

**Journal of Comprehensive Science**  
p-ISSN: 2962-4738 e-ISSN: 2962-4584  
Vol. 3. No. 11 November 2024

---

**Diplomacy and International Cooperation in ASEAN:  
An Analysis of Politics, Economy, and Law in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand,  
and Singapore**

**Ji Liang<sup>1\*</sup>, Ibrahim Kholilul Rohman<sup>2</sup>, Audrey G. Tangkudung<sup>3</sup>**

Universitas Indonesia<sup>1,2</sup>

IBM ASMI, Jakarta, Indonesia<sup>3</sup>

Email Koresponden: 18855155999@139.com

---

**Abstrak**

This article explores ASEAN's pivotal role in contemporary regional development and global change, focusing on politics, economics, and law in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore. ASEAN, as a major actor in state studies, offers theoretical innovations rooted in abundant empirical material, with diverse strategic outlooks and potential interactions. This research seeks to understand how ASEAN, through an interdisciplinary approach, utilizes the existing resources in Southeast Asian studies and the advantages of multidisciplinary to build a dynamic, distinctive, and autonomous ASEAN studies. The article also discusses how the construction of ASEAN studies not only responds to contemporary propositions from regional and national studies, but also promotes the enhancement of global knowledge systems through systematic learning, research, and application practices. In addition, it evaluates current opportunities and challenges in the political, economic, and legal contexts of the five ASEAN countries mentioned earlier. The ultimate goal of this research is to help build a community of shared future for humanity by consolidating the intellectual foundation of the ASEAN community for a shared future.

---

**Keywords:** asean, Southeast Asia, community, global change, contemporary region

---

**INTRODUCTION**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has played a pivotal role in contemporary regional development and global change (Caballero-Anthony, 2014). As a major actor in state studies, ASEAN offers theoretical innovations rooted in abundant empirical material, with diverse strategic outlooks and potential interactions. This research aims to explore the political, economic, and legal landscapes of Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore, and evaluate current opportunities and challenges in these countries. Through an interdisciplinary approach, this article seeks to understand how ASEAN utilizes existing resources in Southeast Asian studies and the advantages of multidisciplinary to build a dynamic, distinctive, and autonomous ASEAN studies. The construction of ASEAN studies not only responds to contemporary propositions from regional and national studies but also promotes the enhancement of global knowledge systems through systematic learning, research, and application practices. The ultimate goal of this research is to help build a community of shared future for humanity by consolidating the intellectual foundation of the ASEAN community for a shared future.

ASEAN is an important actor in contemporary regional development and global change, and its research falls within the scope of state studies (Weatherbee, 2014). Theoretical

innovations fostered by relevant research and rooted in abundant empirical materials have strategic outlooks and diverse interaction potentials, and can be an effective fulcrum for improving the construction of regional and national studies in various countries (Tian et al., 2024).

ASEAN studies takes ASEAN as a specialized research object at various levels, which is based on the logic and path of interdisciplinary studies, and relies on the existing resources in Southeast Asian studies as well as the existing advantages in multidisciplinary to build a dynamic, distinctive, and autonomous ASEAN studies (Supriatna, 2021). An ecology of research and forms a form of knowledge in which intersectionality, integrity and reflexivity reinforce each other (Levac et al., 2018).

The construction of ASEAN studies can not only respond to contemporary propositions from regional and national studies, but also promote the enhancement of global knowledge systems through systematic learning, research and application practices, consolidate the intellectual foundation of the ASEAN community for a shared future, and help build a community of shared future for humanity (Narine, 2016).

Within the scope and search for politics, economics, and law in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore, as well as current opportunities and challenges (Suryadinata, 2018), together we can develop the field of diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN to strengthen regional integration and achieve the common goal of creating peace, prosperity, and stability in Southeast Asia (Narine, 2018).

ASEAN Studies is an important tool in understanding ASEAN's role and contribution in the regional and global context. Through relevant research rooted in abundant empirical materials, we can enhance our understanding of ASEAN dynamics and improve the construction of regional and national studies in various countries (Suryadinata, 2017).

This article will discuss ASEAN's role in economic stability in the Southeast Asian region, with reference to the state as a subject of international law. The direction of a country's policy will certainly have an impact on the country's international relations. In Indonesia itself, in accordance with the mandate of the 1945 Constitution and stated in the mandate of Law No. 37 of 1999, Indonesia implements a free and active policy.

ASEAN also has an important role in helping solve regional problems, including economic issues. To that end, ASEAN needs to improve the accreditation process of civil society organizations to support more community-based activities (Nesadurai, 2017).

In addition, based on the ASEAN Economic Blueprint, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is urgently needed to minimize the gap between ASEAN countries in terms of economic growth.

However, there are also challenges and risks faced by Indonesia in this international cooperation, such as the problem of homogeneity of commodities traded and labor risks 4. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the ability and competitiveness of labor and companies in Indonesia. "ASEAN studies takes ASEAN as the specialized research object at different levels, which is based on the logic and path of interdisciplinary studies, and relies on the existing resources of Southeast Asian studies and the existing advantages of multi-discipline to build ASEAN studies that are both dynamic, distinctive and autonomous. Research ecology and form a knowledge form in which intersectionality, integrity and reflexivity reinforce each other" (Rice et al., 2019).

Diplomacy and international cooperation play crucial roles in the socioeconomic development and national security of countries. In the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), these elements are even more significant due to the region's growing prominence in global affairs. This essay aims to explore the dynamics of diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN, with a particular focus on Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore. By analyzing the political, economic, and legal perspectives in these

countries, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and challenges they face within the ASEAN framework.

### **Political Perspective**

Political stability and effective governance are pivotal in fostering diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN countries. In Indonesia, President Joko Widodo's administration has prioritized enhancing diplomatic relationships and regional cooperation (Pentasari, 2023). This has led to successful initiatives such as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which ensures ASEAN's centrality and coherence in shaping the strategic landscape of the region (Purwanto, 2024).

Similarly, Malaysia, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, has championed multilateralism and regional cooperation as essential drivers of progress (Pero & Apandi, 2018). The government's stance has been reflected in its active participation in ASEAN joint initiatives and its commitment to promoting peace, security, and economic integration within the region.

