

# Global South Review (GSR)

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Global South Review is an academic journal published by Institute of International Studies on behalf of the Department of International Relations Universitas Gadjah Mada dedicated to provide academic and policy platform to exchange views, research findings, and dialogues within the Global South and between the Global North and the Global South. The Journal is designed to be a media to examine all the issues encountered by Global South in the context of current international justice, security, and order. Issued twice a year every June and December, contributors of the Journal are open for those who share concern on south – south cooperation.

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## Editor's Note

The emergence of the BRICs has sparked a debate about the role of the “Global South” countries in the current global politics. Despite the fact that the definition of the South is highly debated, there is a tendency that the use of the term “Global South” symbolizes the shift from an emphasis on the state’s condition of development or cultural difference toward the importance of geopolitical power relations (Dados and Connell, 2012). To date, there has been a wide range of study on the Global South countries, which include political circumstances and the historical aspect of South-South Cooperation (SSC), different perspectives in understanding SSC’s resurgence, the difference between SSC and the North-South Cooperation, the impact of the emergence of the BRICs for the current global governance and international development cooperation. Some works of literature also focus on the Global South countries’ determination in overcoming domestic issues whilst they strive to expand the sphere of influence in global politics.

The Global South Review (GSR) is launched to provide a forum for the enhancement of study on the emerging Southern powers. The GSR is a peer-reviewed journal and invites scholars and practitioners to exchange ideas, address critical issues, and disseminate the latest development related to the Global South countries. The GSR accepts articles that have a potential contribution to the existing literature, both empirically and theoretically.

The first edition of GSR consists of five articles, discussing different problems faced by the Global South countries and how they managed them, as well as the Global South countries’ endeavor in positioning themselves at the international organization like the WTO. The first article “Changing Water Regime: Remunicipalization in Indonesia under the Global Hegemony of Privatization” written by Marwa analyzes the emergence of water remunicipalization as a counter-hegemonic movement under the global hegemony of water privatization in Jakarta, Indonesia. In doing so, this article applies Gramsci’s theoretical framework of “Battle for Hegemony”, in understanding the dialectical relationship between the hegemony of privatization and remunicipalization as its opposing idea within the context of Indonesia’s water regime. By analyzing the organization of remunicipalization, this article intends to move the tedious discussion of water privatization that has been centralized to moral or legal human rights claims to a more productive discussion that explores an alternative idea.

The next article ‘the Politicization of Women’s Rights in Malaysia: The Drive behind the Impasse of Fatwa Obligating Female Circumcision’ written by Nabilah Nur Abiyanti aims to analyze the reasons behind Malaysian government’s decision to leave the fatwa on obligating female circumcision for all Muslim women in Malaysia on impasse after it was issued in 2009. By utilizing a rational model of the decision-making process, this article argues that the dilemma between adhering to Malaysia’s obligation under CEDAW and CRC and the need to regain control amidst domestic political upheaval has led the fatwa to be left on the impasse. Yulida Nuraini Santoso wrote the third article, ‘The Transnational Role of Foreign Companies in the Upstream Sector of Oil and Gas in Indonesia: pre-Gross Split Mechanism’. This article aims to explain how and why foreign oil and gas companies influence the government in the upstream oil and gas

sector before the Gross Split mechanism was introduced. From a transnational point of view, states and non-states continuously attempt to overpower the other to gain the most from this industry. Although the roles and obligations of foreign oil and gas companies are strictly regulated, their domination is still visible in areas of cost recovery. Strong domination of foreign companies is strengthened by a weak domestic market, resulting in an asymmetric competition.

The fourth article, “From Aversion to Affinity: India’s Standpoint in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Negotiations”, written by Tania Delavita Malik focuses on India’s stance on the TRIPS Agreement, during its negotiations and the implementation. India’s position on this issue is worth analyzing due to the fact that when the issue of protecting IPRs was brought to the GATT in 1986, India claimed it as unnecessary given the costly administrative affairs in domesticizing the agreement. However, the standpoint of India altered significantly in the Doha Round. India does not only agree to adopt the TRIPS Agreement, but also proposes the protection of broader aspects of IPRs, to also include Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore (GRTKF). This article applies two-level game theory by Robert D. Putnam to analyze both domestic and international pressures that simultaneously push India to alter its position on IPR protection at the WTO. The findings demonstrate that India adopted a different standpoint because of domestic demands, precisely those of the pharmaceutical companies and pro-indigenous people NGOs, while a different set of actors, especially developing countries, also supported it at international level. By arguing this, this article thus suggests that India, as a Global South country, has been able to advocate the demand of domestic interests in the face of massive international pressures.

The last article, “WTO’s Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) and Indonesia’s Compliance in Agriculture Sector”, written by Dewangga Dura Dematar intends to appraise TPRM as a monitoring instrument in WTO and understand how it affects Indonesia’s compliance in the agriculture sector. TPRM is designed as a surveillance system to boost transparency and compliance. However, since the TPRM adopts a self-serving reporting system, there is no guaranty that the TPRM is able to promote compliance. Adapting instruments from International Law and Rational Choice Theory, this article utilizes Guzman’s framework to determine how TPRM could affect Indonesia’s compliance in the agriculture sector. In doing so, this article is expected to provide a better understanding in the monitoring process of an international institution, especially the one with no law enforcement system and relied fundamentally on mutual respect and good faith.



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