


PAPER
“ASEAN defence security foresighting in the next 2 decades”
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at Holiday Inn Chiangmai Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand



1. Session II: ASEAN defence security foresighting in the next 2 decades (In case of Climate Change)

Introduction

For over half a century or 51 years of cooperation from various countries in Southeast Asia, also known as "ASEAN", has created changes for this region continuously. Whether developed cooperation in economy, trade, investment, technology, maintain of political stability and also includes the integration of culture through the movement of people in ASEAN. All of these are the driving for the community with population over 640 million to move forward steadily.

The important cooperation of the ASEAN member states, whether creating the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) or creating a free trade area (FTA) with many countries outside region such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, resulting to have more trade links. As well as the efforts of maintain the ASEAN Centric to create a new strategy balancing in the Indo-Pacific region. Including the implementation of cooperation plan for the ASEAN plus three, economic integration to develop ASEAN into a single production base and one market, and accelerating the negotiation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: RCEP to success quickly (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2018, pages 1-2).

In addition to the economic achievements that mentioned above, the issue of political stability between ASEAN has made a great effort to support the cooperation between ASEAN and China in the South China Sea, especially in the Code of Conduct on South China Sea: COC to change this area into a sea of peace, stability and sustainability. And also support developing of the positive situation in the Korean Peninsula, especially the discussion between the leaders of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as cooperation in supporting humanitarian aid and natural disaster prevention. Considering that the cooperation of the ASEAN member countries attracts the attention of the international community, whether dimension on diplomacy, trade, investment, tourism, and even the diversity of beliefs of people, which are the “strong points” that leads to further connection to all parts of the world. All these show that ASEAN is a cooperation community and supporting members that increase the bargaining weight on the world stage successfully.

However, ASEAN still faces security challenges. From the perspective of academics organized by ISEAS Yusof Ishak, National University of Singapore¹, held on

¹ Academic paper Topic “Guideline for ASEAN future security building in case of climate change”. The Strategist Course class 12th. Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute.

January 9, 2018, commented that in addition to ASEAN having to carry out a common policy to maintain the balance of power between the United States and China, ASEAN also have many security challenges including maintaining of economic stabilization, delaying reform in financial and business sector, delaying reforms in structure and economic policy, trade barrier measures, and international political issues such as the Korean Peninsula situation, the situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar, terrorism in the Mindanao of the Philippines, etc. All these inevitably affect to the economy of the region, moreover the institutions also surveyed the opinion of ASEAN people on ASEAN security challenges, the results appear as follows, political instability in domestic (53.7%), ethnic and religious tensions (52.9%), climate change (51.6%), economic downturn (51.1%), military tensions (42.7%) and terrorism (37.2%), which accordance with the opinions of the academics that mention above.

The Strategic Studies Center, National Studies Institute of Defense, consider that the issue of climate change is an important and interesting issue, because it effect to the natural disaster in a broad and effect to all countries such as floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, high temperature weather and drought etc. Therefore the Strategic Studies Center take the issue of climate change to draw the future scenario of ASEAN security by applying the Foresight Framework, which has 4 steps to do are

Step 1 Analysis of Driving Force: to find the trend that will occur in the framework of society, technology, economy, environment, politics and military (STEEP-M) and then find the link and the impact of events in climate change for the ASEAN region.

Step 2 Evaluation: to identify impact and uncertainty of the issues or Impact-Uncertainty Classification

Step 3 Interpretation: by looking at the current results to the future direction then expect to be the main issue in the future.

Step 4 Prospecation: to create the scenario planning

Step 5 Establishing of ASEAN guidelines for future security: by SWOT analysis then determine the resources and tools (Means) that must be used to create ways for ASEAN to cope with the climate change.

Analysis of future trends

By taking the issues in Critical Scenario as "Preparing to cope with the climate change in the ASEAN region" to analyze by the different black-bone, not related each other, important affects to create future scenario of ASEAN that are "Political Will" and "Social Participation", there have 4 possible scenarios are

1) Scenario A

- There are conflicts in society due to people do not cooperate with government sector, so there is only the government who solve the problem of climate change.
- People are not aware of the problem for climate change, and also break the law too.
- All projects do not get cooperation from the people.

2) Scenario B

- There are establishment of a standard for legal measures in ASEAN both government sector and non-government sector.

- There are networks of cooperation for solving problems.
- People cooperate in compliance with laws, rule, order, and also do practice together.
- ASEAN is strong in dealing with climate change.
- There is an effective response to the disaster, since monitoring, preparation, disaster reliefs, and disaster recovery.
- Having a complete stock piling.

3) Scenario C

- There are no common ASEAN for a legal standard measures, both government sectors and non-government sectors.
- There is no cooperation network to solve problems.
- There is no cooperation in compliance with laws, rule, order, and no practice together.

4) Scenario D

- People are aware of the problem
- The government has just begun to recognize the problem.
- There has law enforcement, but it is inefficient.
- The law is very complicate and it is hard to edit.

Conclusion

From the future of ASEAN Foresighting for dealing with climate change, it can be seen that there are 4 scenarios in different ways. It depends on the driving force in each axis, Political Will and Social Participation. However, the future scenario that ASEAN should be concern is scenario C which low of Political Will and at the same time it is also low of Social Participation. In this case, ASEAN will not have legal standard measures in both the governmental and other sectors, ASEAN does not have a cooperation network to solve climate change problem. Therefore, ASEAN should have guidelines for dealing with in this case.