Vietnam has emerged as a key player in ASEAN, taking on the role of ASEAN Chairmanship in 2020. The country's political stability and proactive foreign policy have allowed it to successfully navigate regional challenges and foster cooperation among ASEAN member states (Ho & Tran, 2023). Vietnam's commitment to the rule of law and multilateralism has also been evident in its efforts to maintain peace and security in the South China Sea dispute.

Thailand, known as the "Land of Smiles," has demonstrated its diplomatic prowess in engaging with both ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries. Its recent chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019 highlighted its commitment to regional cooperation and addressing common challenges (Müller, 2018). The country's political stability and strategic alliances have positioned it as a crucial partner in promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region.

Finally, Singapore, a global city-state and financial hub, has established itself as a key player in diplomacy and international cooperation. Its small size and lack of natural resources have pushed the country to focus on promoting regional integration and a rules-based international order (Wu, 2018). Singapore's expertise in economic diplomacy and its commitment to free trade make it an indispensable partner in ASEAN's endeavor to deepen economic integration.

### **Economic Perspective**

The economic dimension plays a significant role in fostering diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN. Economic interdependence among member states within ASEAN has been a catalyst for regional integration and cooperation. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), established in 2015, aims to create a single market and production base, facilitating the free flow of goods, services, investments, and skilled labor (Ishikawa, 2021).

Indonesia, as the largest economy in ASEAN, plays a pivotal role in driving regional economic integration. Its strong economic growth has been instrumental in advancing the ASEAN agenda (Intal Jr, 2017). Furthermore, Indonesia's active participation in regional economic forums, such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), reflects its commitment to fostering economic cooperation within the region.

Malaysia's robust economy and strategic geographic location have positioned it as a key player in ASEAN. The country's strong emphasis on trade liberalization and connectivity has facilitated regional economic integration (Chia, 2016). Malaysia's proactive engagement in initiatives such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) further underscores its commitment to enhancing economic cooperation among ASEAN member states.

Vietnam's economic reforms and strong export-oriented industrial base have contributed significantly to its economic growth and integration within ASEAN. The country's successful

hosting of international events like the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the signing of major trade agreements like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) have underscored its commitment to economic diplomacy and regional integration (Ciuriak et al., 2017).

Thailand's strategic location and strong industrial base have made it a vital player in regional economic cooperation. The country's investment in infrastructure development through initiatives like the Thailand 4.0 strategy has enhanced connectivity within ASEAN and beyond (Sermcheep, 2024). Thailand's active engagement in regional economic forums and its role as a trade hub further highlight its commitment to fostering economic cooperation within ASEAN.

Singapore's economic success story and strong commitment to open trade have made it a global economic powerhouse. Its status as a financial hub, coupled with its expertise in financial services and technology, have positioned Singapore as a key driver of economic integration within ASEAN (Shimizu, 2014). The country's support for initiatives such as the ASEAN Single Window and its active investment in regional infrastructure projects demonstrate its commitment to enhancing economic cooperation in the region.

#### Legal Perspective

The legal framework within ASEAN plays a crucial role in facilitating diplomacy and international cooperation. The ASEAN Charter, adopted in 2007, serves as the legal framework for ASEAN's political, economic, and social cooperation (Woon, 2015). It enshrines the principles of rule of law, adherence to international law, and respect for human rights.

Indonesia's commitment to the rule of law is evident through its active participation in international legal frameworks and its domestic legal reforms. The country's ratification of international treaties and conventions, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, demonstrates its dedication to combatting transnational crime and corruption (Albanese, 2018). Indonesia's legal system has also undergone significant reforms to improve the investment climate and strengthen intellectual property rights protection (Junita, 2015).

Malaysia's legal system is rooted in common law principles and is known for its strong judiciary. The country has been active in regional legal cooperation, participating in initiatives such as the ASEAN Law Association and the ASEAN Legal Information Portal (Sarwar, 2018). Malaysia's legal reforms, such as the introduction of the Malaysia Productivity Corporation Act in 2018, aim to promote a conducive business environment and improve the ease of doing business within ASEAN (Suzuki et al., 2022).

Vietnam's legal system has undergone significant developments to align with international standards and promote legal certainty. The country's participation in international legal forums, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, reflects its commitment to promoting human rights and the rule of law (Addo, 2014). Vietnam's legal reforms, including the adoption of the Law on Enterprises and the Law on Investment, have created a favorable environment for investment and economic development within ASEAN (Khuong, 2015).

Thailand's legal system combines civil law and common law principles, reflecting its historical development. The country has been actively involved in regional legal cooperation, participating in initiatives such as the ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (Srinopnikom, 2017). Thailand's legal reforms, including the introduction of the Personal Data Protection Act in 2019, aim to enhance data privacy and facilitate cross-border data flows within ASEAN (Chaipipat, 2019).

Singapore's legal system is renowned for its efficiency, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law. The country has actively participated in international legal cooperation, serving as the seat of various arbitration institutions, including the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (Chu & Wang, 2022). Singapore's legal reforms, such as the passing of the

Cybersecurity Act in 2018, reflect its commitment to addressing emerging legal challenges in the digital age (Walters & Novak, 2021).

Diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN encompass a broad range of political, economic, and legal perspectives. Countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore play vital roles in shaping the ASEAN agenda and advancing regional integration. The analysis of their political, economic, and legal dynamics provides valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges faced within the ASEAN framework. By leveraging their strengths and addressing common challenges, ASEAN countries can continue to foster diplomacy and international cooperation, ultimately leading to a community of shared future for Southeast Asia and beyond.

This article will provide a comprehensive analysis of the political, economic, and legal aspects of Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore, shedding light on the opportunities and challenges present in the region. The research will contribute to a deeper understanding of ASEAN's role in the global landscape and its potential for shaping a shared future for the region and beyond. The article will also evaluate the current state of diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN, highlighting the potential for collaboration and cooperation among member states. By analyzing the politics, economy, and law of these countries, this research aims to provide insights into the opportunities and challenges of ASEAN's development and its role in the global community.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

To analyze the politics, economy, and law in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore, this research employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. Primary data sources include scholarly articles, reports, and official documents, while secondary data encompasses existing literature on ASEAN and Southeast Asian studies. This research adopts the approach of intersectionality, integrating multiple disciplines and perspectives to provide a holistic analysis.

