

IDU INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR NOTES

Indonesian Defense University International Seminar on “Indonesia towards 2025: Geopolitical and Security Challenges” Focus on Economy, Natural Resources, and Energy Aspects” Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, 17-18 March 2010

Session I

Moderator:

Dr. Leonard C. Sebastian, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore

Speakers:

Prof. Christoph Schuck, Dortmund University, Germany

Dr. Ravi Roy, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia

Dr. Pos Hutabarat, Ministry of Defense, Indonesia

Session II

Moderator:

Prof. Juwono Sudarsono, former Minister of Defense, Republic of Indonesia

Speakers:

Dr. Chang Youngho, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore

Dr. Theo Brinkel, Nederlandse Defensie Academie, the Netherlands

Dr. Tsutomu Kikuchi, Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan

Dr. Brooks B. Robinson, United States Pacific Command, United States

Session III

Moderator:

Prof. Reimund Seidelmann, Dortmund University, Germany

Speakers:

Dr. Bradley Simpson, Princeton University, United States

Dr. Roger Darby, Cranfield University, United Kingdom

Dr. Pan Zhongqi, Fudan University, China

Prof. Bob Sugeng Hadiwinata, Catholic University of Parahyangan, Indonesia

Session IV

Moderator:

Dr. Anies Baswedan, Paramadina University, Indonesia

Speakers:

Dr. Firmanzah, University of Indonesia, Indonesia

Prof. Achmad Fedyani Saifuddin, Ministry of Defense, Indonesia

Col. Imam Edi Mulyono, Indonesian National Armed Forces, Indonesia

Prof. Achmad Ali, Hasanuddin University, Indonesia

Date : 17-18 March 2010

Venue : Pierre Tendean Auditorum, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

Introduction

The rise of China and, to a lesser extent, India as well as the reduced influence of the US and the increasingly aggressive outlook of Russia have brought significant impacts on how power structure in the Asia-Pacific region would look like in the future.

Indonesia under the leadership of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has in recent years played a more proactive role in international affairs. As political and economic stability returns, Indonesia aims to redefine its international profile. Being a key strategic pillar of ASEAN, Indonesia expects to play a leading role in Southeast Asia and in terms of its outreach to other regional and global powers. What are the new geopolitical challenges confronting Indonesia for the next twenty years? What are the probable implications for Indonesian national defense and security policies? These are the broad underlying themes that act as the background when one considers the changes currently taking place in the international environment.

The seminar attempts to address these issues by highlighting four of the key issues that have significant strategic implications for Indonesia through four separate panel discussions, each under their own particular sub-theme, respectively: "The Global Economic Turmoil," "Natural Resources and Energy Security and Its Future Trends," "The Shifting of Global Power System," and "Young Leaders Forum: Identity Crisis in the Globalization Era."

Speech

Prof. Christoph Schuck emphasized the importance of going beyond a classical security perspective which no longer emphasises the absence of war but rather on the need to develop a positive peace—improvements in the quality of life during peacetime through development and social justice. The security sector should be broadened to be more inclusive of non-state actors. The importance of cross-sector cooperation between civilians and the military was also emphasized.

Dr. Ravi Roy highlighted that recent developments in Asia, such as India-US cooperation, are signs of new strategies incorporating energy production and management factors into the formulation of security strategy. Dr. Roy labelled such tendencies as the hallmark of neo-liberalism.

Dr. Pos Hutabarat stressed the importance of reviewing a temptation to over-emphasize the problems of the financial sector over the real sector. This over-emphasis he viewed as dangerous as it risks the state's ability to manage its security sector. Within the security realm, economic issues should be discussed in a proper and measured context.

Dr. Chang Youngho underlined the close relations between energy and security and stressed that energy security has become the key factor which has to be managed within the framework of cooperative competition. This can be achieved through market integration pursued through infrastructure integration, establishment of common forums, and common fund at regional level.

Dr. Theo Brinkel discussed the extent of benefits that regional cooperation can achieve in the realm of energy security. Using case studies from the EU and ASEAN, Dr. Brinkel concluded that regional and international cooperation coupled with national policy are necessary to enhance energy security. There are two dimensions to be taken care of: guaranteeing the availability of energy supply and its distribution options.

Dr. Tsutomu Kikuchi argued the need to focus attempts at increasing domestic energy capacity instead of national states being involved in global competition striving for limited energy resources. He pointed to

Japan whose government and society have managed to increase energy efficiency by 30 percent through various energy saving measures.

Dr. Brooks Robinson shares President Yudhoyono's idea to institute policies to better improve management of key natural resources: water, food, mineral, and human. Taking the U.S. as an example, such strong commitments to reduce emissions levels, save energy, and innovate on new energy resources are necessary for the US to preserve the environment. Such commitments he highlighted require investments in research and development programmes. Human resources, therefore, become the main factor playing a key role in promoting energy security.

Dr. Bradley Simpson discussed the state of the American hegemony. He argued that the U.S. is currently in a phase of transition, compromising American hegemony. Four factors affect the phenomenon: the global financial crisis, a 'military shopping-spree' which has placed an enormous burden on the budget, diminishing support—both morally and politically—for such a hegemonic role, and globalization which has increased the pace of economic development in developing countries. After examining the pattern of hegemonic transition during his presentation, he highlighted that China is likely to be at the other end of hegemonic transition phase.

Dr. Roger Darby argued that with China and the US in the picture, the architecture of Asia Pacific regional cooperation would likely be strengthened and widened. ASEAN has also encouraged western countries to pay more attention on issues relating to inter-cultural sensitivities and to develop more consistent and regular approaches to ASEAN countries. Such approaches should focus on economic improvement and the strengthening of partnership mechanism within the context of a multilateral institution.

Dr. Pan Zhongqi argued that the centre of the world gravity is now shifting from the West to the East. To respond this change, the US has tried to compensate by trying to reshape global and regional systems. Asian countries, therefore, are challenged to make the best use of this golden opportunity to be more participative in helping shape a new global order—reflecting some key aspects of Asian values. However, success will be determined by the ability of Asian countries to address their internal problems.

Prof. Bob Sugeng Hadiwinata shared his critical analyses on the necessity for the introduction of new concepts on security studies. Such new perspectives would be expected to provide a bridge between the two key security communities: the government and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Dr. Firmanzah highlighted the growing identity crisis and challenges resulting from globalization. In a global era people live at the "Frontier Edge of Paradox" that potentially triggers conflict and identity confusion. The need to develop capacities to manage the impact of such challenges will be crucial.

Prof. Achmad Fedyani Saifuddin stressed that "change" is the buzzword which has transformed various aspects of life—including national identity. He identified national identity as paradoxical. On the one hand, a shared sense of national identity is needed by a country. On the other hand if national identity is enforced as evident during the New Order regime, it can prompt societies to be alienated from each other and lead to fragmentation. The question on whether global changes contribute to a national identity crisis depends not only on a level of welfare evident in a country but also on the overall level of national pride possessed by its people.

Col. Imam Edy Mulyono emphasized that in order to respond to various strategic and environmental dynamics, Indonesia should adhere to a national identity formed fundamentally within the Pancasila ideology. Pancasila contains within it important national identity values such as pluralism, multi-culturalism, and social justice—of which all need to be translated into daily practices of life.

Prof. Achmad Ali focused on identity issues as from a human rights perspective. Perceptions and attitudes towards human rights enforcement in Indonesia have been transformed and become more progressive in accordance with universal values. This is a consequence of the impact of democratization in Indonesia over the past twelve years. The convergence of global values with national identity has opened a golden opportunity to broaden the definition of Indonesian national identity.