

ABSTRAK

Kawasan Indo-Pasifik merupakan wilayah strategis yang menjadi pusat persaingan geopolitik kekuatan besar, khususnya Amerika Serikat dan China, sehingga menciptakan tantangan bagi ASEAN dalam menjaga stabilitas kawasan dan mempertahankan sentralitasnya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis strategi ASEAN dalam mewujudkan peran sebagai *driving force* di kawasan Indo-Pasifik. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif melalui studi literatur dan analisis dokumen resmi. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi bentuk strategi yang digunakan ASEAN dalam merespons rivalitas kekuatan besar melalui pendekatan *soft balancing*, yang menekankan penguatan diplomasi dan pembentukan koalisi pengimbang. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ASEAN berupaya mewujudkan peran sebagai *driving force* melalui perumusan *ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific* (AOIP) sebagai kerangka normatif dan implementasinya melalui mekanisme konkret seperti *ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum* (AIPF), *East Asia Summit* (EAS), dan *ASEAN Regional Forum* (ARF). Namun, keberhasilan strategi tersebut masih menghadapi kendala berupa perbedaan kepentingan antarnegara anggota, mekanisme konsensus yang lambat, serta tekanan rivalitas kekuatan besar. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ASEAN dapat berperan sebagai pengelola stabilitas kawasan melalui pendekatan *soft balancing*.

Kata kunci: ASEAN, Indo-Pasifik, *Driving Force*, AOIP, *Soft Balancing*.

ABSTRACT

The Indo-Pacific region is a strategic area that has become the center of geopolitical competition between major powers, particularly the United States and China, creating challenges for ASEAN in maintaining regional stability and preserving its centrality. This study aims to analyze ASEAN's strategy in realizing its role as a driving force in the Indo-Pacific region. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach through literature review and analysis of official documents. This study identifies the form of strategy used by ASEAN in responding to the rivalry of major powers through a soft balancing approach, which emphasizes strengthening diplomacy and forming countervailing coalitions. The results show that ASEAN seeks to realize its role as a driving force through the formulation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a normative framework and its implementation through concrete mechanisms such as the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF), East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). However, the accomplishment of this strategy still faces obstacles in the form of differences in interests among member countries, slow consensus mechanisms, and pressure from great power rivalry. Therefore, this study shows that ASEAN can play a role as a manager of regional stability through a soft balancing approach.

Keywords: ASEAN, Indo-Pacific, Driving Force, AOIP, Soft Balancing.