the ASEAN Studies Center. This piece offers a humanistic approach in viewing the dynamics of policy formulation in mitigating the pandemic. It looks at the intertwining decisions made by President Joko Widodo and the dilemmas of the decision yet to be made. This outbreak could not have happened at a more unfortunate time with the passing of the President’s mother, forcing the country to place the pandemic into a wider perspective and see the President as being, not only an entity.



Another submission under ASEAN Notes titled “Japan’s Free Vessels to Natuna: Is It Really Free?” by Rafyoga, a student of Kobe University Japan, is also published. In this article, he questions Japan’s security maneuver in international cooperation, which seems to contradict the Fukuda Doctrine of balancing economic cooperation and rejecting authoritarian military role.



The articles mentioned above were reviewed carefully after the submission to meet the institution’s standards. Under the ASEAN Notes platform, we highly encourage scholars to publish their academics writings.

Other articles of ASEAN Notes have been published in ASC website (<https://asc.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/asean-notes/>). The titles are as follow:



- ASEAN, the Quad, and China: A Security Contestation for the Indo-Pacific Region by Fadhil Haidar Sulaeman



- A Growing Stigma: The Danger of Discriminating Against the Rights of Healthcare Workers by Muhammad Diaz Kurniawan. This Op-ed also appears under the COVID-19 Op-ed section of the Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia (SHAPE-SEA) site.



- Southeast Asian Migrant Workers in the Pandemic by Muhammad Fakhri Abdurahman.



- Indonesian "Total People's Defense" Against Coronavirus by Rafyoga Jehan Pratama Irsadanar and Muhammad Aziz Irfanuddin



- Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia: A Long Way To Go by Fadilah Rahma



- The Achilles Heel: Disputes Between ASEAN Member State by Fadhil Haidar Sulaeman



- Rejection to the Rohingyas: Reimagining the Law, With or Without the Pandemic by Alifa Salsabila

- Forced Labor of the Rohingyas: A Crime Against Humanity, A Portrayal of Modern Slavery, and A Challenge to ASEAN Community by Alifa Salsabila



- Challenges and Prospects for Korea's New Southern Policy by Truston Yu



- The Southeast Asian Identity – A Modern Construct? by Truston Yu



- How Taiwan Could Capitalize on Its New Southbound Policy by Truston Yu



- A Provincial Level Approach to Studying China-Southeast Asia Relations by Truston Yu



- Southeast Asian Studies and ASEAN Studies: What's The Difference? by Truston Yu

- What Southeast Asian Studies Could Learn from Japan by Truston Yu



- ASEAN Cultural Exchange in the Era of Interconnectedness – Examining the 3 Campus Model by Truston Yu



