

## The Effect of International Security Dynamics on Asia Pacific Regionalism

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### Abstract

This article explains the emerging security dynamics in the Asia-Pacific toward the effect of the increase of international security of Asia Pacific countries, and this research also depicted the contribution of regional organizations such as ASEAN, East Asian countries, and Atlantic countries. Even though the relations of ASEAN countries with East Asian Countries are still strong, this research elucidated the relations which build stronger through a transfer of technology toward each other. This is qualitative research that adopted in-depth interviews to gain data and processed with the coding technique. The informant was an expert in the field who has served the institution for more than 10 years. The results show that This forum is the only forum in the world that is able to bring together regional countries and relevant international organizations to discuss issues of people smuggling and trafficking in persons and other transnational crimes. This forum also discusses the interests of countries of origin, transit countries, and also destination countries.

**Keywords:** *Security, Defence, Asia Pacific, Military, Cooperation*



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### INTRODUCTION

In the last few decades, the economic growth of countries in the Asia Pacific Region has become stronger and more focused on the interests of their respective countries. In the future, these conditions are expected to continue and affect the prosperity, progress, and security of the region. In addition, this condition will also have an impact on the development of technological progress, community demographics, as well as the balance of power globally, such as the threat posed by North Korea and the issue of terrorism and other transnational problems. Of course, in the future, this situation requires a firm response from countries in the region. The threat of terrorism will still have potential and could even get worse in the next few decades. The existence of Islamic extremist groups is increasingly scattered in various countries and is more active in carrying out their actions than in the previous period. These acts of extremism will continue to create acts of violence within the State. The Southeast Asian region is a potential place to develop and train the capabilities and skills of extremist groups. Narratives of extremism will continue to inspire global violence. As ISIS begins to lose power in Iraq and Syria, the threat of terrorism in Southeast Asia is increasing. This is because the relationship between local extremists and global terrorist groups such as ISIL and the situation and conditions in the southern Philippines is very concerning.

Increasing the flow of refugees and illegal migration will be a challenge in the future. In the previous period, there had never been a large number of refugees crossing national borders caused by conflicts or natural disasters. Currently, an estimated 65 million displaced people are scattered around the world. This figure represents the highest number of refugees scattered worldwide since the Second World War. This condition is a big challenge for the world community and requires a new approach to solving the problem, including determining the destination of the country of refuge for the refugees. The existence of illegal migration will continue, which has implications for the need for state border management. The triggers for this migration are often caused by the development of technology and digital communications, cheap transportation, and the existence of organized people-smuggling syndicates.

Problems; As mentioned earlier, there are many challenges and opportunities in engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. Globalization is not the only reason for the creation of cooperation between countries in this region; there are many other reasons that need to be understood why a country wants to cooperate with other countries. However, such cooperation can have an impact on the lack of a State's authority over a problem. The need for cross-border coordination and cooperation in a region to solve common problems seems to be one of the main forces in encouraging cooperation between countries in a region. In facing the potential threats and challenges in the region, many opportunities arise, but each country needs to take follow-up steps by considering the positive and negative effects it can have.

Since 1969, the Philippines has experienced various kinds of internal conflicts in the form of insurgency and terrorist attacks. These problems have the potential to endanger the security of the State, not only the internal Philippines, but also the security of neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. The Philippine government has made many efforts to overcome these problems by developing the capabilities of the Philippine Police (PNP) and Military (AFP) and anti-terrorism units that are highly capable. In several incidents, it was found that Indonesian citizens (WNI) had been arrested, and their safety was threatened. There are many other examples where foreign nationals have been targeted by terrorist groups and insurgents to discredit the Philippine government and spread fear on Philippine territory. The TNI has been approached to provide assistance, and opportunities are still open for the TNI to send assistance to the Philippine government.

Meanwhile, people smuggling is considered the fastest growing transnational crime today. This situation involves many countries, as well as many crossing routes that continue to grow over time. This is also possible due to the fact that technological developments have supported the activities of smuggling crimes. For example, the use of sophisticated and complex navigation equipment.

It is believed that the number of illegal migrants by land, sea, and air is about 30-40 million people out of about 191 million legal migrants worldwide. Countries in Southeast Asia have taken steps to combat the problem of people smuggling. One of them is through the Bali Process forum. This Forum has become one of the most important Forums in dealing with the problem of people smuggling.

Referring to the background and problems above, the formulation of the problem is "Is Cooperation between Countries in the Indo-Pacific Region the most important key to ensuring security in the regional community?"