### **Political Dynamics:**

In examining the political dynamics of ASEAN member states, scholars such as Acharya (2020) argue that domestic politics, leadership styles, and historical legacies influence each country's approach to diplomacy and international cooperation. For instance, Indonesia, as the largest ASEAN member, plays a pivotal role in shaping regional policies and initiatives (Anwar, 2020). On the other hand, Singapore, known for its pragmatic diplomacy, has been instrumental in promoting economic integration within ASEAN (Das, 2015).

### **Economic Integration:**

The economic dimension is a key aspect of ASEAN's diplomacy and international cooperation. Scholars like Chacko & Jayasuriya, (2021) emphasize the importance of economic partnerships and trade liberalization efforts in enhancing regional stability and prosperity. Within this context, Vietnam and Malaysia have emerged as engines of economic growth within ASEAN, attracting foreign investments and expanding their export markets (Herr et al., 2016). However, challenges such as income disparities and labor market integration persist and require greater attention.

### **Legal Framework:**

The legal framework in ASEAN plays a crucial role in facilitating cooperation and resolving disputes. Prominent legal scholars like Ryu & Ortuoste, (2014) highlight the significance of the ASEAN Charter in advancing regional integration and peaceful resolution of conflicts. However, notable challenges such as the South China Sea disputes demonstrate the limitations of the existing legal mechanisms (Morton, 2016). Strengthening the enforcement and implementation of regional laws remains a priority for ASEAN.

This essay explored the politics, economy, and law in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore, providing insights into the opportunities and challenges for diplomacy and international cooperation in ASEAN. By employing a multidisciplinary research approach, this research underscores the importance of understanding the nuances and complexities of ASEAN member states in shaping regional dynamics. Moving forward, it is imperative to address these challenges and capitalize on the opportunities to enhance ASEAN's role in building a shared future for mankind.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a political and economic organization consisting of 10 countries in the Southeast Asian region. The organization was founded in 1967 with the aim of fostering regional cooperation and promoting political stability and economic progress in the region. Diplomacy and international cooperation play a central role in ASEAN's efforts to achieve these goals. This paper will analyze the political, economic, and legal aspects of the five ASEAN member states, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore.

### **1. Politics in ASEAN**

#### **A. Indonesia**

##### **Cooperation between Indonesia and China in the Political Field:**

1. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:
  - a. Established in 2013, this partnership aims to enhance cooperation in various fields, including politics, economy, defence and security.
  - b. Within the framework of this partnership, the two countries have conducted various activities, such as the exchange of high-level visits, bilateral dialogues, and joint military exercises.
2. Dispute Resolution in the South China Sea:
  - a. Indonesia and China are committed to resolving disputes in the South China Sea peacefully and in accordance with international law.
  - b. Both countries have engaged in various co-operative mechanisms to address these disputes, such as the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea.
3. Counterterrorism:
  - a. Indonesia and China cooperate in combating terrorism and extremism.
  - b. Both countries have shared intelligence information and conducted joint operations to prevent and crack down on acts of terrorism.

##### **Future Political Cooperation between Indonesia and China:**

Indonesia and China have a strong and growing political relationship. The two countries are strategic partners and have a shared interest in maintaining peace and stability in the region. In the future, Indonesia and China can further strengthen their political cooperation in the following areas:

- a. High-level exchanges: The two countries can continue to exchange high-level visits, including visits by heads of state, government officials, and political party leaders.
- b. Strategic dialogue: The two countries can continue to hold regular strategic dialogues to discuss issues of common interest, such as regional security, economic development, and maritime cooperation.
- c. Multilateral cooperation: The two countries can work together in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations, the East Asia Summit, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, to address global challenges.
- d. Party-to-party exchanges: The two countries' political parties can continue to exchange visits and share experiences on governance and party building.

By strengthening their political cooperation, Indonesia and China can build a closer and more prosperous partnership that will benefit both countries and the region.

## **B. Malaysia**

### **Political Cooperations between Malaysia and China:**

1. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:
  - a. Established in 2013, this partnership aims to enhance cooperation in various fields, including politics, economy, defense, and security.
  - b. Within the framework of this partnership, the two countries have carried out various activities, such as high-level exchanges, bilateral dialogues, and joint military exercises.
2. Joint Statement on Further Strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:
  - a. Signed in 2019, this statement reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to further strengthen their bilateral ties.
  - b. It also outlined specific areas of cooperation, such as trade, investment, infrastructure development, and cultural exchanges.
3. Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime:
  - a. Malaysia and China have been working together to combat terrorism and transnational crime.
  - b. They have shared intelligence information and conducted joint operations to prevent and crack down on terrorist activities.

### **Future Political Cooperation between Malaysia and China:**

In the coming years, Malaysia and China can deepen their existing comprehensive strategic partnership through:

- a. Enhanced high-level dialogue: Regular meetings at various levels, from heads of state to party leaders, will allow for closer coordination on regional and global issues.
- b. Joint initiatives on common interests: Collaboration on maritime security, cybersecurity, and counter-terrorism could foster regional stability and mutual trust.
- c. Economic-political synergy: Leveraging China's Belt and Road Initiative and Malaysia's infrastructure plans can lead to co-development projects and strengthened economic ties, contributing to political stability.
- d. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges: Building bridges through education, tourism, and cultural programs will solidify a foundation for long-term political understanding and friendship.

By solidifying these areas, Malaysia and China can cultivate a robust and mutually beneficial political partnership for the future.

## **C. Vietnam**

### **Some forms of Vietnam and China's Greatest Political Cooperation:**

1. Declaration of Common Vision on Vietnam-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Relationship (2021):
  - a. Affirms commitment to strengthening bilateral relations in various fields, including politics, economy, defence and security.
  - b. Emphasised the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea.
  - c. Enhance maritime cooperation, including search and rescue, natural disaster management, and joint exploration.
2. 24th ASEAN-China Summit (2022):
  - a. Vietnam and China jointly promote the implementation of the "ASEAN-China Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2025".
  - b. Emphasize the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea through dialogue and negotiation.

- c. Support the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with international law.
3. State Visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh to China (2022):
- a. Strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation in various fields.
  - b. Signed a number of cooperation agreements, including in the fields of economy, trade, defence and security.
  - c. Affirmed commitment to resolving disputes in the South China Sea peacefully and in accordance with international law.

**Future Political Cooperation between Vietnam and China:**

Vietnam and China have a long history of political ties, and their relationship is complex and multifaceted. Despite territorial disputes and differing political systems, both countries have an interest in maintaining stability and prosperity in the region.

