



# THE HABIBIE CENTER

**Talking ASEAN on Non-Traditional Security**  
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**Non-Traditional Security Issues in ASEAN-EU Cooperation**  
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# Non-Traditional Security issues in ASEAN-EU Cooperation

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# Introduction

- Non-traditional security issues are iconic in ASEAN-EU relations. Either sides values the other as important partner.
- Both ASEAN and EU are regional, intergovernmental/ supranational organization with common, but different degree of concern over issues. Either side engaged in relations with others – bilateral, inter-regional as well as global.
- Beyond intentions and opportunity, power is relative to capacity. The EU at power surplus in terms of experience, experties, and technologies.
- Discusses alternative narratives, limit of cooperation, and the importane of bilateralism

# Alternative narrative

- Post-Cold War Europe and Southeast Asia gives new emphases on non-traditional security issues as the most viable avenue to exercise cooperative security.
- Relative importance of this cooperative approach reflects European widening foreign relations (beyond their geographic proximity and post-colonial relations) and ASEAN strategy of balancing (beyond regionally dominant actors)
- Ideas converge (norm diffusion), with some degree of adjustment (case: European willingness to ease political conditionality)

# Trans-sovereignty

- Trans-boundary problems (climate change, infectious diseases, organized crimes), beyond sovereignty issues (food securities, natural disasters), aggravated escalatory threats (terrorism) provides new avenue of cooperation.
- Drive of globalism stronger than factual impact. European indirect strategy (of prevention, empowerment, resilience bases approach) meets ASEAN Ways
- convergences of outlook lead to commonalities strategic responses and institutional mechanism?

# Resilience, governance and prevention

- In contrast to military, security, and problem solving (with notable exception on disasters reliefs and combating terrorism), EU more familiar with resilience, governance and prevention – attuned to notion, tradition and practices in ASEAN member countries. Some EU member countries may adopt different strategy nonetheless.
- Bring to the fore the issues of
  - Effectiveness
  - Bottom up (ASEAN) vs top-down approach
- The remaining importance of bilateralism

# The importance of bilateralism

- Deepening of cooperation is conditional to motives, strategic impacts, and degree of independence to regional entities.
- Globalizing motives and low strategic impacts in part of the European and strategic balancing and predominant views of accidental consequences in ASEAN seems to be the limit of cooperation.
- ASEAN is for EU both an avenue for widening globalism as well as part of its diversionary strategy to ease domestic tensions in its member). Bilateralism prevails, history plays role (UK in Myanmar).

# Final notes

- EU and ASEAN cooperation in non-traditional security issues has been stepped particularly on the environment and climate change and counter-terrorism and piracy. There is no doubt that European ideas of managing security issues has entered systematically into ASEAN lexicon.
- EU indirect approach appear to be well received, less controversial compare to that of the American and Australian. (much alike Borzel-Risse's indirect mechanism rather than Dolowitz-Marsh's voluntary mechanism).
- Ideas converges, norms adopted, yet emulation of structure and process remain basically within national boundary.