

## Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum and Its Contribution in Maintaining ASEAN Maritime Security Stability

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper discusses Indonesia's maritime vision through Global Maritime Fulcrum during the administration of President Joko Widodo 2014-2019 and its contribution in maintaining ASEAN maritime security stability. Southeast Asia is a strategic region since the era of the second world war, the cold war and even today it is still a place of competition between the great powers of the world the United States and China. The competition between the United States and China at the global level has the potential to disrupt regional unity and make ASEAN fail to play its central role. The challenge provide an insight into the importance of Indonesia's role as the largest and most strategic country in Southeast Asia in maintaining the stability of regional maritime security. Indonesia's policy in the field of defense security will have an impact on ASEAN. The method used is a qualitative descriptive approach using secondary data such as review of academic articles, books, Journals, reports, and other relevant literature with two research questions First, what is the concept of Indonesia's maritime security in the Global Maritime Fulcrum policy? And Second, how does Global Maritime Fulcrum Policy contribute to maintaining the stability of ASEAN's maritime security?*

**Keywords:** *Global Maritime Fulcrum, Maritime Security, ASEAN Maritime Security, Regional Stability*

### INTRODUCTION

Southeast Asia is a very strategic region. The history has proven that the Southeast Asian region has a significant role in world politics. The history of the Southeast Asia region is complex and diverse, with a rich heritage influenced by various indigenous civilizations, empires, colonial powers, and regional conflicts. In the era of colonialism, the Southeast Asian region became an area that Europeans desperately wanted to conquer and colonize the mastery of the natural wealth of spices at that time was the reason. Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, British and French major countries in Europe during the era of colonialism were once the rulers of territories in Southeast Asia (Lockard, 2009). Even in the era of the second world war until the cold war, this region still remained a priority for super powers interest at that time such as Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union became strategic areas and priorities to be controlled. Even today, the Southeast Asian region is an important part of the rivalry between the United States and China.

In 1967 the Southeast Asian region began an important stage by establishing an organization of cooperation between countries under the name Association of Southeast Asian Nations known as (ASEAN). The purpose is to further national interest through a more efficient allocation of resources in those areas of state activities where complementary interests can be harmonized by collective decision making in terms of maximizing national interest through regional cooperation. The important issues discussed in ASEAN is political and security issues. ASEAN had already worked to address political and security issues within the region. The organization established the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1994, which includes dialogue partners from outside the region to address security concerns, including conflicts and territorial disputes. Through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN members have sought to engage their external partners in the ASEAN way of conflict resolution: with its strengths—multilateral consultation and declaratory acceptance of norms of behavior—and limitations of consensus and noninterference (Weatherbee, 2008)

As one of the founding countries of ASEAN, Indonesia in ASEAN has a very important role in maintaining the tradition of ASEAN values through the principles of cooperation, dialogue, and mutual respect for ASEAN. Indonesia is a geographical bridge connecting mainland Southeast Asia and the larger Indo-Pacific area since it traverses both the Indian and Pacific oceans. with its population, size, and favorable position, all contribute to de facto leadership in ASEAN. Indonesia's foreign policy behavior and it's policies will have a significant influence on ASEAN's security stability. Seeing Indonesia's position in ASEAN and the development of the geo-political situation in the Southeast Asian Region which is increasingly dynamic along with strong rivalry between the United States and China, Indonesia during the administration of President Joko Widodo issued a policy on Indonesia's maritime vision called Global Maritime Fulcrum, one of the goals of which is to maintain the stability of regional maritime security.

### **The Understanding of Global Maritime Fulcrum**

With more than 17,000 large and small islands, Indonesia is an archipelago. there are five major islands: Java, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua. Geographically, Indonesia is located between two important continents with very active economies (Asia and Australia) and two important oceans that serve as trade routes for merchant ships (Pacific and Indian). Due to its location, Indonesia plays an important role in global trade routes. From the perspectives of philosophy, politics, economy, socio-culture, law, environment, defense, and security, the

maritime sector is extremely crucial for Indonesia. In the maritime context, Indonesia has a long history.