- 5 Months Left for Southeast Asia to Build the Case in UNSC by Truston Yu



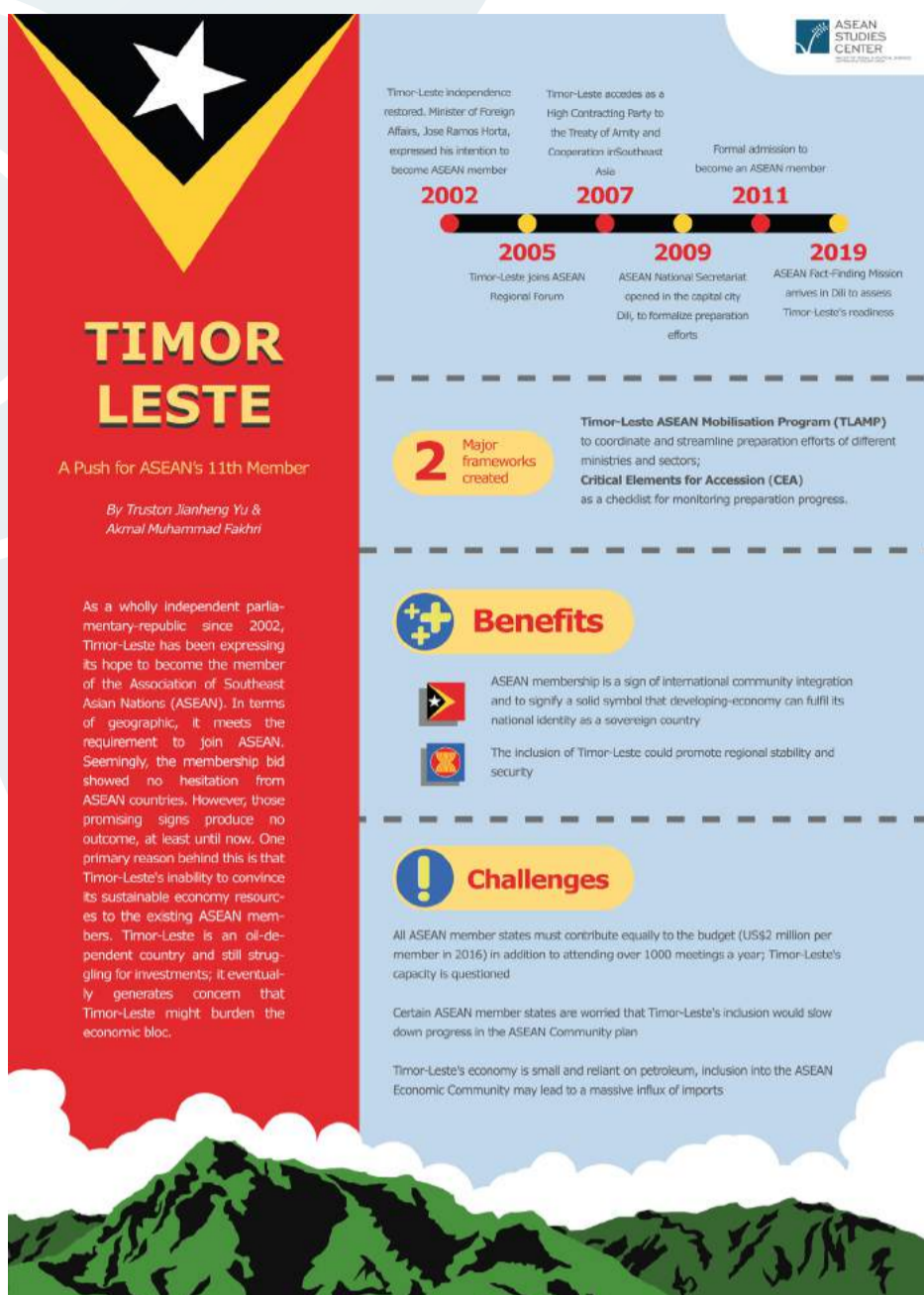
- A Switzerland Model for Timor-Leste? Prospects of Differentiated Integration in ASEAN by Truston Yu



- Theorizing a College of Southeast Asia by Truston Yu



- How Does RED II Discriminate Indonesian and Malaysian Palm Oil Industry? by Intan Tawaddada Ilaaha



Infographic

As a part of engaging more audiences, ASC issued an infographic: *Timor Leste – A Push for ASEAN's 11th Member*. It can be viewed on the ASC website (<https://asc.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/our-publications/infographic/>). This edition explores the timeline of Timor Leste's intention to join ASEAN, point out the legal frameworks of accession, the benefits, and the challenges to become a new ASEAN member.

NACT Working Group

NACT (co-organized with NACT Laos)

NACT Indonesia, affiliated with ASC, participated in the Network of ASEAN-China Think Tanks (NACT) Working Group under the theme: ASEAN-China Cooperation on Poverty Reduction. This meeting aimed to review and discuss ASEAN-China cooperation in poverty reduction to deepen further future cooperation in poverty matters in ASEAN and China. During the meeting, participants would share their national experiences in alleviating the region and eventually find the practical cooperation mechanisms which would enable the region to enjoy mutual benefits and shared prosperity.



Photo by evening_tao

Based on the poverty line and ASEAN member states' population figures, the researchers are expected to answer this central question, "can ASEAN end poverty by 2030 and fulfill the target set by the United Nations (UN) agenda for sustainable development?".

There are three sub-themes that are related to ASEAN-China Cooperation on Poverty Reduction:

- Session I: Deepening Partnership for Poverty Reduction
- Session II: Best Practices in Digital economy and Community-Driven Development and Poverty Reduction
- Session III: Sustainable Agricultural Development and Poverty Reduction

NACT Indonesia had the opportunity to join the third session and nominated Dr. Falikul Isbah from the Department of Sociology UGM and Tunggul Wicaksono from ASEAN Studies Center as the researchers. The research paper titled Reducing the Misery of Poverty by Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security: Government and People's Initiatives in Indonesia was presented in the Zoom video conference among other NACT members on June 9, 2020. It discusses the current situation of Indonesian agriculture sector and the extent it contributes to poverty reduction. The panel has reviewed the paper and will be published in a book chapter under NACT China supervision.



Photo by evening_tao

NACT (co-organized with NACT Indonesia)

NACT Indonesia in collaboration with NACT China are preparing to organize the Working Group Meeting with the main topic on "Future of Labor in ASEAN and China: Challenges and Responses". Due to the pandemic outbreak, the meeting will only be held online. The upcoming NACT Working Group meeting is intended to discuss the inevitable challenges for the labor in the future in accordance with the rapid significant development of technologies as well as the demographic changes in the world. As countries with significant progress in manufacturing and service, both the ASEAN states and China find the labor issue crucial. Hence, through this meeting, the countries are expected to discuss and share their country perspectives on the labor issues together and look for possible future collaboration between China and ASEAN member states in responding the challenges on this issue.

The virtual meeting is planned to be conducted on 30th September 2020, and will likely be participated by 11 countries, with 8 countries will have their representatives to present their papers: China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam. While, the other three ASEAN member states will be joining the virtual meeting as observers: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and the Philippines. The meeting duration is going to be around two-three hours long, which is divided into two main sessions: 1) paper presentation: country perspectives on the issue 'Future of Labor: Challenges & Responses'; 2) discussion: future collaboration between China and all ASEAN member states to overcome the labor issues in both countries.

NACT (co-organized with NACT Indonesia)

The NACT Working Group (WG) meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. The meeting, organized by NACT Indonesia and NACT China, commenced via Microsoft Teams video conference under the theme "Future of Labor in ASEAN and China: Challenges and Responses". Eight researchers (China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam) and one observer (Philippines) participated in presenting their findings and insights. The meeting was conducted in two consecutive sessions; each country's experience and a further discussion on the future of work and ways forward.



In the first session, each representative shared their views on the changing work structure pattern and the initiative in responding to labor issues. One of the problems that can be highlighted is that COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on workers, alongside the rise of the digital revolution and machinery advancement that will replace workers' competency. Thus, each country needs to identify their issue holistically to formulate a better decision-making process. In the second session, the representatives addressed further challenges in the context of the regional labor market. They included creating a social safety net for the most vulnerable workers, gaining cooperation among ASEAN member states, and increasing human capacity investment. The organizer also arranged a report that had circulated to NACT members.

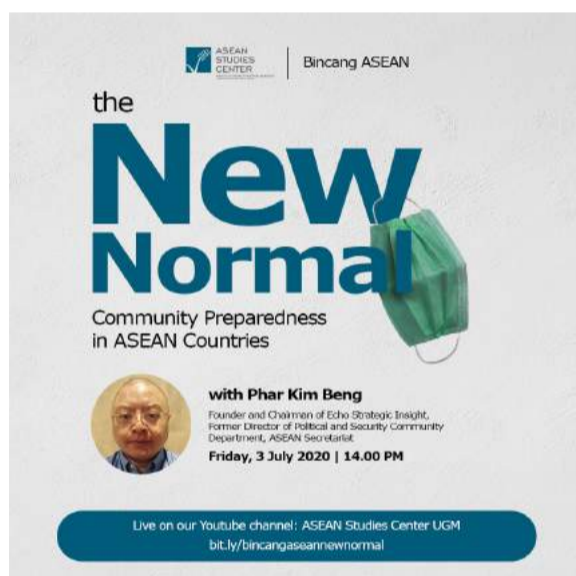


Represented by ASC UGM Research Fellow Dr. Gabriel Lele and the Executive Director of ASC UGM Dr. Dafri Agussalim, NACT Indonesia will deliver some concerns on labor issue in Indonesia, particularly regarding the migrant workers from China in Indonesia and how it affects the perceptions of the government as well as the society. The emerging issue on the industrial revolution 4.0 will also be discussed during this meeting. There are currently 5 papers submitted so far by the first week of September, while in the meantime, the committee is still waiting papers from China, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Webinar Series

The webinar titled *The New Normal – Community Preparedness in ASEAN Countries* was held on July 3, 2020. ASC invited Phar Kim Beng, a Founder and Chairman of Echo Strategic Insight, and a Former Director of Political and Security Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat. In this edition, the background problem is the “New Normal” policy initiative embraced by ASEAN member states. Although this policy is argued to be favorable in returning the economy to its previous strength, it affects vulnerable groups most affected by the movement restrictions. The webinar is expected to provide a general mapping and a more in-depth understanding of how the ASEAN Member States have perceived the “New Normal” and what preparations have been undergone to face this situation. Therefore, the main questions need to be solved, “what does the “New Normal” mean for ASEAN, given the different landscape of ASEAN member states?”.

