



Quarterly Report

January - March 2021 Edition
ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada



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CENTER

FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA

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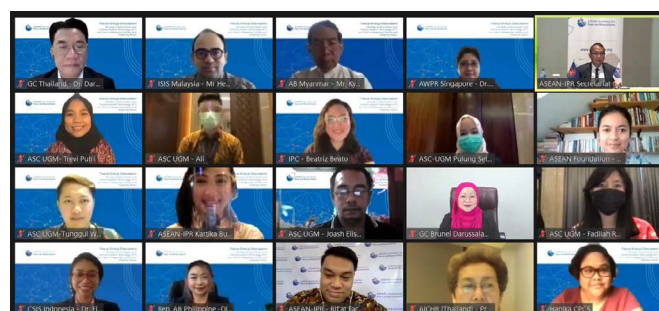
Institutional Overview



ASEAN-IPR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) THE ROLE OF ICT AS A TOOL IN MITIGATING CONFLICT AND FOSTERING PEACE

Monday, 25 January 2021

The ASEAN Institute for Peace & Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), in collaboration with the ASEAN Studies Center held a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the theme of “The Role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) as a Tool in Mitigating Conflict and Fostering Peace”. The FGD was divided into two sessions and discussed a number of pertinent issues under ICT. The issues discussed included the governance of cyberspace in addressing fake news, falsehoods, and misinformation/disinformation, role of social media “influencers”, managing of the use of ICTs and social media platforms for information crowdsourcing, and state support for citizen peacekeeping initiatives on ICT platforms. The FGD was divided into two sessions and were moderated by the Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR Mr. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Pujana and ASEAN Studies Center Senior Researcher, Ms. Pulung Setiosuci Perbawani.



The FGD was held in hybrid and attended by representatives from the Governing Council (GC), Advisory Body (AB), ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR), and numerous think-tanks from across ASEAN member states. The purpose of this FGD is to bring together various views on ICT empowerment in peace reconciliation as well as provide a platform for collaboration and cooperation among think tanks in the region.

During this occasion, the Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR, Mr. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Pujana paid a courtesy call on the Rector of Universitas Gadjah Mada, Prof. Ir. Panut Mulyono, and the Executive Director of the ASEAN Studies Center, Dr Dafri Agussalim.



H.E. Amb. I Gusti Wesaka Pujana - Dr. Dafri Agussalim
ASEAN Studies Center Office

THE NETWORK OF ASEAN-CHINA THINK TANKS (NACT) COUNTRY COORDINATORS MEETING

19 March 2021



To officiate the start of a new year, the Country Coordinators Meeting of the NACT was held inviting all country coordinators of the NACT on the morning of Friday, 19 March 2021. The co-host for these meetings was NACT Vietnam. As the focal point for Indonesia, the ASEAN Studies Center was represented by Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim. The coordinators gathered to discuss the general theme, sustainable development, and working group proposals for the upcoming NACT Working Group meetings.



After considering several themes proposed by the country coordinators, the meeting concluded that the general theme of the 2021 NACT Working Group (NACT WG) meeting will focus on Multilateralism in Preparing for a Post-Pandemic Recovery. The upcoming NACT WG meetings will be co-hosted by NACT Singapore and NACT Indonesia, tentatively in the mid-2021. NACT Indonesia, represented by the ASEAN

Studies Center, will highlight the issue of civil society organisations (CSOs) and how they have enrolled themselves during the pandemic as well as the potential role they could play in the journey towards the post-pandemic world. This theme is particularly pertinent as many have been brought to their knees by the effects of the pandemic and the necessary measures taken in both social and economic aspects. By looking at ways that CSOs have helped to alleviate the tension, ASEAN could include this in their future policies.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP PROMOTING ASEAN WORKERS FOR COMPETITIVENESS, RESILIENCE, AND AGILITY ON THE FUTURE OF WORK

11 February 2021

As Chair of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM) period 2020-2022, the Indonesian Ministry of Labour held a consultative meeting with other relevant Ministries and ASEAN Studies Centers, including the ASEAN Studies Center of Universitas Gadjah Mada, to discuss their work plan for its Chairmanship. The theme of the Chairmanship this period is **"Promoting ASEAN Workers for Competitiveness, Resilience, and Agility on the Future of Work"**. The Meeting took place from 9-11 February 2021 and was held in hybrid. Among the many important topics, the meeting discussed Indonesia's potential strength in the labour sector from the perspective of ASEAN foreign policy, priorities of the labour sector in supporting the Indonesia ASEAN Chairmanship 2023, and Indonesia's role in the labour sector in the ASCC Pillar. The ASEAN Studies Center was represented by Research Manager, Tunggul Wicaksono.

