



**ASEAN
STUDIES
CENTER**

FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MUDA

Quarterly Report II

April - June 2023





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You!

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a. Institutional Visit from the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Law, and Security

31 May 2023



A Visit from the Assistant Deputy of the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Law, and Security was received by Executive Director, Dr Dafri Agussalim on Friday, 31 May 2023 at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada. The meeting discussed the on-going research project, contemporary political-security issues in the ASEAN region, and outcomes of the recent ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo.

The meeting agreed to look closer at opportunities to push for a stronger role of Indonesia as the current ASEAN Chair 2023, sectoral issues, developments in Myanmar and the Indo-Pacific. The on-going research project lead by Dr Muhammad Rum would provide meaningful insight into these discussions.

b. ASEAN Studies Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre Collaboration on Essay Competition

The ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) is currently in collaboration with the ASEAN Korea Centre (AKC) in the holding of an ASEAN-Korea Essay Contest of 2023. Other than ASC, the AKC is also collaborating with the Institute for East Asian Studies at Sogang University (SIEAS). Along with SIEAS, ASC will evaluate the essay submissions and take part in actively promoting the event to its network.



The ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest 2023 is an international-level essay competition aimed at all undergraduate and graduate students of ASEAN and Korean nationalities. AKAEC 2023 carries the theme "Strengthening ASEAN-Korea Strategic Partnership in a Changing Global Landscape". It aims at engaging all undergraduate and graduate students ASEAN member states and Korea to take part in an activity that brings the two thriving communities closer together.

The winners will be announced in September and awarded with the prizes in November 2023.

a. ASEAN Notes

Two articles of ASEAN Notes have been published on the ASC website. The titles are as follows:



“Embracing ASEAN Economic Community 2025: Unlocking Prospects and Overcoming Obstacles in Indonesia”, written by **M. Tora Bhanu Pandito.**

In this article, he argued that the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint seeks to create such an environment, where businesses of all sizes can thrive and contribute to inclusive development in

the region. Moreover, it presents a plethora of opportunities for business in Indonesia.

“ASEAN Chairmanship 2023: Indonesia’s Tendency to Solve the South China Sea Territorial Disputes”, written by **Jefferson Davids Soasa.**



In this article, he highlighted some agendas that should be a concern in Indonesia’s chairmanship. In particular, he argued conflicting claims of ASEAN’s countries’ sovereignty have worsened the relationship between China and ASEAN.

b. Policy Brief

ASC UGM, in collaboration with the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences UGM, publishes a policy brief fortnightly as an agenda to support Indonesia's chairmanship in ASEAN. During the course of this program, five periodic articles will be published. These articles aim to distill complex research and analysis into concise, actionable insights for policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public. The policy brief serves as a crucial tool for communicating important policy considerations, proposing effective solutions, and influencing decision-making processes at various levels. These are currently published documents:



Policy Brief #1 – ASEAN Diterpa Krisis Ganda: KTT ASEAN 2023 Harus Hadirkan Kebijakan Baru!, written by **Muhammad Rum, Randy W. Nandyatama, Yulida N. Santoso, and Tunggul Wicaksono**. This article mentioned that ASEAN faces legitimacy and institutional performance issues in responding to global issues. Therefore, ASEAN must maintain its rootedness and centrality in establishing regional power.



Policy Brief #2 – Hadirnya Rivalitas Kekuatan Besar: Masih Relevankah ASEAN?, written by **Yulida N. Santoso and Tunggul Wicaksono**. This article proposes that a trust-building and non-intrusive approach must be adopted to gain a collaborative strategy among member states. Furthermore, it suggests reassessing internal documents as the lack of policy enforcement may hamper the institution's effectiveness in responding to the great powers' rivalry.