The history of “*Nusantara*” called Indonesia in the past (Evers, 2016), records two Kingdoms Srivijaya (650-1377) and Majapahit (1293-1527), were both Kingdom are maritime oriented. Majapahit and Sriwijaya established relationships with other global power centers in various fields. The cultural acculturation of modern Indonesian society and different archaeological remains show traces of foreign relations between Majapahit and Sriwijaya (Drakeley, 2005). The glory of Indonesia's in the past is one of the reasons for the emergence of the policy Global Maritime Fulcrum. As mentioned by Agoes Aufiya in *History of Indonesia's maritime heritage*. In terms of the maritime historical legacy aspect, the maritime kingdoms of Indonesia in the past played an essential and inseparable role in contributing to Indonesia's recognition of the concept of the Indo-Pacific. As the term is critically close to the maritime domain within the Indian and Pacific oceans, it is relevantly correlated with the historical past of Indonesia's maritime kingdoms (Aufiya, 2023).

The Global Maritime Fulcrum is the main and interesting topic of discussion in examining President Joko Widodo's foreign policy from the beginning of his administration (2014). The central idea of GMF is to foster the country's maritime identity. Reasserting the long-standing “*archipelagic outlook*”, President Widodo values the waters surrounding the Indonesian archipelago for its economic potential and national strength, rather than deem it as a natural disadvantage (Gindarsah & Priamarizki, 2015). The five pillars in GMF are: *First*, Rebuild Indonesia's maritime culture that recognizes the country's link to the sea. *Second*, Guard and manage ocean resources with the focus on food security, *Third*, Prioritize the development of maritime infrastructure and connectivity, *Fourth* Invite all of Indonesia's maritime partners to work together to eliminate sources of conflict and *fifth* Build a maritime defense force, not just to guard Indonesia's sovereignty and wealth, but also to protect maritime security and navigation (Weatherbee, 2016).

This strategy, in broadest sense, includes Indonesia's internal and external approaches to accomplishing the three main goals of stability, prosperity, and regional prominence. Moreover, Global Maritime Fulcrum (GMF) also seeks to transform Indonesia into a pivot point between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Understanding the GMF and what can be done to advance it has significant policy implications for Indonesia as well as broader geopolitical trends, including the conceptualization and promotion of the Indo-Pacific as a region, China's increasing assertiveness in the maritime domain, and U.S. efforts. According to Parameswaran, through this GMF strategy, President Joko Widodo tries to provide

the potential synergies between the GMF and other countries or regional organizations such as U.S Indo-Pacific Strategy, China's Belt and Road Initiative and Indonesia's leadership in shaping the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook on the Indo-Pacific statement that was finalized in 2019 after the Trump administration's release of the U.S. free and open Indo-Pacific vision (Parameswaran, 2020)

### Maritime Security and ASEAN

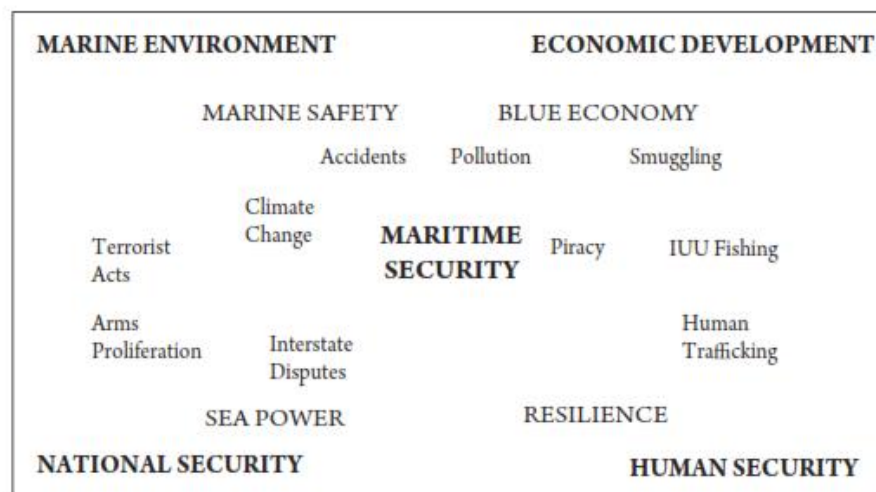
There is no single or universally agreed definition of maritime security. However, in general, from a conceptual standpoint, there are two ways of looking at maritime security: traditional security and non-traditional security. *First*, maritime security is defined as traditional security, which is a militaristic and state-centered approach that places a strong emphasis on a state's control over its maritime domain. From a traditional security standpoint, achieving national goals requires an established and capable naval presence. *Second*, From a non-traditional security approach, Protecting maritime security requires more than just a naval approach. It requires a political, economic and diplomatic approach (Williams & McDonald, 2018)