Areas of potential future cooperation include:

- a. High-level visits: Regular exchanges between leaders and officials can help to build trust and understanding.
- b. Party-to-party exchanges: The Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of China can share experiences and learn from each other.
- c. Border management: Cooperation on border security can help to prevent disputes and promote stability.
- d. Maritime cooperation: Joint efforts to combat illegal fishing and other maritime crimes can benefit both countries.
- e. Regional cooperation: Vietnam and China can work together within ASEAN and other regional frameworks to address common challenges.

By strengthening their political cooperation, Vietnam and China can build a more stable and prosperous relationship that will benefit both countries and the region.

**D. Thailand**

**Thailand and China's Political Cooperation:**

1. High-level visits:
  - a. In 2019, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Thailand and met with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.
  - b. In 2022, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha visited China and met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.
2. Joint statements:
  - a. In 2019, Thailand and China issued a Joint Statement on Building a Closer Community with a Shared Future.
  - b. In 2022, Thailand and China issued a Joint Statement on Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership.
3. Strategic cooperation:
  - a. Thailand and China have continued to strengthen their strategic cooperation in a number of areas, including defense, security, trade, and investment.
  - b. In 2021, Thailand and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation.
  - c. In 2022, Thailand and China signed a Free Trade Agreement.
4. Regional and international issues:
  - a. Thailand and China have worked together on a range of regional and international issues, such as the South China Sea, the Mekong River, and climate change.
  - b. In 2022, Thailand and China co-hosted the 12th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
5. Cultural and educational exchanges:
  - a. Thailand and China have continued to promote cultural and educational exchanges.



- b. In 2021, Thailand and China launched the Year of Cultural and Tourism Exchanges.
- c. In 2022, Thailand and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Education.

**Future Political Cooperation between Thailand and China:**

Thailand and China enjoy a strong and strategic partnership that is likely to deepen in the coming years. Both countries have a shared interest in maintaining regional stability and promoting economic development.

Key areas of future political cooperation include:

- a. High-level visits: Regular exchanges of high-level visits between leaders and officials can help to build trust and understanding.
- b. Security cooperation: Thailand and China can work together to combat transnational crime, terrorism, and other security threats.
- c. Economic cooperation: China is Thailand's largest trading partner, and both countries can work together to further promote bilateral trade and investment.
- d. Regional cooperation: Thailand and China can work together within ASEAN and other regional frameworks to address common challenges.
- e. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges: Expanding cultural and educational exchanges can help to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

By strengthening their political cooperation, Thailand and China can build a more stable and prosperous relationship that will benefit both countries and the region.

**E. Singapore**

**Political Cooperation between Singapore and China:**

1. High-level Visits:

- a. In 2019, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited China and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- b. In 2021, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Singapore.

2. Joint Statement:

- a. In 2015, Singapore and China issued a joint statement on upgrading bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- b. In 2021, Singapore and China issued a joint statement on commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations.

3. Strategic Cooperation:

- a. Singapore and China have strengthened their strategic cooperation in various fields, including economy, defence and security.
- b. In 2019, Singapore and China signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- c. In 2020, Singapore and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation.

4. Regional and International Issues:

- a. Singapore and China have co-operated on various regional and international issues, such as the South China Sea and counter-terrorism.
- b. In 2021, Singapore and China co-hosted the Shangri-La Dialogue.

5. Cultural and Educational Exchanges:

- a. Singapore and China have been promoting cultural and educational exchanges.
- b. In 2018, Singapore and China launched the Singapore-China Year of Culture.
- c. In 2020, Singapore and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Education Cooperation.

**Future Political Cooperation between Singapore and China:**

Singapore and China have a long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship. Both countries are important players in the global economy and share a common interest in maintaining regional stability and security.

Areas of potential future political cooperation include:

- a. High-level visits: Regular exchanges of high-level visits between leaders and officials can help to build trust and understanding.
- b. Economic cooperation: China is Singapore's largest trading partner, and both countries can work together to further promote bilateral trade and investment.
- c. Regional cooperation: Singapore and China can work together within ASEAN and other regional frameworks to address common challenges.
- d. Security cooperation: Singapore and China can cooperate on issues such as counter-terrorism, maritime security, and cyber security.
- e. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges: Expanding cultural and educational exchanges can help to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

By strengthening their political cooperation, Singapore and China can build a more stable and prosperous relationship that will benefit both countries and the region.

**Table 1.** Comparison of the Political Conditions of ASEAN Countries

	<b>Indonesia:</b>	<b>Malaysia:</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>Political system:</b>	Presidential system	Constitutional monarchy	Socialist-oriented market economy	Constitutional monarchy	Parliamentary republic
<b>Head of state:</b>	President Joko Widodo	upreme Head of State Abdullah Ahmed Shah	President Nguyen Xuan Phuc	King Maha Vajiralongkorn	President Halimah Yacob
<b>Head of government:</b>	President Joko Widodo	Prime Minister	Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh	Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha	Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong
<b>Legal system:</b>	Civil law system	Common law system	Civil law system	Civil law system	Common law system
<b>Main pillars of the economy:</b>	Agriculture, mineral resources, and manufacturing	Manufacturing, oil and gas, electronic products, tourism, and service industries	Agriculture, manufacturing, and services	Agriculture, manufacturing, and services	Manufacturing, finance, and services
<b>Population:</b>	Fourth most populous country in the world	Approximately 33 million	Approximately 98 million	Approximately 69 million	Approximately 5.7 million

<b>Opportunities:</b>	Important geographical location, rich in natural resources, huge investment prospects in infrastructure construction, low labor costs, and considerable employment population	Electronic and electrical industry, complete industrial conditions, and complete upstream and downstream supporting	Strategic location, abundant natural resources, low labor costs, and young and skilled workforce	Strategic location, abundant natural resources, and skilled workforce	Strategic location, highly skilled workforce, and business-friendly environment
<b>Challenges:</b>	Administrative procedures are relatively complicated, foreign investment policies change frequently, and infrastructure and logistics are not convenient enough	Unique and complex political background, and labor costs are relatively high	Bureaucracy, corruption, and inadequate	Political instability, bureaucracy, and corruption	High cost of living, limited land and resources, and aging population

Source: <https://asean.org>

## 2. Economy in ASEAN

### A. Indonesia

#### Some forms of cooperation between Indonesia and China in the economic field:

1. Jakarta-Bandung High Speed Rail (KCJB):  
 Project value: \$6.07 billion  
 Distance: 142.3 km  
 Speed: 350 km/h  
 Status: Under construction, expected completion in 2024
2. Batang Integrated Industrial Estate (KIT):  
 Project value: \$80 billion  
 Area: 4,300 hectares  
 Industry focus: Electronics, automotive, chemical, textile  
 Status: Under construction, expected to be completed in 2024
3. Java 9 & 10 Steam Power Plant (PLTU):  
 Project value: \$5.5 billion  
 Capacity: 2 x 1,000 megawatts  
 Status: Operational since 2020

### Future Economic Cooperation between Indonesia and China:

Indonesia and China have a strong and growing economic relationship. China is Indonesia's largest trading partner and a major source of investment. The two countries have a shared interest in promoting economic growth and development.

