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Editor's Note

Mohtar Mas'oed
Suci Lestari Yuana

Welcome to the latest issue of the *Global South Review*. This edition offers a compelling collection of articles that explore critical and interrelated themes affecting the Global South. The featured papers provide in-depth analyses of technological, socio-economic, and geopolitical issues, emphasizing the complex interplay between local realities and global dynamics.

Our first article, "Shifting from 'AI Solutions' to 'AI Coloniality': Resignification of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Apartheid" by Muhd Rafli Ramadhan Warganegara, brings to light the politicization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Global South. Warganegara argues that AI, once perceived as a neutral tool, now embodies biases that reflect and perpetuate existing power dynamics and inequalities. This transformation towards AI colonialism is particularly pronounced in Sub-Saharan Africa, where AI-driven technologies exacerbate racial segregation and social inequalities, leading to what the author terms "Digital Apartheid." This article calls for urgent discussions on digital and AI ethics, emphasizing the need for regulatory frameworks to prevent profit-driven misuse of AI and ensure equitable technological development. The critical takeaway here is the recognition of AI not merely as a technological tool but as a socio-political entity that can reinforce or disrupt existing hierarchies.

In "Stakeholders Alignment in CSR Implementation in Southeast Asian Agro-industry," Nabila Talitha Sani, Rakyan Sekar Kinanti Mutiara, and Kevin Rendra Pratama address the misalignment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs by multinational corporations in Southeast Asia. Through the lens of Stakeholder Theory, the authors highlight the disconnect between corporate CSR initiatives and the actual needs of local communities. This misalignment is often driven by limited consumer literacy and the political and commercial branding efforts within ASEAN. The key takeaway from this study is the necessity for corporations to better align their CSR strategies with the specific needs and contexts of the communities they serve, ensuring that CSR initiatives are genuinely beneficial rather than superficially aligned with corporate interests.

Priagung Arif Budi Wibawa, Rivelda P. Heatubun, I Gede Wahyu Widnyana, and Yusril Ihza Mahendra's article, "Navigating the Pacific: Solomon Islands Attempt to Gain Influence in the Middle of China-US Rivalry," provides a geopolitical perspective on the Solomon Islands' strategic decisions amidst the intensifying China-US rivalry. The authors explore how the Solomon Islands leverages its geopolitical significance to balance relations between

these two great powers. The study reveals that the Solomon Islands' strategic maneuvers are informed by both intrinsic and derivative power, offering a nuanced understanding of how small states can navigate international tensions to their advantage. The overarching theme here is the strategic agency of small states in global geopolitics, which can lead to mutually beneficial relationships even amidst great power rivalries.

Carlos David Zavarce Velasquez's "Understanding South-South Cooperation: A Comparative Analysis with North-South Cooperation Approaches" revisits the ideological and political foundations of South-South Cooperation. The paper contrasts this with North-South Cooperation, highlighting the unique ideological, institutional, and strategic dimensions that characterize South-South initiatives. The comparative analysis underscores the diversity and strategic autonomy of Global South countries in shaping their developmental trajectories. The key takeaway is the importance of understanding the distinct dynamics and potentials of South-South Cooperation as a vital instrument for sustainable development and geopolitical solidarity within the Global South.

Lastly, Rizki Faisal Ali's "Telkom Indonesia's Strategy for Business Expansion in the Global Market in the Digital Era" examines the challenges and opportunities faced by PT. Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) in the context of rapid digital transformation. The analysis emphasizes the need for Telkom to adapt its strategies to navigate the complex interplay of globalization, technological advancements, and regulatory environments. The article proposes strategic approaches for Telkom to strengthen its domestic market position while expanding globally. The overarching lesson here is the necessity for state-owned enterprises in the Global South to innovate and adapt in response to global digital trends while maintaining their foundational roles in national development.

Collectively, these articles underscore the interdependencies between technology, corporate strategies, geopolitical maneuvers, and cooperative frameworks in the Global South. They highlight the need for nuanced, context-specific approaches to address the challenges and harness the opportunities that arise within these interconnected spheres. As always, we aim to provide a platform for diverse voices and perspectives, fostering informed dialogue and promoting a deeper understanding of the Global South's unique challenges and contributions to the global landscape.

Sincerely,

Mohtar Mas'oed – Editor in Chief
Suci Lestari Yuana – Managing Editor

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