When looking at maritime security from a contemporary perspective, the issues and players involved are more diverse. From this perspective, cooperation is made possible by the compatibility of the issues and actors involved in achieving maritime security. Written rules, common standards or treaties serve as reference points that govern how states interact. it is important to analyze and understand maritime security. For better comprehension perspective of understanding maritime security, the author cites Christian Bueger maritime security concept as a main point of reference. According to Buerger, Broadly Maritime security is a concept that addresses the diverse threats, risks, challenges and opportunities in the maritime space. It provides a way to understand and respond to issues of insecurity and crime at sea and improve ocean governance and the well-being of the people who depend on it (Bueger & Edmunds, 2024).

Because there is no international consensus over the definition of maritime security has emerged. Buerger proposing three things to understand what maritime security is. *First* be understood in a matrix of its relation to other concepts, such as marine safety, sea power, blue economy and resilience. *Second*, the securitization framework allows to study how maritime threats are made and which divergent political claims these entail in order to uncover political interests and divergent ideologies. *Third*, security practice theory enables the study of what actors actually

do when they claim to enhance maritime security. Together these frameworks allow for the mapping of maritime security (Bueger, 2015). Furthermore, maritime security can also be understood as security related to the sea and shaping cooperation in sustainable economic development, protection of the marine environment, as well as the concerns of communities living around and from the sea. known as the blue economy, environmental security, and human security agenda.

**Figure 2** The scope of maritime security



Source : (Bueger, 2015)

Relating to maritime security ASEAN, a nation's maritime area is an essential component, according to the long-standing sovereignty principle that ASEAN upholds. Every state has the right and responsibility to make maritime security arrangements. Thus, states or other entities with established political legitimacy are the source of security challenges in the maritime sector. ASEAN is presently working to integrate both conventional and unconventional approaches for maritime security. By implementing comprehensive security measures in the maritime sector, ASEAN can not only identify existing challenges but also expand its outreach to maritime security advocates and stakeholders responsible for addressing these ASEAN's seriousness in maritime security issues is affirmed through ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maintaining and Promoting Stability in the Maritime Sphere in Southeast Asia which was officially released on December 30, 2023. In a joint statement consisting of 6 points, , ASEAN countries conveyed a firm sentences, *"We recall and reaffirm our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security, and stability in the region"* (ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maintaining and Promoting Stability in the Maritime Sphere in Southeast Asia, 2023) In addition to the joint statement, ASEAN's views on maritime

security quoted from the official portal of the ASEAN secretariat stated that *“ASEAN recognises the multi-faceted nature of maritime issues and therefore commits to a holistic, integrated and comprehensive approach to address them. More specifically, ASEAN recognises sea piracy as a form of transnational crime with linkage to other form of transnational crime, such as terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, trafficking in persons and people smuggling”*

From this understanding, it is very clear that ASEAN has the view that maritime security is very important in the Southeast Asian region and is the content of the pillar of ASEAN Community Security. Political and security relations among Southeast Asian countries are supported by this pillar. Since the establishment of ASEAN, the security and political climate in the region has been stable, and there has never been any noteworthy conflict among its member states.