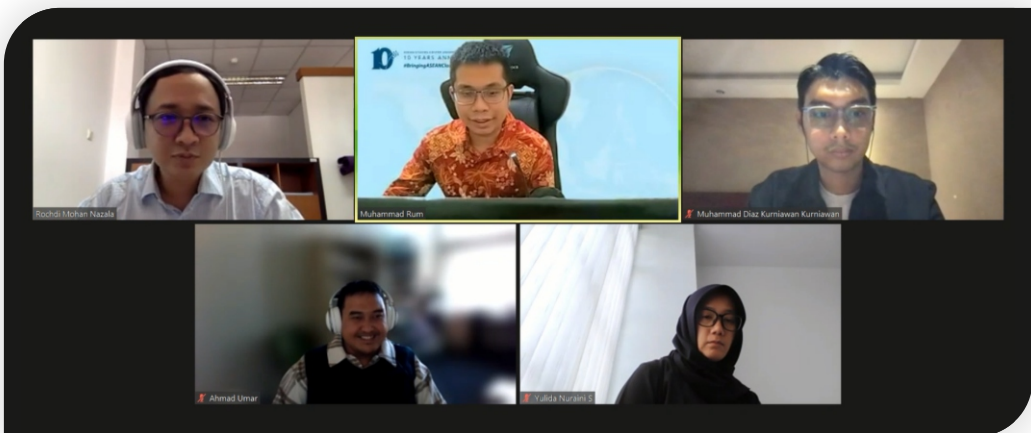


Policy Brief #3 – Epicentrum of Growth: Percepatan Ekonomi Pascapandemi dan Membangun Resiliensi Ekonomi Kawasan, written by **Nabilah Nur Abiyanti** and **Poppy S. Winanti**. This article examines the central issues in realizing ASEAN as the epicenter of growth, these are; post-pandemic economic recovery, the advancement of the digital economy, and the sustainability of the

economic environment. Moreover, this article argues that collective capacity is essential in managing the dynamics of geopolitics and the region’s stability.

c. Focus Group Discussion - Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia

On 26 June 2023, ASC UGM held an FGD that invited the academic community to gain insights into maritime diplomacy strategy in ASEAN. This FGD is a continuation of joint research activities between the Center and the Ministry. This activity serves as a platform for brainstorming and generating new ideas on the proposed topic. The results of this FGD will later become a reference for the final report and, in turn, serve as an input for the government especially in the context of the Indonesia ASEAN Chairmanship.



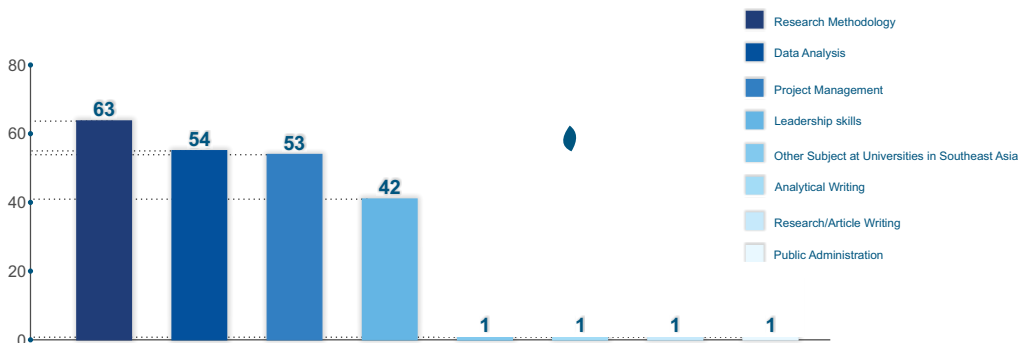
The 4th ASEAN Youth Initiatives Empowerment Program (AYIEP) – Human Rights Research in ASEAN

1. Background

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has come a long way since its inception, witnessing a significant shift in its approach to human rights. From initially dismissing human rights as Western ideologies incompatible with Asian values, ASEAN has now established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and adopted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. This transition underscores the importance of human rights and democracy in the institutional framework and vision of ASEAN.

Academic involvement has always played a crucial role in uncovering human rights issues, supported by the principle of academic freedom guaranteed by international human rights standards. Despite this, academia still faces challenges in terms of freedom of expression and access to comprehensive human rights-focused research training. To address these gaps and promote the protection and advancement of human rights in the region, the ASEAN Studies Center at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, is launching the 4th ASEAN Youth Initiatives Empowerment Program (AYIEP) - Human Rights Research in ASEAN.

The AYIEP is designed as an expert-led research methodology training program for young academics and researchers in the field of human rights in Southeast Asia. The program covers various human rights research techniques and issues prevalent in the region. With registration begin in August and Training program started on September.



The importance of such a training program is further emphasized by the findings of the Short Course Needs Assessment Surveys 2023 conducted by the ASEAN Studies Center UGM in Q1, with a total of 100 respondents. According to the survey, training on research methodology emerged as the most interesting topic (63%). This result highlights the strong demand for research methodology training among the respondents. By providing a platform for capacity building and knowledge exchange, the AYIEP aims to support academia in conducting research that contributes to the continued promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN.

2. Course Description

The 4th ASEAN Youth Initiatives Empowerment Program (AYIEP) – Human Rights Research in ASEAN is a comprehensive training program designed to equip young academics and researchers with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct human rights research in Southeast Asia. A tailored curriculum developed in consultation with experts to deliver practical and theoretical knowledge on human rights research methodologies, as well as fostering a network of young academics and researchers committed to pioneering human rights studies in ASEAN. The program aims to advance human rights research and address knowledge gaps in human rights issues prevalent in the region.

The curriculum focuses on two primary aspects of research: reading and writing. Reading refers to the skills and activities that assist participants in absorbing information and expanding their knowledge, while writing encompasses the skills and activities that help participants produce highquality research. The curriculum will be delivered through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning modules, allowing participants to engage with the training program at their own pace and from any location.

To ensure the success of the project, we partner with organizations committed to promoting human rights research and capacity building in the ASEAN region. By joining forces, we can collectively work towards empowering the next generation of human rights researchers and advocates, contributing to a brighter future for human rights protection and promotion in southeast asia.

3. Topic Coverage

- Human Rights Concepts and Practices Research Methods
- Critical Perspectives
- Contemporary Issues
- Practical Writing Workshops

4. Targeted Participants

The 4th ASEAN Youth Initiatives Empowerment Program (AYIEP) - Human Rights Research in ASEAN aims to attract a diverse group of participants who share an interest in human rights research and have the potential to make a significant impact in the field. The targeted participants for the program include:

- ASEAN and non-ASEAN participants: The program is open to both individuals from ASEAN countries and those outside the region who have a keen interest in studying human rights in Southeast Asia.
- Age range: Participants should be between the ages of 18 and 39, reflecting the program's focus on engaging and empowering the next generation of human rights researchers and advocates.
- Higher education students: The program targets students pursuing higher education degrees (undergraduate, graduate, or postgraduate) in disciplines related to human rights, such as law, political science, international relations, sociology, anthropology, and development studies.
- Early-career researchers: Young academics and researchers in the early stages of their careers, who are looking to develop or refine their research skills in human rights, are encouraged to apply.
- Human rights advocates and practitioners: Individuals working with or volunteering for non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, or other entities focused on human rights promotion and protection in the ASEAN region can also benefit from the program.

5. Tentative Schedule

Week 1

The Introduction of Human Rights: Concept and Practices

- 4 Sep 2023: Ignition Day
- 5 Sep 2023: Class 1 & 2
- 6 Sep 2023: Independent Learning
- 7 Sep 2023: Independent Learning
- 8 Sep 2023: Class 3

Week 2

Methods in Human Rights Research & Critical Perspectives on Human Rights

- 11 Sep 2023: Independent Learning (Perspective Asynchronous)
- 12 Sep 2023: Class 4 & 5
- 13 Sep 2023: Independent Learning
- 14 Sep 2023: Independent Learning
- 15 Sep 2023: Class 6 & 7

Week 3

Contemporary Issues in Human Rights

- 18 Sep 2023: Independent Learning (Contemporary Asynchronous)
- 19 Sep 2023: Class 8
- 20 Sep 2023: Independent Learning
- 21 Sep 2023: Independent Learning
- 22 Sep 2023: Class 11 & 12

Week 4**Writing Workshop**

25 Sep 2023: Independent Learning

26 Sep 2023: Writing Workshop Day 1

27 Sep 2023: Independent Learning

28 Sep 2023: Independent Learning

29 Sep 2023: Writing Workshop Day 2 & Graduation Ceremony

6. Benefits & RSVP**Benefits**

- Transferable course credit (worth 3 CSU)
- Access to all AYIEP Classes
- Engage with Experts and Facilitators
- Certificate of Completion

RSVP now at

ugm.id/rsvpAYIEP4



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The ASEAN PodQuest



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