The main issues related to Cooperation between Countries in the Region include; The origins of the rebellion in the Philippines and what steps can be taken by the Indonesian government, especially the TNI, to support the Philippine Government in the future, namely:

The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century; they were handed over to the US in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. In 1935 the Philippines became an independent Commonwealth of Nations. Manuel QUEZON was elected president and tasked with preparing the country for independence after a 10-year transition. In 1942 the islands fell under Japanese occupation during World War II, and US and Filipino forces fought together during 1944-45 to regain control. On July 4, 1946, the Republic of the Philippines achieved its independence. A 20-year rule by Ferdinand MARCOS ended in 1986 when the "people power" movement in Manila ("EDSA 1") forced him into exile and installed Corazon AQUINO as president. His presidency was hampered by several coup attempts, which prevented the return of full political stability and economic development. Fidel RAMOS was elected president in 1992. His reign was marked by increased stability and progress in economic reforms. In 1992, the US closed its last military base on the islands. Joseph ESTRADA was elected president in 1998. He was succeeded by his vice president, Gloria MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, in January 2001 after the hurricane ESTRADA impeachment trial on corruption charges stalled and the "people power" movement ("EDSA 2") demanded his resignation. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2004. His presidency was marred by several allegations of corruption, but the Philippine economy was one of

the few to avoid contraction following the 2008 global financial crisis, expanding every year of his reign. Benigno AQUINO III was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2010 and was succeeded by Rodrigo DUTERTE in May 2016.

The Philippine government faces threats from several groups, some of which are on the US Government's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Manila has waged a decades-long struggle against an ethnic Moro insurgency in the southern Philippines, which led to a peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front and a separate agreement with a breakaway faction, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The Maoist-inspired New People's Army Rebellion for decades also operates in many countries. In 2017, the Philippine armed forces fought the ISIS-Philippines siege of Marawi City, prompting DUTERTE to declare martial law in the region. The Philippines faces rising tensions with China over disputed territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Philippine military strength information. List of military branch fields: Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP): Army, Navy (including Marine Corps), Air Force (2013). Military service age and obligation: This is the mandatory age for voluntary or military service and the length of service obligation. List of age fields and military service obligations 17-23 years (officers 20-24) for voluntary military service; no conscription; applicants must be male or female credit hours Filipino citizenship single 72 colleges (registered) or baccalaureate degree (officer) (2013). Maritime Threats: The International Maritime Bureau reports territorial and offshore waters in South China are at high risk for piracy and armed robbery of ships; during 2017, 22 attacks were reported in and around the Philippines, including 19 ships boarded, one opened fire, 10 crew members kidnapped for ransom, and two killed; an emerging threat area located in the Celebes and Sulu Seas between the Philippines and Malaysia where it is believed the pirates involved were linked to the terrorist organization Abu Sayyaf (ASG); many commercial ships that have been attacked and hijacked both at anchor and in transit; hedge ships are often camouflaged and cargo diverted to ports in East Asia; the crew has been killed or thrown adrift.

During the construction period, the Philippine government did not recognize Moro customary law. There is a feeling of revenge from the Philippine government against the Moro people for the attack on the central government in Manila. Thus, causing tension between the Moro Muslim minority population and the immigrants in the Moro rebellion of 1960-1970. In 1972, Nur Misuari as the leader of the MNLF, along with his supporters, declared a plan to establish a Republic of the Moro nation through the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which had the goal of achieving full freedom for the Moro people and independence from Philippine colonial rule. This incident led to military intervention against the Moro people, who wanted to determine their own destiny. As a result, in March 1968, there was a mass murder in Sulu; about 24 people died by the Philippine army on the orders of President Marcos. This mass murder incident became the beginning of chaos on the island of Mindanao.

The issue of Moro National Separatism in the Southern Philippines. Historically, the Moro is an ethnic group distinct and separate from the Filipinos, who now make up the majority of the Filipino population. This fact is confirmed by Dr. Alunan C. Glang, the former Philippine ambassador to Kuwait; in the book "A Nation Under Endless Tyranny" quotes the French historian D'Avitay that around the beginning of the 16th century, Mindanao was not part of the Philippines.

Before the arrival of the Spanish in the Philippines in the early 15th century, the Moros had already reached a fairly high level of civilization. They were joined in kingdoms led by the sultans of Sulu and Manguindanao, and Buayan, who were members of a confederation known as "Pat-a-pangampong-ku-Ranao", namely independent and sovereign Muslim countries. In these Islamic kingdoms, the legal system was regulated and enforced based on Islamic sharia. In addition, literature, trade, and the level of civilization developed very rapidly, as did the Islamic kingdoms in Southeast Asia.