### **GMF Policy Implementation In Maintaining ASEAN Maritime Security Stability**

Indonesia's strategic location at the crossroads of the Indian and Pacific Oceans makes it an important player in regional maritime security. Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum policy, launched in 2014, aims to transform Indonesia into a global maritime power and increase its influence in the Indo-Pacific region (Sodik, 2012). The Global Maritime Fulcrum policy, which was created under President Joko Widodo's direction, marks a dramatic change in Indonesia's foreign policy objectives by giving maritime power more weight and demonstrating Indonesia's influence throughout the maritime sphere. The implementation of this GMF policy has the potential to shape the maritime security landscape in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as Indonesia leverages its position and resources to enhance regional stability and cooperation. In the context of ASEAN, through GMF Indonesia aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and ensure stability in the region. This includes addressing issues such as maritime border disputes, transnational maritime crime, and maritime resource security. By promoting integrated maritime cooperation, the GMF seeks to contribute to the overall security and stability of the ASEAN region (Luhulima, 2022)

One of the key elements of the ASEAN Security Community concept has been viewed as maritime security. As one of the founding nations of ASEAN, Indonesia holds a significant responsibility for maintaining peace and maritime security within the ASEAN region. The following are some activities from GMF Indonesia related to efforts to participate in maintaining ASEAN's maritime security :

1. *Indonesia in the South China Sea Dispute*

The issue surrounding mutual territorial claims in the South China Sea, which has also been colored several times by tensions between countries that claim each other, has been going on for a long time. Several ASEAN countries are included in the vortex. Such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam. the core of the conflict are overlapping claims to islands and maritime zones, compounded by China's extensive "nine-dash line" claim. This leads to tensions over sovereignty, fishing rights, and potential oil and gas reserves. The situation is further complicated by the importance of the sea as a major shipping lane, with various countries asserting military and economic activities. Indonesia's position as an important actor in ASEAN is very strategic in addressing these problems. Indonesia holds the status of a non-claimant state in the South China Sea dispute. Indonesia capable of serving as a neutral balancing state. Through the GMF, Indonesia seeks to balance its national interests with regional stability, playing a constructive role in addressing the South China Sea dispute. This is shown through In 2015, Indonesia became a country that encouraged the implementation of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation. This aims to promote peace, stability and security in the region by addressing common maritime challenges and encouraging cooperation among member states. South China Sea Disputes Through This Forum Agreed, Promote the settlement of disputes relating to maritime security through dialogue and cooperation in accordance with relevant international legal instruments and guidelines Ensure that all states enjoy and exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS ( *EAS-Statement-on-Reg-Maritime-Coop, 2015.*). Furthermore, in 2017, Indonesia played an active role in the negotiation process of the Code of Conduct (COC) Framework in the South China Sea. (The COC was formed so that claimant states can act in the South China Sea, so that they can voice their interests). where in this forum successfully agreed on the initial draft of the COC framework in Bali in February 2017. the initial draft of the COC framework brought by Indonesia to be developed in the Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting.

## 2. *ASEAN Maritime Forum & EAS Confrence on Maritime Security*

Maritime diplomacy is one of the 5 pillars contained in the GMF. Indonesia's participation in the ASEAN Maritime Forum is a form of Indonesia's position and commitment as one of the founding countries of ASEAN in realizing the principle actions in accordance with the blueprint of the ASEAN Political-Security Community.

The ASEAN Maritime Forum was established in consideration of the frequency of traditional threats (organized crime and trade, piracy, drug trafficking, smuggling and trafficking in persons environmental security and terrorism) which are no longer internal but more external in nature. To support the successful protection of marine security, especially in protecting ecology and marine resources, Indonesia proposed the re-establishment of regional regulations related to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) and then continued at the meeting. At the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation, Indonesia encouraged the EAS to strengthen maritime cooperation in the region based on four main issues: Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, Regional Blue Economy Transition and Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiation (*Indonesia Dorong East Asia Summit (EAS) Perkuat Kerja Sama Maritim Di Kawasan* | *AsiaToday.Id*, 2020)

### 3. Strengthening Indonesia's maritime security

For Indonesia, another way to improve maritime security in the ASEAN region is strengthening Indonesia's maritime security. This is because most ASEAN maritime security violations occur in Indonesia's maritime territory, especially in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Some reports estimate that Indonesia loses US\$3 billion per year due to illegal fishing. smuggling in the maritime domain as another major threat, which includes human trafficking (including refugees), as well as smuggling of illegal drugs and other commodities. which is highlighted by most agencies as a major threat (Morris & Persi Paoli, 2018).