Areas of potential future economic cooperation include:

- a. Trade: Indonesia and China can further promote two-way trade by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers, and by negotiating a free trade agreement.
- b. Investment: China can increase its direct investment in Indonesia's infrastructure development, manufacturing sector, and e-commerce sector.
- c. The Belt and Road Initiative: Indonesia can participate in China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to build a network of infrastructure projects across Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- d. Tourism: Indonesia and China can promote tourism cooperation by increasing the number of flights between the two countries and by making it easier for Chinese tourists to obtain visas for Indonesia.
- e. Education: Indonesia and China can cooperate on education by increasing the number of Indonesian students studying in China and by establishing joint educational institutions.

By strengthening their economic cooperation, Indonesia and China can build a more prosperous and resilient regional economy.

### B. Malaysia

#### **Some forms of cooperation between Malaysia and China in the economic field:**

1. East Coast Rail Link (ECRL):  
Project value: \$20 billion  
Distance: 688 km  
Line: Gemas, Negeri Sembilan to Tumpat, Kelantan  
Status: Under construction, expected completion in 2027
2. Trans-Sabah Gas Pipeline (TSGP):  
Project value: \$2.5 billion  
Distance: 786 km  
Route: Kimanis, Sabah to Sandakan, Sabah  
Status: Operational since 2022
3. Melaka Gateway:  
Project value: \$14 billion  
Area: 1,000 hectares  
Development: Deep sea port, industrial zone, commercial complex  
Status: Under construction, expected completion in 2025

Malaysia and China's future economic cooperation can blossom through several key areas:

- a. Deepening Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) integration: Leveraging BRI investments in infrastructure, digital connectivity, and green technology will boost growth in manufacturing, logistics, and renewable energy.
- b. Fostering digital innovation: Joint ventures in e-commerce, fintech, and cloud computing can tap into Malaysia's skilled workforce and China's leading tech expertise, bolstering the digital economy.
- c. Expanding agricultural and tourism collaborations: China's growing demand for high-quality food and tourism experiences can be met by Malaysian expertise in halal food production, eco-tourism, and cultural heritage, strengthening bilateral trade.
- d. Enhancing knowledge transfer and talent development: Collaborative research initiatives and student exchange programs can bridge knowledge gaps and nurture skilled professionals in emerging sectors, building a future-proof workforce.

- e. Promoting sustainable development: Partnerships in renewable energy, green infrastructure, and environmental protection can align with Malaysia's "Malaysia Madani" vision and China's green development goals, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future.

By focusing on these areas, Malaysia and China can forge a robust and mutually beneficial economic future, unlocking new opportunities for both nations.

### **C. Vietnam**

#### **Some forms of cooperation between Vietnam and China in the economic field:**

1. Hanoi-Gialai Railway:  
Project value: \$9.1 billion  
Distance: 914 km  
Speed: 160 km/h  
Status: Under construction, expected completion in 2026
2. Lach Huyen Container Port:  
Project value: \$1.5 billion  
Capacity: 2.4 million TEU  
Status: Operational since 2018
3. Nghi Son Coal-fired Power Plant 2:  
Project value: \$3.8 billion  
Capacity: 1,200 megawatts  
Status: Operational since 2021

Future Economic Cooperation between Vietnam and China:

Vietnam and China are important economic partners, and their economic relationship is expected to continue to grow in the future.

Key areas of potential future economic cooperation include:

- a. Trade: Vietnam and China can further promote two-way trade by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers, and by negotiating a free trade agreement.
- b. Investment: China can increase its direct investment in Vietnam's infrastructure development, manufacturing sector, and e-commerce sector.
- c. The Belt and Road Initiative: Vietnam can participate in China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to build a network of infrastructure projects across Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- d. Tourism: Vietnam and China can promote tourism cooperation by increasing the number of flights between the two countries and by making it easier for Chinese tourists to obtain visas for Vietnam.
- e. Education: Vietnam and China can cooperate on education by increasing the number of Vietnamese students studying in China and by establishing joint educational institutions.

By strengthening their economic cooperation, Vietnam and China can build a more prosperous and resilient regional economy.

### **D. Thailand**

#### **Some forms of cooperation between Thailand and China in the economic field:**

1. Thailand-China High Speed Railway:  
Project value: \$5.2 billion  
Distance: 873 km  
Speed: 250 km/h  
Status: Under construction, expected completion in 2026
2. Thailand-China Rayong Industrial Estate:  
Project value: \$3.5 billion  
Area: 2,200 hectares

Industry focus: electronics, automotive, petrochemical  
Status: Under construction, expected to be completed by 2025.

3. Krabi Coal-fired Power Plant:

Project value: \$2.4 billion

Capacity: 2,400 megawatts

Status: Operational since 2021

Future Economic Cooperation between Thailand and China:

Thailand and China have a strong and growing economic relationship. China is Thailand's largest trading partner and a major source of investment. The two countries have a shared interest in promoting economic growth and development.

Areas of potential future economic cooperation include:

- a. Trade: Thailand and China can further promote two-way trade by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers and negotiating a free trade agreement.
- b. Investment: China can increase its direct investment in Thailand's infrastructure development, manufacturing sector, and e-commerce sector.
- c. The Belt and Road Initiative: Thailand can participate in China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to build a network of infrastructure projects across Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- d. Tourism: Thailand and China can promote tourism cooperation by increasing the number of flights between the two countries and making it easier for Chinese tourists to obtain visas for Thailand.
- e. Education: Thailand and China can cooperate on education by increasing the number of Thai students studying in China and establishing joint educational institutions.
- f. Digital Economy: Thailand and China can collaborate on developing the digital economy, including e-commerce, big data, and cloud computing.