Programs

BINCANG ASEAN ON ASC MONOGRAPH 2020

SMALL STATES, STRONG SOCIETIES: ESSAYS ON COVID-19 RESPONSES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

19 January 2021

On the occasion to disseminate the first ASEAN Studies Center Monograph, The Programme Division of ASC UGM collaborated with The Research Division of ASC UGM to held Bincang ASEAN Series on ASC Monograph 2020, entitled **“Small States, Strong Societies: Essays on Covid-19 Responses in Southeast Asia”**. The webinar succeed to invites contributors and the editors of the monograph to talk about ASEAN Member State respond towards the pandemic of COVID-19. The discussion highlighted three aspects explain the inequality of Covid-19 responses in Southeast Asia: the differing degree of state capacity, the resilience of society, and the regional cooperation. With the success of this discussion, ASEAN Studies Center UGM will continue to publish Monograph Series in the future.



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• Report on Bincang ASEAN

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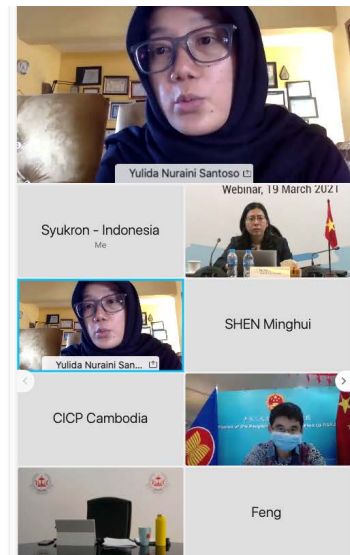
ASC Monograph 2020
Small States, Strong Societies:
Essays on Covid-19 Responses in Southeast Asia
Tuesday, 19 January 2021

THE NETWORK OF ASEAN-CHINA THINK TANKS (NACT) ANNUAL MEETING

19 March 2021

The 2021 NACT Annual Meeting, which also marks the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, was held on March 19, 2021. In his opening remarks, President of China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Xu Jian, stated that in times of difficulties where the COVID-19 pandemic challenges multilateralism, it is the region's ultimate fight to curb the virus's spread while at the same time strengthen the commitment in regional partnership in coping with the adverse impacts on the social and economic sector.

On a similar note, Dr. Nguyen Hung Son, the Vice President of Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam (DAV), acknowledged that the forum could be a platform to discuss and comprehend each view on the Southeast Asia region's development. On this occasion, the panel is expected to promote good relationships and bring prosperity to the parties. As an essential dialogue partner, a substantive partnership among NACT members is needed in order to construct ideal regional architecture. In regards to current challenges, the foundation of the cooperation must be based on responsibility and responsiveness.



The moderated discussion was attended by nine keynote speakers from each of NACT members and was parted into two panels; (1) Economy and Sustainable Development in ASEAN – China Relations, moderated by Dr. To Minh Tu (DAV), and (2) Economy and Sustainable Development in ASEAN – China Relations, moderated by Prof. Guo Yanjun (CFAU). NACT Indonesia was represented by Mrs. Yulida Nuraini Santoso (Managing Director of ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada) with a research paper titled “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030: Reducing the Gap of Inequality through ASEAN-China Trade Relations.” In her statement, Mrs. Yulida proposed ways forward in eradicating inequality, such as strengthening the partnership between China and ASEAN, which is based on mutual benefits and exchanging innovation among international organizations.

The meeting was concluded with a hope to enhance the understanding and mutual trust between China and ASEAN member states, as well as exchanging knowledge and perspective to ensure stability, resilience, and development in the region.

WEBINAR SERIES IRRC FISIP UNIVERSITAS JEND. ACHMAD YANI (UNJANI) EXAMINING SOUTHEAST ASIA'S POLITICAL TIDES

25 February 2021

A webinar with the title *Examining Southeast Asia's Political Tides* was held by IRRC FISIP Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani (UNJANI) via Zoom video conference. Tunggul Wicaksono represented ASEAN Studies Center as a keynote speaker and delivered a specific theme about ***"Expanding US Dominance vis-à-vis China's Emerging Power - What Will It Mean for Southeast Asia?"***. The discussion covers prominent issues in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the policy arrangement in the Indo-Pacific region, and the prospective cooperation among the United States, China, and ASEAN member states. The webinar concluded how the US maintains its position in the Southeast Asia region, how does Joe Biden navigate the Sino-US rivalry, and the Quad's consequences for ASEAN countries, especially Indonesia.



