

How to Cope With the Environmental Challenges?

The Logic of Collective Action in ASEAN Regional Disaster Cooperation

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Abstract

Little attention had been paid to environmental issues in ASEAN integration as ASEAN progress has been made for years. As global climate change becomes a buzzword in globalization discourse and only when much of the Southeast Asian region suffers from disastrous environmental hazards, ASEAN governments begin to address the importance of disaster governance and bring up policy initiatives for related regional cooperation. This paper is aimed at delineating an alternative perspective on ASEAN regionalism with special focus on current disaster governance in Southeast Asia. In order to assess the capacity of disaster governance, it will review the process and practice of ASEAN collective action in disaster-related issues and explicating several crucial issues in the emerging framework of governance. The article is divided into three parts: (1) to explore the definition and concept of disaster and disaster governance; (2) to address the idea of disaster community and its implication to ASEAN Community; (3) to assess ASEAN developmental path of disaster cooperation. It argues that the effective disaster governance will be facilitated by ASEAN leaders' political will and commitment to environmental cooperation and also by their efforts to rebuild its collective capacity of disaster management domestically and globally.

Keywords: ASEAN, ASEAN Community, Regionalism, disaster governance, climate change