By strengthening their economic cooperation, Thailand and China can build a more prosperous and resilient regional economy.

## E. Singapore

**Some forms of cooperation between Singapore and China in the economic field:**

1. Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP):

Project value: \$20 billion

Area: 70 km<sup>2</sup>

Industry focus: Electronics, biotechnology, precision manufacturing

Status: Established since 1994, growing

2. Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City (SSTEC):

Project value: \$45 billion

Area: 30 km<sup>2</sup>

Focus: Sustainable development, green technology, smart city

Status: Established since 2008, growing

Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City (SSTEC)

3. Guangzhou Knowledge City:

Project value: \$10 billion

Area: 123 km<sup>2</sup>

Focus: Creative industries, information technology, higher education

Status: Built since 2010, still under development.

Future Economic Cooperation between Singapore and China:

Singapore and China have a strong and growing economic relationship. The two countries are important trading partners and have a shared interest in promoting economic growth and development.

Areas of potential future economic cooperation include:

- a. Trade: Singapore and China can further promote two-way trade by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers, and by negotiating a free trade agreement.
- b. Investment: China can increase its direct investment in Singapore's infrastructure development, manufacturing sector, and e-commerce sector.
- c. Innovation: Singapore and China can collaborate on research and development in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and fintech.
- d. Green economy: Singapore and China can work together to develop and deploy green technologies, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions.
- e. Digital economy: Singapore and China can cooperate on the development of the digital economy, including e-commerce, big data, and cloud computing.

By strengthening their economic cooperation, Singapore and China can build a more prosperous and resilient regional economy.

In summary, Singapore's political condition is characterized by a parliamentary republic with a focus on trade, finance, and service industries. The country has a strong infrastructure and is an important player in the global economy, but it faces challenges related to income inequality and social issues.

**Table 2.** Comparison of Economic Conditions of ASEAN Countries Indonesia

	<b>Indonesia:</b>	<b>Malaysia:</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>GDP</b>	USD 1,9588.4 trillion in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 5.31%	SD 343.5 billion in 2022, a growth rate of 8.7%	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)\$409 billion	In 2022, Thailand's GDP was \$495.2 billion, with a growth rate of 2.6%	USD 527.6 billion in 2022, a growth rate of 13.7%
<b>GDP per capita:</b>	USD 4,783.9 in 2022	USD 12,040 in 2022	GDP per capita \$4,110	The per capita GDP was \$7,153 in 2022	USD 76,680 in 2022
<b>Infrastructure:</b>	Indonesia has a low level of transportation infrastructure and high corporate logistics and transportation costs, which hinder its economic growth	Malaysia's infrastructure and public services are relatively developed, including transportation, medical care, housing, and communications	Vietnam's infrastructure is relatively well-developed compared to other ASEAN countries	Thailand's infrastructure is relatively well-developed compared to other ASEAN countries	Singapore has a highly developed infrastructure, including transportation, healthcare, housing, and communications. The city-state is a global financial and

					business hub, with a strong focus on technology, finance, and healthcare industries.
<b>Labor Costs:</b>	Not specified in the search results. Challenges: No specific challenges mentioned in the search results.	Common law system	Vietnamese labor costs are lower than those of Thailand	Thai labor costs are higher than those of Indonesia and Malaysia	Singapore's labor costs are relatively high due to the high cost of living and the city-state's small size. However, the country has a skilled and educated workforce, making it an attractive destination for foreign investment.
<b>Challenges:</b>	Administrative procedures can be complex, foreign investment policies change frequently, and infrastructure	No specific challenges mentioned in the search results.	No specific challenges mentioned in the search results.	Thailand's economy suffered a sharp decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic, particularly impacting the tourism	Singapore faces challenges such as a high cost of living, income inequality, and a complex legal



---

and logistics  
are not  
convenient  
enough

industry.  
The country  
also faces  
challenges  
related to  
infrastructure  
and  
logistics,  
with high  
corporate  
logistics  
and  
transportati  
on costs  
hindering  
economic  
growth

system.  
The city-  
state is  
also  
navigatin  
g the  
impact of  
COVID-  
19 on its  
economy  
and  
society.

---

Source: <https://asean.org>

### **3. Law in ASEAN**

#### **A. Indonesia**

##### **Recent Legal Cooperation between Indonesia and China:**

Extradition:

- a. In 2019, Indonesia and China signed an Extradition Treaty.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to extradite fugitives wanted for prosecution or punishment.

Mutual Legal Assistance:

- a. In 2021, Indonesia and China signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to provide each other with assistance in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Combating Transnational Crime:

- a. Indonesia and China have worked together to combat transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and terrorism.
- b. The two countries have shared intelligence and conducted joint operations.

Exchange of Personnel and Information:

- a. Indonesia and China have exchanged legal personnel and information.
- b. The two countries have conducted joint training programs and seminars.

Harmonization of Laws:

- a. Indonesia and China have discussed the harmonization of laws.
- b. The two countries have explored ways to align their laws in various areas.

The Future:

Legal cooperation between Indonesia and China is expected to continue to grow in the years to come. Both countries have a strong commitment to the rule of law and are working together to address common challenges.

#### **B. Malaysia**

##### **Recent Legal Cooperation between Malaysia and China:**

Extradition:

- a. In 2019, Malaysia and China signed an Extradition Treaty.

- b. The treaty allows both countries to extradite fugitives wanted for prosecution or punishment.

Mutual Legal Assistance:

- a. In 2020, Malaysia and China signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to provide each other with assistance in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Combating Transnational Crime:

- a. Malaysia and China have worked together to combat transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and terrorism.
- b. The two countries have shared intelligence and conducted joint operations.

Exchange of Personnel and Information:

- a. Malaysia and China have exchanged legal personnel and information.
- b. The two countries have conducted joint training programs and seminars.

Harmonization of Laws:

- a. Malaysia and China have discussed the harmonization of laws.
- b. The two countries have explored ways to align their laws in various areas.

The Future:

Legal cooperation between Malaysia and China is expected to continue to grow in the years to come. Both countries have a strong commitment to the rule of law and are working together to address common challenges.

## C. Vietnam

### **Recent Legal Cooperation between Vietnam and China:**

Extradition:

- a. In 2015, Vietnam and China signed an Extradition Treaty.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to extradite fugitives wanted for prosecution or punishment.