In 1521 the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines with the motto 3G(Gold, Glory, Gospel). It turned out that the arrival of the Spaniards had implications for the political and social life of the Filipino people, especially on the island of Luzon. The colonialists' aim was to establish colonies and convert the Filipino population to Christianity to prevent the spread of Islam northward from Borneo. This was evidenced by the coercion of Rajah Solomon of Luzon, who defended the City of Manila and his followers to embrace the Catholic religion. With the politics of violence and persuasion, the Spanish succeeded in expanding their sovereignty throughout the Philippines except in three areas, namely the sultanates of Sulu, Manguindanao, and Buayan.

Communities in the three regions already have a better political unity than other regions, according to TJS. George (1980) Mindanao society differed in response to Spanish colonialism. One of the reasons is because Islam that developed in Mindanao has given society a more advanced social and political system than areas in the Northern Philippines.

The Moros, as represented by the MILF stated that the Spaniards, for 377 years, had never succeeded in subduing the Moros into a colonial area. The Colonialists used all means to subdue the Moro. TJS. George (1980) said that one of the ways used to conquer the Spanish people was by sending Catholic missionaries to Moro territories in the hope that the Christianization process would help the political conquest. But then, the missionaries urged the Spanish army to carry out a military conquest.

On December 10, 1898, through the Treaty of Paris, Spain sold the entire Philippine archipelago to America and stated that the Mindanao Islands were a colonial area and sold for 20 million Mexican dollars. The Moros consider that the incorporation of Moro territory from Spain to the Philippines is an "immoral and illegal annexation" because Spain never had the right to cede this territory to the United States. The islands sold by Spain are areas with a majority Muslim community where Spain was never sovereign over this area. In addition, the people of the Moro Nation were never asked for their opinion or consulted before their territory was handed over to the United States.

This is what spearheaded the emergence of a separatist movement by the Moro Nation. The Moros did not accept the Spanish treatment of suddenly selling their territory even though they had never felt conquered and submitted to Spain before.

The problem of separatism that occurred in the Southern Philippines is one of the obstacles for the Philippines in implementing democratic values, which should have been ingrained in the Filipino people. This separatism arises because of the uneven distribution of development in the Philippines, one of the factors being that the Philippines is an archipelagic country that is difficult to integrate into a development plan that is evenly distributed with other regions in the Philippines.

During the time of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, with the leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, in Manila on July 17, 2017, they signed a bill on the establishment of a new Muslim autonomous region aimed at ending Muslim insurgencies. Meanwhile, in May 2016, the Maoist Duterte uprising held 'inclusive talks' with rebels from the New People's Army (NPA), the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Steps that can be taken by the Indonesian government, especially the TNI, to support the Philippine Government in the future. The countries of Indonesia and the Philippines are developing countries in Southeast Asia as one the regions that do not yet have stability, especially in the context of politics, economy, and security. This instability causes developing countries to be more vulnerable to threats that come from outside and within the country. Indonesia and the Philippines are two archipelagic countries and are also two developing countries in Southeast Asia. The two countries, which are geographically bordered by each other, have one thing in common, namely that conflicts often occur due to differences in ethnicity, race, and religion. Not only that, in these two countries, there are radical groups that have links to one another that can threaten their sovereignty. These factors have caused the two countries to

approach establishing bilateral cooperation in the security sector, which aims to create stable and secure regional conditions.

The Government of Indonesia and the government of the Philippines to hold a meeting related to this issue from April 1 to 2, 2016. The meeting, which took place in Manila, finally resulted in 4 important points, namely: Intensifying communication and coordination with the Philippine government in efforts to release Indonesian hostages. Re-emphasizing the importance of safety, The 10 Indonesian citizens expressed their appreciation for the cooperation that has so far been given by the Philippine authorities in the context of coordinating the release of hostages and communicating with other related parties. The Indonesian government held a meeting with the Philippine government separately to discuss the handling of the case. The result of the meeting was that the Philippine side was fully committed to doing its best to free the hostages. During the negotiation process, urgings regarding military strength continued to resonate; even TNI troops had also been prepared around the Kalimantan area, waiting for orders if there was an implementation of military force. This can also be seen in the form of joint training carried out in the Kalimantan region. The Indonesian government believes that the use of military force will be successful because it happens abroad; even Indonesia itself has asked for permission to enter without forcing into Philippine territory. Indonesia is also ready to wait for Manila's results and is ready to do whatever it takes if assistance is needed. However, the request was rejected by the Philippines on the grounds that the Philippine constitution does not allow military forces of other countries to enter their territory without prior agreement.

