

THE IMPLICATIONS OF UNRESOLVED BOUNDARY DISPUTES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ▶ To Provide an overview explanation of unresolved boundary disputes in Southeast Asia, and its implications to regional political stability.
- ▶ The Variety of Territorial Disputes in Southeast Asia.
- ▶ Why does boundary disputes in Southeast Asia remain unresolved ?
- ▶ What are its the implications toward Southeast Asian political stability ?
- ▶ The Role of ASEAN (Associations of Southeast Asia Nations) in solving the boundary disputes

5 Main Boundary Conflicts in Southeast Asia

1. South China Sea Conflict Zone.
2. Disputes Over Melaka Straits
3. Indonesia – Malaysia Border Conflict.
4. The Philippines's Sabah Claim
5. Border Conflict Between Malaysia and Thailand.

MAP OF SOUTHEAST ASIA



Map of South China Sea



THE MAIN CAUSES OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

1. Contesting for the rights of territory which they believe belongs to them.
2. The Colonial roles in creating treaties and agreements had drawn the line on the map shown the limits of authority or sovereignty but the real borders on the ground were often fuzzy and ambiguous.
3. The borders/ claimed territory contains of natural resources
4. Intervention of non claimant state who want those territories become neutral or free territory so that every state can take advantage to explore them.
5. Different opinion or different interests of claimant states over how to resolve their state boundary's problem.

Problems of South China Sea (SCS)

- ▶ South China Sea Conflict is conflict both maritime and island among several sovereign state within this region that involve at least 4 ASEAN states : Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, and PRC (Peoples Republic of China)
- ▶ The overlapping claims are based on the facts that SCS is geographically strategic, full of natural resources such as oil and mineral, islets, reef, rocks, fishes, and tourism potential, especially over Sparty and Paracel island.
- ▶ PRC activities increases from 1980's onward.

Why does SCS remain unresolved ?

- ▶ The Claimants states are reluctant to present disputes to higher level for resolution.
- ▶ The different perspectives and goals of the claimants to determine how the conflicts should be solved.
- ▶ Non claimant state who wants this conflict remain unresolved so that this area will become international water way, e.g. The US
- ▶ There had been no serious accident over the conflict so SCS is still safe region with no violence going on .
- ▶ The principle of ASEAN way is through non-interference so the other ASEAN's members leave the disputes are unresolved

The Implications of Unresolved Disputes

- ▶ Potential to be open conflict or war , for example PRC 's military activities in this area by implementing ADIZ (Air Defense Identification Zone), and conducting military exercise.
- ▶ Attract non participant conflict from out side this region to get involve.
- ▶ Preventing the reality of ASEAN Security Community.
- ▶ The disputes would not cause the political instability in South East Asia since the participants maintaining good diplomatic relations under ASEAN Way

ASEAN'S VISION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

- ▶ “. . . A region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress.”

Preamble, ASEAN Charter

- ▶ . . . A concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity; and bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies.

ASEAN Vision 2020

END OF PRESENTATION

- ▶ Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to share my views on the Boundary Disputes in South East Asia.
- ▶ My special thanks for Asuncion Lopez – Varela, and The Dean of Faculty of Humanities Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain
- ▶ I wish you all a good day in Madrid.

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