Mutual Legal Assistance:

- a. In 2020, Vietnam and China signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to provide each other with assistance in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Combating Transnational Crime:

- a. Vietnam and China have worked together to combat transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and human trafficking.
- b. The two countries have shared intelligence and conducted joint operations.

Exchange of Personnel and Information:

- a. Vietnam and China have exchanged legal personnel and information.
- b. The two countries have conducted joint training programs and seminars.

Harmonization of Laws:

- a. Vietnam and China have discussed the harmonization of laws.
- b. The two countries have explored ways to align their laws in various areas.

The Future:

Legal cooperation between Vietnam and China is expected to continue to grow in the years to come. Both countries have a strong commitment to the rule of law and are working together to address common challenges.

## D. Thailand

### **Recent Legal Cooperation between Thailand and China:**

Extradition:

- a. Thailand and China do not have an extradition treaty.
- b. However, the two countries have cooperated on a case-by-case basis to extradite fugitives.

Mutual Legal Assistance:

- a. In 2019, Thailand and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- b. The MOU allows both countries to provide each other with assistance in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Combating Transnational Crime:

- a. Thailand and China have worked together to combat transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and human trafficking.
- b. The two countries have shared intelligence and conducted joint operations.

Exchange of Personnel and Information:

- a. Thailand and China have exchanged legal personnel and information.
- b. The two countries have conducted joint training programs and seminars.

Harmonization of Laws:

- a. Thailand and China have discussed the harmonization of laws.
- b. The two countries have explored ways to align their laws in various areas.

The Future:

Legal cooperation between Thailand and China is expected to continue to grow in the years to come. Both countries have a strong commitment to the rule of law and are working together to address common challenges.

E. Singapore

**Recent Legal Cooperation between Singapore and China:**

Extradition:

- a. Singapore and China have an Extradition Treaty that has been in force since 2017.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to extradite fugitives wanted for prosecution or punishment.

Mutual Legal Assistance:

- a. Singapore and China have a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that has been in force since 2019.
- b. The treaty allows both countries to provide each other with assistance in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Combating Transnational Crime:

- a. Singapore and China have worked together to combat transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and money laundering.
- b. The two countries have shared intelligence and conducted joint operations.

Exchange of Personnel and Information:

- a. Singapore and China have exchanged legal personnel and information.
- b. The two countries have conducted joint training programs and seminars.

Harmonization of Laws:

- a. Singapore and China have discussed the harmonization of laws.
- b. The two countries have explored ways to align their laws in various areas, such as commercial law and intellectual property law.

The Future:

Legal cooperation between Singapore and China is expected to continue to grow in the years to come. Both countries have a strong commitment to the rule of law and are working together to address common challenges.

**Table 3.** Political, Economic and Legal Analysis in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore regarding Diplomacy and International Cooperation in ASEAN.

---

**Indonesia:**

**Political:** Indonesia implemented a presidential system, with Joko Widodo serving as the President since 2014, focusing on the concept of building a "global maritime fulcrum" and developing the maritime economy and infrastructure.

**Economic:** One of the largest economies in Southeast Asia, with a focus on agriculture, mineral resources, and manufacturing.

**Legal:** Belongs to the civil law system, consisting of criminal law, civil law, and commercial law systems.

---

**Malaysia:**

**Political:** A constitutional monarchy with an elective monarchy, with Abdullah Ahmed Shah serving as the Supreme Head of State since 2019.

**Economic:** An important economy in Southeast Asia, with a focus on manufacturing, oil and gas, electronic products, tourism, and service industries.

**Legal:** Mainly based on the English common law system, a result of British colonization, and is a case law country.

---

**Vietnam:**

**Political:** A socialist republic with a single-party system, with Nguyen Xuan Phuc serving as the President and Pham Minh Chinh as the Prime Minister.

**Economic:** Characterized by an export-oriented economic model, gradually optimized industrial structure, and steady growth in the domestic consumer market.

**Legal:** Based on the civil law system, consisting of criminal, civil, and commercial law systems.

---

**Thailand:**

**Political:** A constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system, with King Maha Vajiralongkorn serving as the head of state and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha leading the government.

**Economic:** Relies on manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, and exports, and has a highly developed infrastructure, including transportation, healthcare, housing, and communications.

**Legal:** Based on civil law and customary law, and belongs to the civil law system, with statutory law as the main legal source.

---

**Singapore:**

**Political:** A stable political environment, with a parliamentary republic and a focus on economic development and innovation, led by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

**Economic:** A highly developed economy, with a strong focus on technology, finance, and healthcare industries.

**Legal:** Based on English common law, known for its efficiency and transparency, and has a well-developed legal infrastructure, including a strong regulatory framework and a well-established arbitration system.

---

Source: <https://asean.org>

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that ASEAN, as a regional entity, plays a pivotal role in fostering diplomacy, economic growth, and legal cooperation among its member states. Indonesia,

Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore exemplify the region's diversity and strengths through their political systems, economic achievements, and legal frameworks. Each country's unique contributions and challenges collectively shape ASEAN's regional and global influence. In politics, Indonesia's democratic system and Malaysia's political stability enable active participation in ASEAN's decision-making processes, while Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore contribute through their diplomatic efforts and international cooperation. Economically, the region demonstrates significant growth, with Indonesia attracting foreign investment as an emerging market, Malaysia leveraging its manufacturing prowess, Vietnam capitalizing on open market policies, Thailand serving as a trade hub, and Singapore leading as a financial and commercial center.

Legally, member states exhibit varied progress in fostering cooperation. Indonesia's legal reforms have bolstered human rights and addressed corruption, while Malaysia and Vietnam focus on investor protection and labor rights. Thailand enhances its legal framework to support trade, and Singapore, as a leading arbitration hub, strengthens ASEAN's legal cooperation. The research highlights the importance of diplomacy and international cooperation in achieving ASEAN's objectives. Effective governance, competitive policies, and the protection of human rights are essential for overcoming challenges and leveraging opportunities. A multidisciplinary approach to studying ASEAN's political, economic, and legal landscapes is crucial for understanding and addressing the region's complexities. Ultimately, the interplay of politics, economy, and law among ASEAN countries underscores the region's capacity for growth and development. By addressing challenges collaboratively and promoting inclusivity, ASEAN can continue to meet the aspirations of its community, driving sustainable regional integration and reinforcing its global significance.

