

JGSS

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Master's Programs in International Relations
Faculty of Social and Political Science
Jenderal Achmad Yani University

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Yohanes Sulaiman

Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani

Dear readers:

We would like to thank you all for your continuing interest in the Journal of Global Strategic Studies. As a new journal, we know that achieving prominence and respect in the field is going to be a long and arduous task, but with your support and prayers, we believe that we can achieve it.

In this issue, we also have several excellent contributions from scholars all over the world, who incidentally and independently contributed articles on Indo-Pacific, bringing distinct perspectives from different countries. Professor Srabani Roy Choudhury, Chairperson of Center for East Asian Studies, Professor in Japanese Division School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, contributed an article on origin and evolution of Quad, and how it will in the future contribute to the creation of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Corey Wallace, Assistant Professor at Kanagawa University, Japan, an expert in Japanese foreign policy and geopolitics of East Asia, contributed our second article. Professor Wallace describes and explains the evolution of Japan's Self Defense Forces' capabilities, missions, and the political limitations it faces internally. In light of growing tension in East Asia, and Indo-Pacific region as a whole, I believe that this is a very important and insightful contribution that would help us understand Japan's defense policy and its possible impact on Indo-Pacific.

Our third article is written by Dino Patti Djalal, the head of the Master's Program in International Relations, Agus Subagyo, Dean of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIP), and Marianne Delanova, vice-head of the Master's

Program in International Relations; all three are faculty in Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani (UNJANI). These three distinguished scholars analyzed Indonesia's health diplomacy during Covid-19 pandemic period and argued that Indonesia's engagement in health diplomacy helped maintaining regional and global stability during the pandemic.

Our fourth contributor is Ms. Quinissa Putrirezhy of Universitas Indonesia. Ms. Putrirezhy in her excellent contribution discusses the possibility that the Quad may hasten the collapse and disintegration of ASEAN. Whether one may agree or disagree with her argument, it is clear that she is asking an important and timely question, making her article worth reading.

Mr. Miftachul Choir, a graduate student at Institute of Human Rights and Peace Study, Mahidol University, discusses why Indonesia took an assertive stance in combatting illegal fishing issue instead of applying the ASEAN-led mechanism, the usual problem-solving mechanism between states in Southeast Asia. This article further illuminates the debate within Indonesia's bureaucracy and how disagreement on threat within the foreign policy foreign elite led to a decision that simply bypassed ASEAN's mechanism.

Last but not least, is an essay by Donald Greenlees, Senior Advisor of Asialink, a research center affiliated with the University of Melbourne, Australia and a visiting fellow at Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University. Dr. Greenlees provides a thoughtful essay on the linkage between regime type and sectarian violence and whether Indonesia's nascent democracy is helpful in combatting sectarian violence. This article concludes by arguing that democracy offers the best way to solve political contention peacefully and the need for the government to act decisively to contain violent contention.

Finally, my last words: we would like to thank you again for your willingness to read this note to the end, and we hope that you will enjoy reading this issue. Please do let us know if you have constructive comments, and better yet, do send your contribution for our next issue in June 2022.

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Yohanes Sulaiman
Executive Editor

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