**Chart 4** shows the number of incidents of piracy versus ARAS for the period of January-June of 2007-2024.

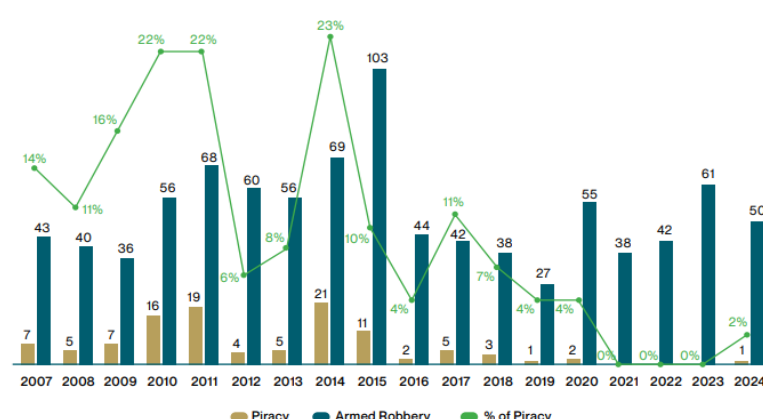


Chart 4 - Piracy Vs Armed Robbery Against Ships (January-June of 2007-2024)



January-June																					
		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att	Act	Att
North Asia																					
China				3		1				3											
Sub-total				3		1				3											
South Asia																					
Bangladesh		10			1	6		4	2			3				3		1		7	3
India		4		12		1		1	1	2		7		3		2	1	3		2	
Sub-total		14		12	1	7		5	3	2		10		3		5	1	4		9	3
Southeast Asia																					
Indonesia		10		18		17	2	15	5	7	2	16	1	6		6		6		11	3
Malaysia		2		1		1		1		2		1		1							
Pacific Ocean											1										
Philippines		3	1	1		8		1		2		7		5	1	3		7		2	
South China Sea		10	1	1	1	2		2	1			2								1	
SOMS		55	4	1		1	1	3	2	8		16		19	1	26	1	41		20	1
Sulu-Celebes Seas				4		3	4		1	1		1									
Thailand		1																1			
Vietnam		13		3				2				3		2				2		1	
Sub-total		94	6	29	1	32	7	24	9	20	3	46	1	33	2	35	1	57		35	4
Overall total		108	6	44	2	40	7	29	12	25	3	56	1	36	2	40	2	61		44	7

Table 1 – Location of incidents (January-June of 2015-2024)

Based on the data above, it can be explained that most non-traditional maritime threats occur in the Southeast Asian maritime region, therefore Indonesia's maritime security will have a positive impact on the maritime security of the ASEAN region. The government's realization of increased maritime security, Indonesia has formed a white book that regulates Indonesia's maritime policy which is standardized into presidential regulation No. 16 of 2017 concerning Maritime Diplomacy and has previously been preceded by presidential regulation No. 115 of 2015 concerning the Illegal Fishing Eradication task force and president No. 178 of 2014 concerning the Marine Security Agency.

## CONCLUSION

Maritime security, especially in the Southeast Asian maritime region, has become an important part of the pillars of the ASEAN political and security community. For ASEAN, maritime security stability in the Southeast Asian Region must be maintained and free from all forms of threats, both traditional and contemporary security threats. The stability of maritime security in the Southeast Asian region will determine cooperation, economic growth and the future of the region. Indonesia as a country with a large maritime area in Southeast Asia has a vital role in realizing ASEAN maritime security stability. Indonesia must be able to play good maritime diplomacy in the midst of the two great world powers, the United States and China with all their influencers in Southeast Asia. In addition,

Indonesia also needs to strengthen the strength of its naval fleet to face threats in Indonesian sea waters. Both ASEAN and Indonesia in the context of maritime security will need each other in maintaining the stability of ASEAN maritime security.

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