Indonesia’s Foreign Policy in the Era Reformasi: New Identities, Changing Interests?

Foreign policy studies in Southeast Asia usually focus on the national interest. While these studies concede that the national interest is not a given, they nevertheless attribute discontinuities in foreign policymaking primarily to exogenous systemic changes, that is, shifts in the regional or global power equation. Much less do they care about the question of what constitutes the national interest and how is it formed. Which discourses shape it, which groups participate in foreign policy debates, how do they frame their arguments and how do they interpret the “cognitive prior” (Acharya) which denotes existing and broadly legitimated ideas on foreign policymaking?

Exploring the processes underlying the formation of the national interest is of particular significance in democratic or democratizing polities. It may be assumed that in democratic systems of government foreign policy decisions and strategies are the outcome of public debates of a broad range of players including the government, the academe, corporate interests in the business sector, civil society and the media. The workshop seeks to study these debates in Indonesia which have gained momentum with the drafting of an ASEAN Charter. They center on the question as to what extent ASEAN is still the cornerstone of Indonesian foreign policy and to what extent Indonesia should pursue a more pro-active regional and even global leadership role. Papers will thus target the interface between domestic politics and foreign policy. As “second image” studies (Waltz), they will explore the origins and normative content of the ideas currently exchanged in the Indonesian foreign policymaking community.

10 July 2011

Arrival of participants in Singapore

11 July 2011

9.00-9.30 Registration

9.30 – 9.45 Opening of Workshop (A/P Ho Kong Chong, Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, National University of Singapore)

9.45-10.00 Session 1: Indonesian Discourses on ASEAN

Introduction into the Conference Topic (Jürgen Rüland, University of Freiburg, Germany)

10.00-11.15 Constructing Regionalism Domestically: Recent Indonesian Discourses on ASEAN

Presentation of Preliminary Research Findings (Jürgen Rüland, University of Freiburg, Germany)

Discussant: Eric Thompson (National University of Singapore)

11.15-11.45 Coffee and Tea Break

11.45-13.00 Session 2: Indonesian Perceptions on ASEAN and the West

Beyond Occidentalism: Indonesian International Relations Lecturers and their Perceptions of the World (Paruedee Nguitragool, University of Freiburg, Germany)
Indonesian Attitudes towards ASEAN (Guido Benny, Universiti Kebangsaan, Bangi, Malaysia)

*Discussant:* Dr. Pavin Chachavalpongpun (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore)

13.00-14.00  Lunch

14.00-15.30  **Session 3: Towards a more Democratic Indonesian Foreign Policymaking Process? Stakeholders and Ownership**

Democratizing Indonesian Foreign Policy-Making: From Government to Governance (Mahmud Syaltout, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia) (requested)

Security and the Role of TNI in Indonesian Foreign Policymaking (Andi Widjajanto, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia)

*Discussant:* Iisgindarsah (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

15.30-16.00  Coffee and Tea Break

16.00-16.45  **Session 4: Indonesia’s Foreign Economic Policies: Too much Neoliberalism?**

Indonesia and Trade Liberalization Policies (Alexander C. Chandra, Trade Knowledge Network, Jakarta, Indonesia)

*Discussant:* Teofilo C. Daquila (National University of Singapore, Singapore)

16.45-17.30  **Session 5: Framing a New Foreign Policy Identity? Final Remarks and Conclusions**

Jürgen Rüland (University of Freiburg, Germany)

17.30  End of conference

19.00  Dinner

**12 July 2011**

Departure of participants