## REFERENCE

- Acharya, A. (2020). What “Introduction to International Relations” Misses Out: Civilizations, World Orders, and the Rise of the West. *World Orders, and the Rise of the West* (December 16, 2020).
- Addo, M. K. (2014). The reality of the United Nations guiding principles on business and human rights. *Human Rights Law Review*, 14(1), 133–147.
- Albanese, J. S. (2018). Countering transnational crime and corruption: The urge to action versus the patience to evaluate. *Justice Evaluation Journal*, 1(1), 82–95.
- Anwar, D. F. (2020). Indonesia and the ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific. *International Affairs*, 96(1), 111–129.
- Caballero-Anthony, M. (2014). Understanding ASEAN’s centrality: bases and prospects in an evolving regional architecture. *The Pacific Review*, 27(4), 563–584.
- Chacko, P., & Jayasuriya, K. (2021). The economics-security nexus and East Asian integration. In *Handbook on East Asian Economic Integration* (pp. 435–453). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Chaipipat, S. (2019). *ASEAN governance on data privacy: challenges to regional protection of data privacy and personal data in cyberspace*.
- Chia, S. Y. (2016). ASEAN economic integration and physical connectivity. *Asian Economic Papers*, 15(2), 198–215.
- Chu, B., & Wang, W. (2022). Building an international arbitration hub: China’s competitiveness and direction. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 9, 986617.
- Ciuriak, D., Xiao, J., & Dadkhah, A. (2017). Quantifying the comprehensive and progressive agreement for Trans-Pacific partnership. *East Asian Economic Review*, 21(4), 343–384.
- Das, S. B. (2015). *The ASEAN economic community and beyond: Myths and realities*. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- Herr, H., Schweisshelm, E., & Truong, M. H. V. (2016). *The integration of Vietnam in the*

- global economy and its effects for Vietnamese economic development*. Global Labour University Working Paper.
- Ho, H. V., & Tran, T. (2023). Vietnam's Foreign Policy With ASEAN: a National Interest Approach (1986-2020). *International Journal of Advanced and Applied Sciences*, 10(10).
- Intal Jr, P. (2017). Building the ASEAN economic community: Progression and progress. *ASEAN and Member States: Transformation and Integration*, 34–61.
- Ishikawa, K. (2021). The ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN economic integration. *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*, 10(1), 24–41.
- Junita, F. (2015). The foreign mining investment regime in Indonesia: regulatory risk under resource nationalism policy and how international investment treaties provide protection. *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*, 33(3), 241–265.
- Khuong, V. M. (2015). Can Vietnam achieve more robust economic growth? Insights from a comparative analysis of economic reforms in Vietnam and China. *Journal of Southeast Asian Economies*, 52–83.
- Levac, L., McMurtry, L., Stienstra, D., Baikie, G., Hanson, C., & Mucina, D. (2018). Learning across Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and intersectionality: Reconciling social science research approaches. *University of Guelph*, 10.
- Morton, K. (2016). China's ambition in the South China Sea: is a legitimate maritime order possible? *International Affairs*, 92(4), 909–940.
- Müller, L. M. (2018). Governing Regional Connectivity in Southeast Asia—The role of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN's external partners. *Occasional Paper*, 42.
- Narine, S. (2016). An assessment of Southeast Asian regional identity. In *Globalization and Global Citizenship* (pp. 232–242). Routledge.
- Nesadurai, H. E. S. (2017). ASEAN during the life of The Pacific Review: a balance sheet on regional governance and community building. *The Pacific Review*, 30(6), 938–951.
- Pentasari, T. T. G. (2023). *Indonesia's role toward the Pacific Region: a case study of foreign policy under the president Joko Widodo administration*. Thammasat University.
- Pero, S. D. M., & Apandi, L. S. A. (2018). Malaysia's Leadership Role in Asean: An Assessment. *Journal of International Studies*, 14, 65–79.
- Purwanto, A. J. (2024). The Successful of Strengthening ASEAN Centrality Through the ASEAN Way. *Journal of Contemporary Sociological Issues*, 4(1), 84–101.
- Rice, C., Harrison, E., & Friedman, M. (2019). Doing justice to intersectionality in research. *Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies*, 19(6), 409–420.
- Ryu, Y., & Ortuoste, M. (2014). Democratization, regional integration, and human rights: the case of the ASEAN intergovernmental commission on human rights. *The Pacific Review*, 27(3), 357–382.
- Sarwar, M. (2018). Human Rights the ASEAN Way: Exploring the Possibilities for a Regional ADR and Adjudicative Body in Southeast Asia. *Loy. LAL Rev.*, 52, 27.
- Sermcheep, S. (2024). Digital Connectivity In Asean. *Indo-Pacific and ASEAN: New Balances and New Challenges for Asian Integration and Stability*.
- Shimizu, B. S. (2014). ASEAN financial and capital markets: Policies and prospects of regional integration. *Pacific Business and Industries*, 14(54), 1–36.
- Srinopnikom, T. (2017). *ASEAN Way: Challenges to ASEAN Capital Market Integration*.
- Supriatna, J. (2021). *Pengelolaan lingkungan berkelanjutan*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Suryadinata, L. (2017). *The rise of China and the Chinese overseas: A study of Beijing's changing policy in Southeast Asia and beyond*. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- Suzuki, K., Ismail, Z., Osman, W. F. N. W., Saminathan, S., Tamam, M. N., Hussein, Z., Abidin, S. Z., Let, H. S., Hamid, M. M. A., & Hamran, N. N. A. (2022). *Restoring the dynamism of Malaysia's business sector*.
- Tian, W., Ge, J., Zheng, X., Zhao, Y., Deng, T., & Yan, H. (2024). Understanding the landscape

of education for sustainable development in China: a bibliometric review and trend analysis of multicluster topics (1998–2023). *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11(1), 1–20.

Walters, R., & Novak, M. (2021). *Cyber security, artificial intelligence, data protection & the law*. Springer.

Weatherbee, D. E. (2014). *International relations in Southeast Asia: the struggle for autonomy*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Woon, W. (2015). *The ASEAN charter: A commentary*. NUS Press.

Wu, L. (2018). *External great powers as drivers for regional integration and cooperation: A comparative study on Central Asia and Southeast Asia*.



**This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.**