

Quarterly Report

April - June 2020 edition



ASEAN
STUDIES
CENTER

FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA

ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Quarterly Report April - June 2020 edition



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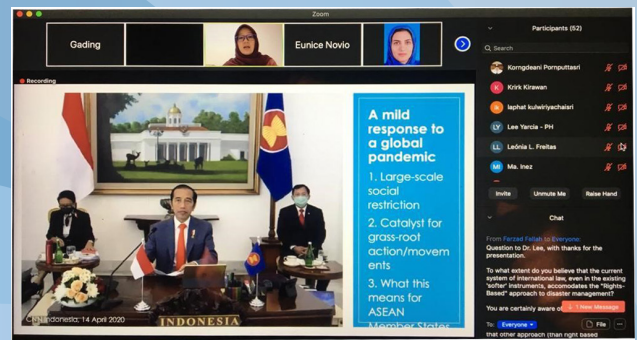
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Institutional Overview



Cambridge University Southeast Asian Society (CUSEAS): COVID-19 & Health: An Interdisciplinary Webinar | Komunitas Indonesia untuk Kajian Eropa-Indonesian Community for European Studies (KIKE-ICES): Regionalism and Global Pandemics | **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** | Director General for ASEAN Cooperation: Updates on ASEAN Cooperation during the COVID-19 Pandemic



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

24 April 2020

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>

KIKE ICES | ASEAN STUDIES CENTER | SIPAL | ASEAN Study Center

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

22 May 2020

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 UNO at WHO in Geneva

Dr. N. Paralietharan
 WHO Representative to Indonesia

Dr. Dinna Prepto 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, IEAS, 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) NUS, 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 (CIIIS)

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

29 May 2020

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.

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

29 May 2020

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.



Research

Research

Article Release

ASEAN Studies Center UGM encourages the scholars to publish their academic writings, through the ASEAN Notes platform. Each author is expected to write an article consisting of 800 words (minimum) which discuss about some emerging issues related to ASEAN. The above-mentioned articles were reviewed carefully after the submission to make sure they meet the institution's standards.

Seven 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.



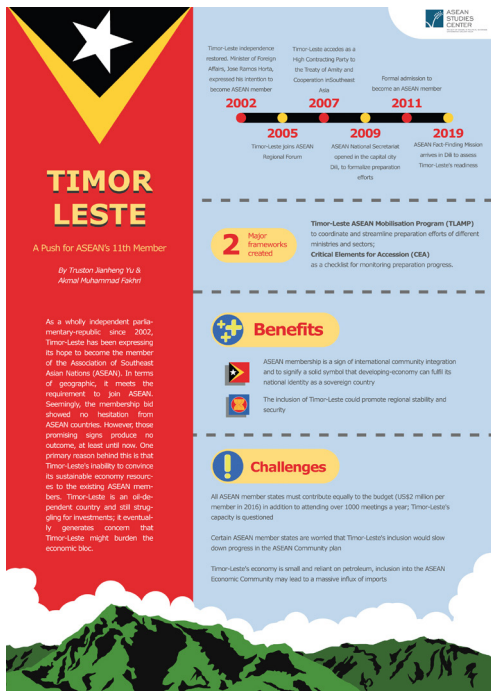
- Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia: A Long Way To Go by Fadilah Rahma.



- 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.



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.

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?"



Photo by evening_tao

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 & jcomp

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.

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.





Program

Bincang ASEAN Webinar: The Past and the Future of ASEAN Health Cooperation | Bincang
ASEAN Webinar: Sharing Session in Collaboration with Sobat Nugas | **Internship**

Program

Bincang ASEAN Webinar

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 Webinar

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 online 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 outputs 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.



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