Factors causing people smuggling and illegal migration and explain the Bali Process and what steps the Indonesian government has taken to address these problems, namely:

Factors causing people smuggling and illegal migration. The practice of people smuggling in the world, including in Indonesia, has increased in recent years. Indonesia is often used as a transit country by illegal immigrants and Australia as a destination country. Australia became a Destination Country for illegal immigrants because Australia ratified the Refugee Convention, so they thought Australia would provide protection in accordance with the obligations regulated by the Convention, even though the immigrants entered Australian territory illegally (against the law). Therefore, cooperation between Indonesia and Australia is needed in order to prevent and eradicate the crime of people smuggling. The cooperation was carried out between Indonesia and Australia in 2000, which was started in the form of a Regional Cooperation Agreement. However, in 2013, the Australian Prime Minister issued a turn back the boat policy, which resulted in the breakdown of cooperation in providing information related to people smuggling between Indonesian law enforcers and the Australian Government.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research is descriptive qualitative research that describes an analysis based on data obtained from in-depth interviews with defense experts who have worked for at least 10 years. The selection of resource persons with criteria of at least 10 years of experience is intended to obtain relevant information and be able to answer the research questions. From data collection, data processing is then carried out using coding analysis techniques (open, axial, and selective) so that objective and quality research results are found. The validity test is done by reference check and member check methods.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

One of the factors causing the increase in cases of people smuggling in Indonesia every year is the geographical condition of Indonesia as an archipelagic country, which has many small islands that are close to other countries. In addition, local people's ignorance of people smuggling crimes and economic needs are also factors that cause the increase in people smuggling cases. The local community is involved in temporary shelter and crossing the immigrants in exchange for a fee. Some areas in Indonesia that have become human smuggling routes to destination countries are Jayanti Beach and Santolo Beach in West Java Province, Bulukumba Regency (South Sulawesi), and Batam Island (Riau Islands), Surabaya (East

Java), and Rote Island (Nusa East Southeast). The three countries of origin of the most illegal immigrants in Indonesia are Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

People smuggling and illegal immigrants are closely related. Illegal immigrants who successfully enter the country of transit or destination country do not always need cooperation with smuggling agents; they can also smuggle themselves into the destination country without the need for smuggling agents. People smuggling results in an increasing number of illegal immigrants. The reasons often given by immigrants who are smuggled are to get a job or improve their economic status, hope for a better life, and a sense of security from conflict in their country.

The pattern of illegal migration that occurs in Indonesia, especially in the border islands of Indonesia, ultimately has implications for the emergence of security problems in the form of crimes that cross national borders (transnational crime), as well as transnational organized crime. A transnational crime is a crime that is committed across the territorial boundaries of a country. The modus operandi, form or type, and locus tempus delicti involve several countries and their legal systems. Meanwhile, transnational organized crime is an activity carried out by an organized criminal group by crossing national borders to obtain material benefits, power, and high social status for the interests of the group in ways that are contrary to the law. Examples include drug smuggling, weapons smuggling, and others.

Balinese Process. International cooperation efforts in this region have been implemented since 2002. The forum was called the Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), which was held again in Bali last April 2013. This forum is the only forum in the world that is able to bring together regional countries and relevant international organizations to discuss issues of people smuggling and trafficking in persons and other transnational crimes. This forum also discusses the interests of countries of origin, transit countries, and also destination countries. Although the nature of the Bali Process is voluntary and non-binding, based only on a common view on people smuggling, this forum will eventually lead to the harmonization of policies for each of the participating countries of the forum.

## **CONCLUSION**

Harmonization of law enforcement in tackling people smuggling will make it easier for each country to cooperate in eradicating people smuggling. This forum cannot issue a decision that is binding on the parties, but this forum is a forum for mutual understanding of the conditions of each country and can issue solutions to people smuggling crimes. The development of international cooperation is useful for preventing and eradicating transnational organized crime, especially people smuggling because, without cooperation between countries, it will be difficult to uncover this people smuggling network. One important element of cooperation that needs to be continuously improved is law enforcement on people smuggling, including by linking the Bali Process with human resource development agencies and law enforcement. However, there are some weaknesses in this forum, for example, the lack of information obtained from participating countries. Although this forum has the main objective of exchanging information to combat the crime of people smuggling, in practice, it has not been effective.

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