Based on the theme mentioned above, Tunggul Wicaksono, co-authored by Diaz Kurniawan, wrote a paper and submitted it to Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani's annual publication. The following is the paper's abstract.

“

Towards the 21st century, the geopolitical amalgamation between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean had become increasingly palpable in terms of power dynamics among nations. As the arena of maritime interest, the Indo-Pacific has become the strategic aim to demonstrate power both politically and economically. While the US seeks to regain its sphere of influence in the region, China's growing power seems to be challenging. The Indo-Pacific multilateralism vision of free and open trade insinuates the elusive concept; moreover, diversity remains a test. Still, the parties are eager to make the agreement set in place, especially the United States' new pivot to Asia administered by a new president-elect, Joe Biden. Suppose the collective work of the US, Japan, Australia, and India under The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (The Quad) would cherish Southeast Asian nations, what would China's response to the geopolitical shift? What are the outcomes for prospective cooperation? This paper seeks to answer these questions by examining the strategic political agenda of the US vis-à-vis China. It further explains Indonesia's position between the two superpowers. The following sections expand on and elaborate on these arguments.

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Research

ASC POLICY BRIEF 2020

THE ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ACWC) AT 10: FORGING AHEAD

6 January 2021

The ASEAN Studies Center released a publication with the title *“The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) at 10: Forging Ahead”*. The policy brief was authored by Yulida Nuraini Santoso and Dio Herdiawan Tobing. In a time where the global pandemic has hit every corner of the world, the ACWC’s anniversary could not be more relevant, as in Southeast Asia, women and children are adversely and disproportionately affected. This brief engages the report of ACWC+10 and maps policy prospects to bring ACWC to the front line and center of women and children’s rights advancement in the region. The publication endeavors to disseminate critical topics in the academic community and bring greater meaning to the developing narratives.

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The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) at 10: Forging Ahead

Yulida Nuraini Santoso*
Dio Herdiawan Tobing*

Synopsis

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) turned ten in 7th April 2020. In a time where the global pandemic has hit every corner of the world, the ACWC’s anniversary could not be more relevant, as in Southeast Asia, women and children are adversely and disproportionately affected. This brief engages the *Report on the ACWC+10: Assessing the Commission’s Impact on Protecting Women’s and Children’s Rights in ASEAN* and maps policy prospects to bring ACWC to the front line and centre of women and children rights advancement in the region.

ACWC: An on-going journey

The inception of ASEAN human rights bodies was perceived to shine a glimpse of hope towards human rights issues in ASEAN. Not long after the organisation established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on 23rd October 2009 during the 15th ASEAN Summit in Cha-am, Thailand, ASEAN leaders inaugurated the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) at the subsequent ASEAN Summit on 7th April 2010.

Both bodies have shown hopeful signs of progress but have also faced criticism along the way. As mandated by the Term of Reference (TOR), ACWC’s primary mandates are to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and Children in ASEAN. Similar to AICHR, the fulfilment of the mandates have been progressing but with very visible challenges. For ACWC particularly, the homework is larger as public attention to the work of the commission is often compared to that of its sibling, the AICHR. ACWC lacks visibility in terms of its outreach and engagement with its constituents.¹ As such, this begs the question of how far out can ACWC reach its constituents, if public visibility remains an issue after ten years?

A Mapping of Actors

ASEAN Member States (AMS)

Despite human rights being a topic that the AMS often shy away from such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI), refugees, and indigenous people, little objection was seen in the advancement of the issue of promoting and protecting the rights of women and children. This support is reflected from the mention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, CEDAW, CRC, Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), World Fit for Children, International Humanitarian Law and other international human rights instruments and regional declarations related to women’s and children’s rights to which ASEAN

¹ Forum Asia report <https://asean.org/asean-strengthens-commitment-protect-advance-rights-women-children/> (ten years in visibility remains an issue).