Targeted participants are university students, NGOs, ASEAN researchers, research centers, and think tanks. The conference was broadcasted on YouTube, assisted with Streamyard, to reach more engagements since most users can use this platform easily on their devices. The guests could write their opinions on the comment section during live streaming and further discuss the topic, as mentioned earlier. The recording can be watched on the ASC YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ud1W2iMv2OY>). At the conclusion, we provide final remarks from the discussion as follows:



First, the New Normal in ASEAN countries explores ways in which the Covid-19 pandemic might shape or reorder the world across multiple dimensions. The new normal is relatively not “new” since it has happened alongside human history. The government initiative promotes it as a standard operating procedure, both in the public and private sectors. In other words, citizens should embrace it. However, it’s hard to measure the policy’s effectiveness since the virus keeps mutating, and it is just a matter of time for the virus to infect more populations.

Second, in Indonesia’s context, President Joko Widodo has recently announced the “New Normal” policy, intended to reboot Indonesia’s slumping economy, is being rolled out alongside deliberate efforts to mislead and obscure the scale of the epidemic’s risk. Experts have warned that a premature economic recovery approach could risk exposing Indonesians to further outbreaks and deeper, longer-term economic disruptions. Suppose the reopening of the economy, along with other social and religious activities, is not supported by measures to strengthen the healthcare system. In that case, it could lead to “an explosion of infections.” Nevertheless, the future of Indonesia is not thoroughly hopeless. The scientific community is very favorable to Ativan and Tamiflu as the cure.

Third, when it comes to vaccines, the likelihood of finding a successful vaccine may happen shortly. Still, there is a possibility all of those are not succeed in curing the population. So it is highly necessary to adopt social distancing measures since most of all patients are not showing symptoms. It is hard to detect and spread vastly. Therefore, it is vital to offer transparency for public information since each country has its characteristics and different method to combat the virus. We cannot use the “one-size-fits-all” strategy.

ASEAN Studies Center UGM held a webinar under the theme of Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC) on October 8, 2020. The webinar was held to launch the Report on the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) +10 titled Assessing the Commission’s Impact on Protecting Women and Children’s Right in ASEAN, composed by FORUM-ASIA.

Points of recommendation are developed at the end of the session as follow; (1) enhancing collaboration between CSOs and think-tanks on more advocative policies, (2) distinguishing particular groups to identify their specific needs in the society, and (3) monitoring ASEAN member states’ response to these issues and further develop policy framework through AICHR. These points will be taken into account when establishing the forthcoming working paper. A complete summary of the discussion can be read on the ASC website (<https://asc.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/2020/10/08/press-release-webinar-solidifying-the-role-of-think-tanks-and-csos-in-the-advocacy-to-strengthen-the-asean-commission-of-women-and-children-acwc/>).



In continuation of the event as mentioned above, ASEAN Studies Center UGM conducted Diplomatic Briefing on the ACWC 10th Year Commemoration – Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks And CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC). The Diplomatic Briefing discussed the Commission’s work in the past decade and future outlook of its work. This virtual discussion was supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and FORUM-ASIA. A full report of the event can be read on the ASC website (<https://asc.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/2020/10/12/press-release-diplomatic-briefing-on-the-acwc-10th-year-commemoration-solidifying-the-role-of-think-tanks-and-csos-in-the-advocacy-to-strengthen-the-asean-commission-of-women-and-children-acwc/>).

Alongside with that, Research Division produced a conversation transcription to archive a well-documented report. This effort could help to arrange a better future event. The division also wrote an opinion editorial titled Unraveling Institutional Building to Eradicate Gender-Based Violence by Tunggul Wicaksono. The op-ed which based on the webinar discussion will be submitted to printed or online media, where available.

