

Quarterly Report 1

January - March 2020 edition



ASEAN
STUDIES
CENTER

FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA



Quarterly Report

January - March 2020
Institutional Overview and Reports of the
Programme and Research Division

ASEAN Studies Center,
Universitas Gadjah Mada

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.

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, expanding its focus of studies, enhancing institutional capacity through networking and fostering deeper 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 also took place on establishing an ASEAN-China Study 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 Sungham 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".

Sharing Seminar on Policy Research and Consultancy

Building an inclusive Platform of Regional Policymaking in ASEAN

Jakarta, 21 January 2020

Programme Description

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

Jakarta, 18-19 February 2020

Programme Description

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
Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, 6 March 2020*

Programme Description

On Friday, March 6, 2020, ASEAN Studies Center UGM held an Ambassadorial Lecture by the Ambassador of The Republic of Korea to ASEAN, H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Lim Sungnam, under the theme of "After the Commemorative Summit, Future of ASEAN-Korea Strategic Partnership". The Ambassadorial Lecture was held at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM).



The Ambassadorial Lecture delivered four topics namely The Korean Miracle, The ASEAN Miracle, Current ASEAN-ROK Relations, and the Future of ASEAN-ROK Relations. During the first discussion, Ambassador Lim Sungnam explained how the Republic of Korea had endured the brutality of colonialism and evolved from the aftermath of the Second World War to become a developed nation in 1989. Ambassador Lim Sungnam referred to this development as the "Miracle of the Han River". The next section of the Lecture, H.E. Lim Sungnam talked about the origin of ASEAN that had developed from a group of five Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers from Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, into a formal organization today consisting of 10 ASEAN Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners. In the third discussion, Ambassador Lim Sungnam explained the relationship of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea which had developed from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1989 toward the establishment of the first Korean Permanent Mission to ASEAN in 2019.

Ambassador Lim Sungnam also emphasized the cultural relations between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea in the field of arts and gender equality, as well as the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund aimed at funding scholars and scientists from ASEAN countries. Lastly, Ambassador Lim Sungnam reiterated President Moon Jae-In's foreign policy of "New Southern Policy" as the future collaboration between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea which upholds three principles namely people-centered community, prosperity, and peace.

In closing the Lecture, Ambassador Lim Sungnam presented an antique map of Asia from the 18th century to UGM which was followed by an exchange of token of appreciation from the ASEAN Studies Center. The Ambassadorial Lecture was attended by scholars from around Yogyakarta including Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII), and Universitas Achmad Dahlan (UAD) and several notable institution and student organisation from Yogyakarta.



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 (AI-CHR)'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 Proceedings 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.

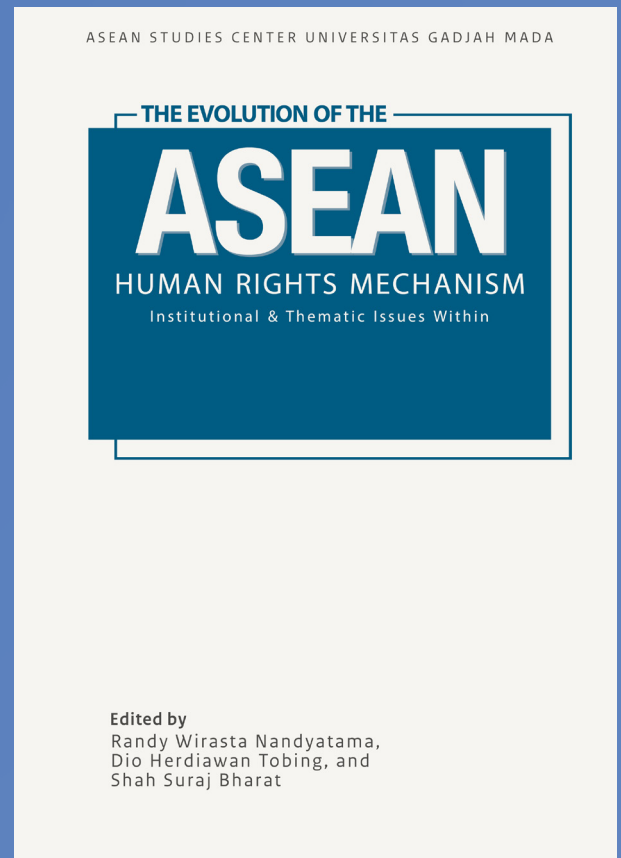
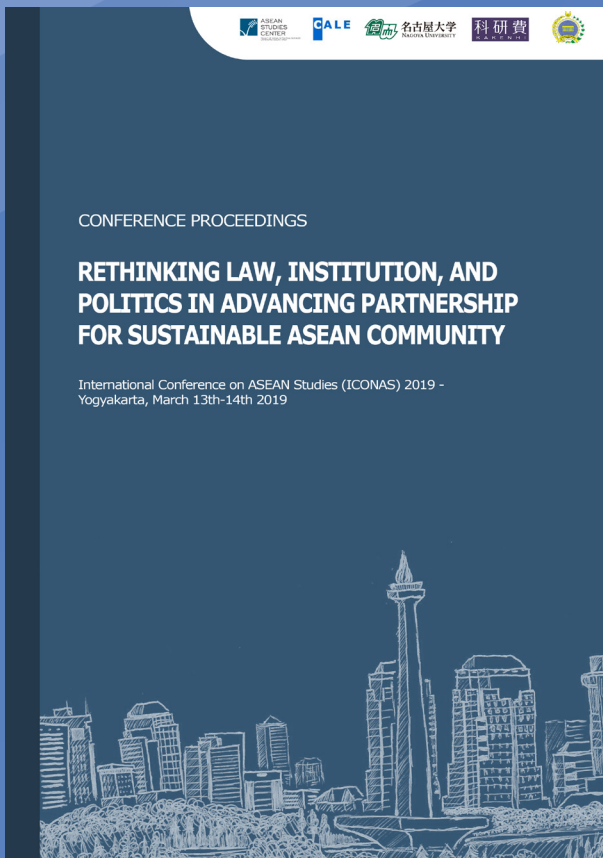
Article Release

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.

We encourage scholars to submit their research paper or opinion piece. Selected opinion pieces and selected academic writings are published on both online and in our printed publications.





ASEAN
STUDIES
CENTER

FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA