

July-September 2020 Edition ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada



#### ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada Quarterly Report July - September 2020 edition



# ASEAN Close You.

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# Institutional Overview

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

23 July 2020

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.

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 Prapto 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

30 July 2020

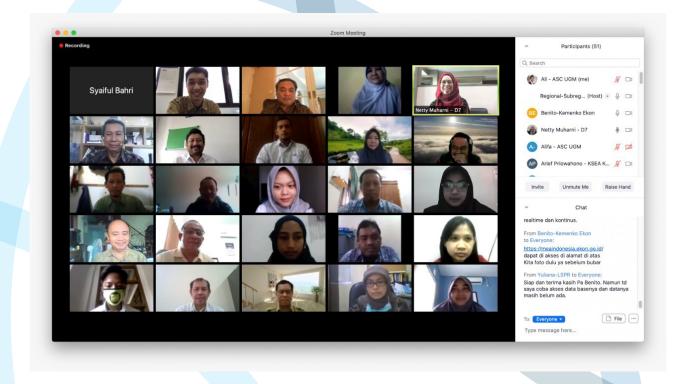
An FGD was held on 30 July 2020 to discuss the implementation of the STORMEA as initiated by the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs. From the perspective of a think tank and research institute, there are various ways that the academia can be involved and contribute to the effort of supporting the national economy. Further, this will also help to prepare Indonesia for its Chairman-ship 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) UNIMET and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to share their views on the matter.







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

31 August 2020

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.











# 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.

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



 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

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.

#### **Webinar Series**

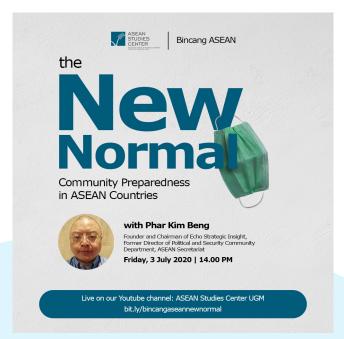
The webinar titled **The New Normal – Community Preparedness in ASEAN Countries** was held on July 3, 2020. ASC invited Phar Kim Beng, a Founder and Chairman of Echo Strategic Insight, and a Former Director of Political and Security Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat. In this edition, the background 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:

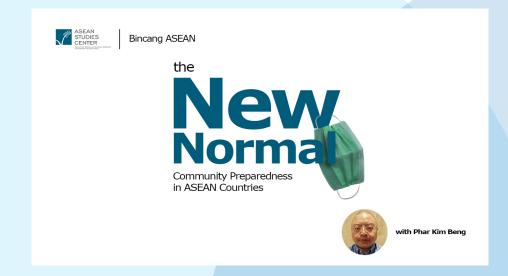
First, the New Normal in ASEAN countries explores ways in which the Covid-19 pandemic might shape or reorder the world across multiple dimensions. The new normal is relatively not "new" since it has happened alongside human history. The government initiative promotes it as a standard operating procedure, 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.







## NACT Working Group

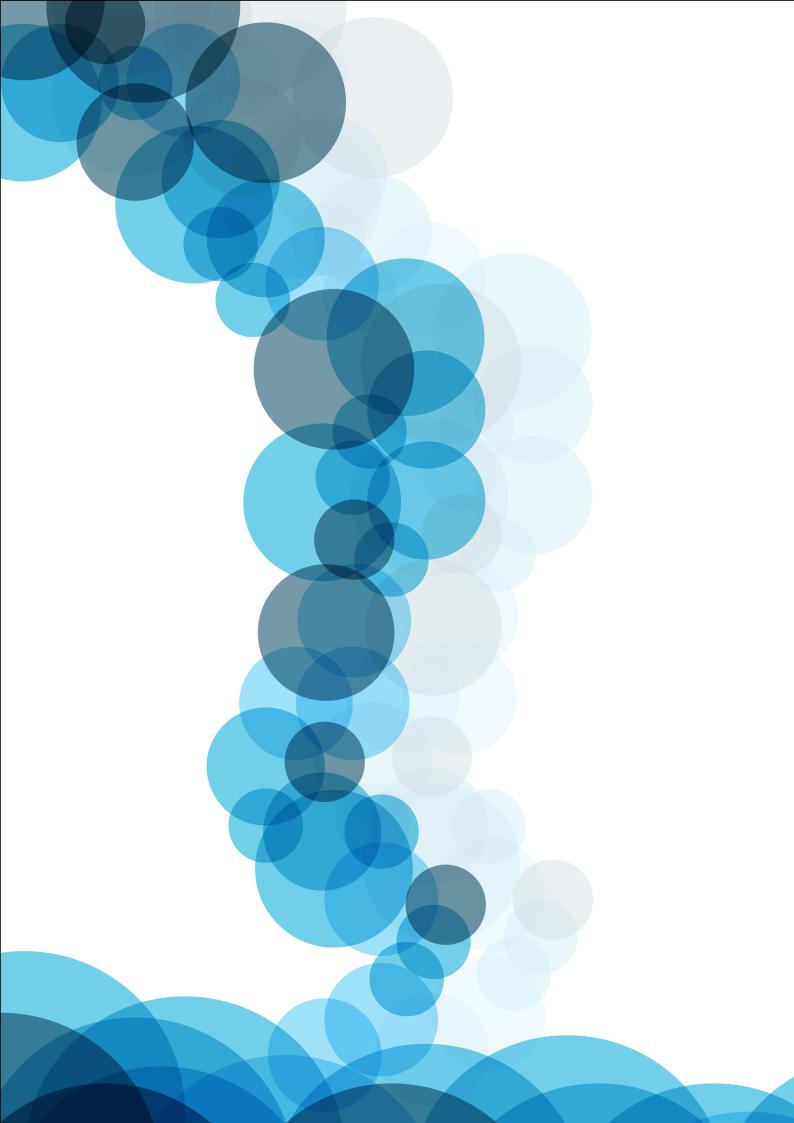
The NACT Working Group (WG) meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. The meeting, organized by NACT Indonesia and NACT China, commenced via Microsoft Teams video conference under the theme "Future of Labor in ASEAN and China: Challenges and Responses". Eight researchers (China, Indonesia, Lao 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.





# Program

Bincang ASEAN Webinar: Anticipating traditional and non-traditional security threat in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges for Indonesia and ASEAN | ASEAN Creative Content Competition | ASEAN Day Webinar: Indonesia, Youth, and the ASEAN Identity | ASEAN Day Webinar: Community Engagement in Shaping the ASEAN Identity | ASEAN Day Webinar: Embracing ASEAN Identity to build a Resilient Community: Perspectives of the ASEAN Youth Organization | Bincang ASEAN: Business and Human Rights in ASEAN



#### **Bincang ASEAN Webinar:**

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

23 July 2020

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". e 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:**

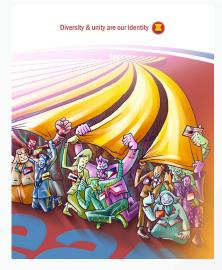
#ASEAN Youth 2020: Embracing ASEAN Identity to Build a Resilient Community

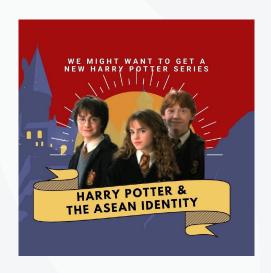
9 August - 30 August 2020

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**

#### 12 August 2020

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.







#### **ASEAN Day Webinar:**

## Community Engagement in Shaping the ASEAN Identity

#### 19 August 2020

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 YusbiHead 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.







#### **ASEAN Day Webinar:**

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

#### 26 August 2020

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.





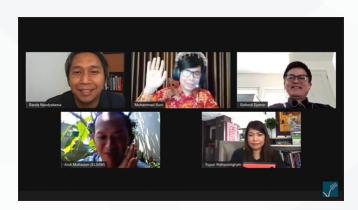


#### **Bincang ASEAN:**

#### Business and Human Rights in **ASFAN**

#### 21 September 2020

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.





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ASEAN Studies Center, Universitas Gadjah Mada Faculty of Social and Political Sciences Universitas Gadjah Mada BC Building 2nd Floor Room 209, JL. Socio Justicia No.1, Caturtunggal, Karang Malang, Caturtunggal, Kecamatan Depok, Kabupaten Sleman, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta 55281 E-mail: aseansc@ugm.ac.id | Phone: (0274) 563362 ext. 151