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Full access on:
ugm.id/ASCPolicyBrief2020

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN BOOK | SHAPE-SEA

A GROWING STIGMA: THE DANGER OF DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE RIGHTS OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

4 February 2021

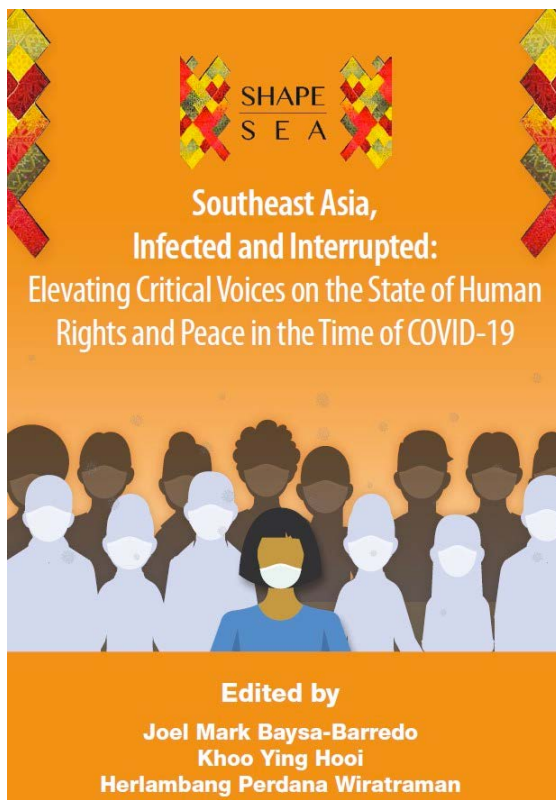
In February 4th 2021, SHAPE-SEA has published a book which compiled open-ed articles submitted on their Digital Project – ***Southeast Asia in Crisis: Opinions on the State of Human Rights and Peace in the Time of Covid-19.***

One of the articles published within this book was written by our Research Analyst & Program Coordinator, Muhammad Diaz Kurniawan. His manuscript was titled ***“A Growing Stigma: The Danger of Discriminating Against the Rights of Healthcare Workers”***, where he highlighted issues related to healthcare workers when the Covid-19 pandemic began in Indonesia.

The healthcare workers had to carry their duties despite the limited availability of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within the first three to four months after Covid-19 pandemic was officially announced to have transmitted in Indonesia on March 2nd last year. Additionally, these healthcare workers have also received discrimination by the society, where people began to ban them to enter houses as they are afraid those healthcare workers might transmit virus in the neighbourhood.

Some cases were also reported where people refused the burial of healthcare workers who died due to exposure to the Covid-19. There were also many news highlighting how people in some cities and small villages in Indonesia drove away a group of healthcare workers who were about to pick up patients suspected of being exposed to the Covid-19. Such stigma within Indonesian society will eventually adversely impact the availability of healthcare services and the performance of healthcare workers in treating patients. In his article, Diaz also suggested possible way to suppress such stigma through social campaign which could encourage people to appreciate the work of healthcare workers.

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Full access on:

<https://shapesea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SHAPE-SEA-Covid-19-Book-web.pdf>

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ARTICLE RELEASE ON ASEAN NOTES

ugm.id/ASEANNotes

There were three articles of ASEAN notes have been published on ASC UGM website. The first article titled ***“The Unnerving Act East Policy and the Uninterested ASEAN”*** was submitted by Habibah Hasnah Hermanadi. She is an independent political researcher with a master’s degree from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, India. In her article, she highlighted about the relations between India and Southeast Asia, where India seems to be lack of foreign policy maneuvers that are catered to the socioeconomic-cultural and values in Southeast Asia. However, India keeps trying to strengthen relations with ASEAN by establishing the ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship in 2018. India uses its soft power capacity to reach out to Southeast Asia through research and development in technology and science.



“The Unnerving Act East Policy and the Uninterested ASEAN”

Another ASEAN Note submission was written by Yulida Nuraini Santoso (Managing Director of ASC UGM), and co-authored by Gading Gumilang Putra (National Information & Advocacy Officer for Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia). The article is titled “Refugees and Asylum Seekers in ASEAN: Suggested Remedies”, where they questioned on what actions that can be done by the international communities to push the ASEAN Policy-makers to prioritize the issue of refugees and asylum seekers on their agenda. In the end of their article, six possible options to help remedy the situation regarding refugees and asylum seekers in the region were also suggested.



“Refugees and Asylum Seekers in ASEAN: Suggested Remedies”



“Norms Competing, East or West in ASEAN”

The third article entitled “Norms Competing, East or West in ASEAN” was submitted by Seon Young Yang, a Senior Research Officer in the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN. In her article, she highlighted about how ASEAN has paved its way to survive and develop regional integration for more than five decades. Despite all obstacles in realizing its regional integration, ASEAN has achieved external parties’ engagement and made ASEAN relevant to various stakeholders. ASEAN embraced guest countries that have expressed and unveiled new norms to build good relations with the region. However, ASEAN will always have the right to choose the best options available amidst the competing norms accentuated by those external parties.

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



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