On December 2, 2020, ASEAN Studies Center UGM was invited to a webinar titled ASEAN as a New Destination for International Investment: New Opportunities or New Colonialism?. The event was organized by a student’s group activity, namely International Relations for Investigation and Research (IRON FIRE), Universitas Pembangunan Nasional “Veteran” Yogyakarta. In this occasion, ASC was represented by Tunggul Wicaksono as a keynote speaker. The presentation was delivered under the title of Southeast Asia Economic Architecture via Zoom video Conference and streamed live by YouTube (<https://youtu.be/Kk-dOQzucsY>). Points of talks covered an explanation of the comparative strength and weakness of each ASEAN member states as a foreign direct investment (FDI) attractor. The discussion highlighted several issues, including; (1) the future of labor in ASEAN, considering the demographic dividend and ageing society across ASEAN member states, (2) unemployment and underemployment in regards to national policy, and (3) the business competition since the opening of ASEAN Economic Community, ratification of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and trade liberalization era.



On December 11, 2020, a webinar with the title Bincang Santai: Migrasi dan Ekonomi Politik Internasional was held by Himpunan Mahasiswa Hubungan Internasional Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jawa Timur via Zoom video conference. Tunggul Wicaksono represented ASEAN Studies Center as a keynote speaker. The discussion covers prominent issues in the labor's movement, particularly in ASEAN. The context of migration and the free flow of trade, investment, and human capital impact the socio-political dimension. Addressing regional challenges, including skilling labors, provision of social safety net, and cultivating the working-age population in the business sector become a concern since most of the ASEAN member states still lag in providing a stable regulatory framework. Hence, to find a viable solution, the organization needs to enhance the collaborative and comprehensive partnership.



Working Paper



ASEAN Studies Center UGM published a working paper, a series of articles written by research and programme interns with the following titles:

- Enslavement of the Rohingyas: The Quest for ASEAN to Address the Problem and Provide for International Protection by Alifa Salsabila
- Achieving Aspirational Targets: Public-Private Partnership in Spearheading Renewable Energy Development in Southeast Asia by Muhammad Fakhri Abdurrohman
- 'Asta Gatra' Approach in Analyzing the ASEAN Communities As a Regional Resiliency Model Against Great Power Competition by Fadhil Haidar Sulaeman
- The Challenge of Cooperative Environmental Governance in ASEAN: The Case of Hydropower Development in the Mekong River Basin by Fadilah Rahma
- "One Southeast Asian Civilization" - Pan-Southeast Asianism for Regional Integration Truston Jianheng Yu

The papers, as mentioned above, were submitted as partial fulfilment to finishing the internship project. The review process was carried under the supervision of the Research Division to meet the institutional standard in academic writing.



ASC Monograph 2020

September 21, 2020, is the kick-off of the first ASC Monograph. This year, ASC brought the theme Keep the Small Strong: ASEAN Member States' Response to the Pandemic which highlights the government's policy-making amidst the COVID-19 outbreak. There is a variation of the policies implemented by ASEAN member states. However, there has been little collective action, and ASEAN member states are failed to recognize human vulnerabilities.

On October, ASC UGM received 18 abstracts from online submission. Two board of editors were chosen to be involved in the selection process; they are Ahmad Rizky Mardhatillah Umar (PhD Candidate, School of Political Sciences and International Studies, University of Queensland, Australia) and Tunggul Wicaksono (Research Manager ASEAN Studies Center UGM). The authors must meet at least five standard criteria; novelty and insight, evidence-based case, strong argument, sufficient theory and methodology, and related to the topic. There are six abstracts that considered meet the criteria, the titles as follow:

- Managing ASEAN Migrant Workers in Plight of the Pandemic Covid-19: Challenges, Rights and Legal Protection by Saidatul Nadia Abd Aziz and Salawati Mat Basir
- Lessons from Thailand during COVID-19 Pandemic: The Importance of Digital Resilience by Filasafia Marsya Ma'rifat and Yuve Kukuh Sesar
- Flatten the Curve in Authoritarian Country: A Case Study of Containing Covid-19 in Vietnam by Fauzia Gustarina Cempaka Timur and Samantha Deo Christian
- Comparative Study of Democratic and Socialist States Policies in Handling the COVID-19 Pandemic (Case Study: Indonesia and Vietnam) by Samti Wira Wibawati and Marina Ika Sari
- The Urgency in Establishing ASEAN's Center of Disease Prevention and Control by Andhini Citra Pertiwi and Yuli Ari Sulistyani
- Putting The People First: A Lesson from Indonesia's Inability to Handle the Covid-19 Pandemic by Novriest Nau

The board of editors arranged the author's guidelines, reviewed the writing progress, and compiled them into a publication. The compilation of the papers will be published into a Monograph by ASC UGM. Full details of the event can be read on the website (<https://asc.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/asc-monograph-2020/>).



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