

Editorial Foreword

The pressure of COVID-19 pandemic has triggered large numbers of delayed publication word wide including in IKAT: the Indonesian Journal of Southeast Asian Studies. Our apologies from the editorial office. Apart from that however, we serve our best for this Volume comprises of contribution from Vietnam, Iran, Germany and Indonesia which call our attention to get drawn in each discussion.

The first two articles analyze the management of leadership and national unity in Southeast Asian region, namely a historical analysis on the traditional leadership in Aceh, Indonesia, and an assessment on the ideology of Ho Chi min in Vietnam. The authors of the first article, Syukri Fikri and Ikhwan Rahmatika Latif argue that in the context of Aceh Kingdom which was in power between 1496-1903, *Adat* chiefs – locally termed as *ulèëbalang* – served as one of the three most compelling socio-political forces besides the other two powerful pillars; the sultan and ulamas. Not only did *ulèëbalangs* serve as the ruler in terms of Executive administration, but also controlled almost all life sectors of the Acehnese people like trade, court, agriculture and plantation, which the Sultan hardly ever touched. With this legitimate power, the *ulèëbalangs* were rightful to issue commercial policies in their regional territories.

The second article takes our attention to the nation building in Vietnam. The article entitled "Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on National Unity in Vietnam's Revolution" by Tran Thi Dieu discusses the ideology of Ho Chi Minh, the initiator and builder of Vietnamese nation who introduced and realized the ideology on great unity during Vietnam's revolution. Building the argument based on the author's status as insider researcher, Tran Thi Dieu explains and analyzes that the most important basis for the formation of Ho Chi Minh's ideology of great national unity can be asserted as a perspectives of Marxism - Leninism: revolution due to the empowerment of the masses, the alliance of farmers and workers as the basis for nation building along with the spirit of "unity of proletarians of all nations".

Moving to the third article is an analysis on the economic development on southeast Asian and East Asian region in 1990. While many scholars have attributed to the economic development in this two regions to cultural and political factors such as technocratic leaders, ethnic tolerance, or even Confucianism, the authors, Sajjad Kaveh Shaldehi et.al argue that attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and government reforms have been the most important factors influencing economic growth as well as the significant expansion of the middle classes in East and Southeast Asian societies.

A more specific case analysis on economy is shown by Rudy Subagio who analyzes the competition in the industry of flat glass market in Indonesia since 2015. He argues that the increasingly severe problem faced by local industry is due to two factors: the enactment of the free trade pact in Southeast Asia and the expansion of the Chinese glass factory that built new factories in the Southeast Asia region, especially in Malaysia. He further explores the basic concepts of strategies as well as the concept of value innovation in the framework of "blue ocean shift."

Notwithstanding, another entangled issue of economic challenge are also bombarding in Southeast Asian countries. The 5th article calls our attention to a pressing problem of teenage marriage in Indonesia in which the country ranks eighth globally in terms of teenage marriage (UNICEF 2020). This study conducted by Partini et.al found that prevention of teenage marriage is not part of everyday discussion in the grassroot so that policy makers tend to utilize a top-down approach in organizing its teenage marriage prevention programs by holding cooperation with families, schools, health officials, religious officials, and civil servants who turn to be the most influential actors in dealing with such programs.

Last but not least is an assessment of film industry in Indonesia which tend in commodifying women's sensuality. In their study of a popular film comedy named Warkop DKI, the authors, Debby Dwi Elsha and Andri Praseto Yuwono argues that the involvement of female producers do not play a significant role in the numbers of the use female sensuality in generating profit.

The Editorial Team