# **BOUNDARY ISSUES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

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#### Abstract

This research has the objectives as this following: 1) The boundary problems of South East Asia Region in the case study of Malay – Thailand border 2) The causes of South East Asia Region problems in the case study of Malay-Thailand border 3) The guidelines of solving problems for South East Asia region in the case study of Malay-Thailand border

Moreover, it has applied the techniques of quality research with in depth interview that is the group conversation and the setting up of community stage with the targeted group or the community leaders and the members of Malay-Thailand border community. Similarly, it has brought all information to check the correctness with triangular to interpret for making the induction conclusion with objectives. Besides, with the result, it was found as this below detail:

Firstly, currently it still has the disputes and the problems about the boundary between countries in the region much. Moreover, in South East Asia Region, it still has several numbers of parties with the conflict problems between the boundaries for more than 30 ones. However, it doesn't mean that it can't solve all problems because there are 16 claimants to be blocked from having the disputes by the operation of the government. On the other hand, there are more than 15 claimants to be in the duration of negotiating as well as 3 claimants to apply the mechanism for blocking of the disputes between the borders of countries by the international court of justice. For example, the first claimant is the disputes between Thai and Cambodia for the case of Prasat Preah Vihear in A.D.1959 – 1962 following by the second claimant that is the disputes between Indonesia and Malaysia in the case of the right of Palua Ligitan in A.D. 1998 - 2002 and the last claimant that is the disputes between Malaysia and Singapore in the case of three stones in South China Sea in 2003 – 2008. In addition, it should realize about the case of Thailand and the neighboring countries at most, such as Malay-Thailand border with the connecting of the stabilization problems. Then, the travelling between borders of the terrorists always results in a numerous problems.

Secondly, the causes of boundary problem in South East Asia Region in the case study of Malay- Thailand border have several of fields; namely, the first one is that the pushing up trend from globalization or called as regionalization and regionalism trend.

Thirdly, there are the guidelines of solving problems in the boundaries of South East Asia Region in the case study of Malay-Thai border with 3 fields, such as the first guideline that is the negotiation and the agreement about the problems between countries. Moreover, in this case every part still has the equality to bring the information and the evidences for confirming about their benefits by realizing about their nations at most following by the second guideline that every part should accept with the rights and the dignity of equality in the case of the neighboring country and the third guideline that it should consider about the objectives of negotiation when having the problem from the disagreement and/or the suspicion and the incompatibility. Thus, it will gain the peacefulness and the stabilization of the quality of life for people in both countries if we are based on the cause and reason principle. As the result, it should open the opportunity for the people in local area to have the participation in making decision in this subject too.

## Introduction

The Association of South East Asian or ASEAN is the cooperative organization between countries with staying for the South East Asia Region for more than 4 decades. However, although ASEAN is originated in the Cold war, now it has been staying with us by complying with the context of the world social to be changed with the ages. Furthermore, ASEAN has been admired from the international countries as the example regional organization of the developing countries for a long time. Similarly, it has the actual group members of the region, and in the past ASEAN has been successful in the maintaining of stabilization and stability of the region too. Then, it should protect for not having the disaffection or the severe conflicts between the member countries until causing the war including of protecting not to use and collect the nuclear weapon in the same region. Additionally, the peaceful atmosphere can occur in this region with the respectfulness of the sovereignty of each country without interrupting on the internal affairs on each other. Therefore, it can be the pushing force to

bring the institutes between countries and the outside countries of the region to invest on economy and have the creative and continuous participation.

Now, the members of ASEAN countries have been brought into the same community. Thus, in A.D. 2016 it might have the changing from the new regionalism relationship with the external factors, such as the growth of economy with heaps of China and India from the progress of IT technology. Besides, it includes with the challenge problems and the new form of stabilization, such as the breakout of diseases, the terrorism, the addicted drugs, the human trafficking, the environment problems and the natural disasters and others Therefore, it will stimulate for the member countries of ASEAN to make the integrated participation to create the unity for manage with the boundary problems with effectiveness. Additionally, it will gain the negotiation power in the stage between the countries to have the strength of economy and being the center of the maintaining for the good relationship between the regions of Asia Pacific from becoming the ASEAN Community.

As the result, it will gain the big changing to the countries in the ASEAN region. After that, this organization will be the more in depth participation organization with the clear regulations that the member countries to comply with and the people of the region can have the big roles in making the progress of this region increasingly.

# **Objective**

- 1. To study the boundary problems of South East Asia region in the case of Malay-Thai border problems
- 2. To study the causes of the boundary problems of South East Asia region in the case of Malay-Thai border problems
- 3. To study the guidelines of solving problems for the boundary in South East Asia region in the case of the boundary problem of Malay-Thai border

#### Method

This research has applied the method of quality one by searching for the guidelines to solve the problems of the boundary in South East Asia region in the case of Malay-Thai border by using the in depth interview of the community representative in Malay-Thai border and the government and the private sector representative in the area.

The tool used in this research to gather information with the quality one has the details as this following:

- 1. Setting up the community stage to study for the boundary problem in South East Asia region in the case of Malay-Thai border
- 2. The group conversation
- 3. The noticing with participation

Then, with the analyzing of information, the researcher has operated by gathering information with the in depth interview, the group conversation and the noticing with participation. Thus, it can bring all information to check for the correctness with triangular. Besides, it should consider whether all these full information will response for the objectives with the reliability and the sufficient details to make the explanation with relationships. As the result, it can bring to read and interpret to make the induction conclusion further.

# Result

According to the result, it can be found as this following:

Firstly, with the problems of boundary in South East Asia region, nowadays it still has the disputes and the problems about the boundaries between countries in the region much. Then, for the merger into ASEAN Community since 31<sup>st</sup> December in A.D. 2015, it still has a lot of questions that is why it still has several disputes problems of boundaries although they are in the same community which results in the big obstructs. In fact, it might result from the varieties of characteristics for them until causing the disputes between them very often. Nowadays, it still has the disputes and the problems of boundary between countries in this region much. Similarly, this region is originated since the end of World War II with the boundary problems in every country in both of the land and the marine areas. Thus, it seems that it is the normal way with these problems occurred with the nearby boundary when dividing in the new nation. And, every nation always tries to fight for receiving their own boundaries and lands as much as possible. Significantly, now there are more than 30 claimants with the conflicts of the boundaries between them. However, it doesn't mean that it can't solve all problems because there are 16 claimants to be in an agreement. On the other hand, there are more than 15 claimants with in the duration of negotiating about their boundaries and there are only 3 claimants to have the disputes about the

boundaries between countries by using the mechanism of agreement with the international court of justice. For example, the first one that has the disputes between Thai and Cambodia in the case of Prasat Preah Vihear in A.D.1959 – 1962 following by the disputes between Indonesia and Malaysia in the case of Palua Ligitan in A.D. 1998 - 2002 and the last claimant that is the disputes between Malaysia and Singapore in the case of three stones in South China Sea in A.D. 2003 – 2008.

Secondly, with the causes of the boundary problem in South East Asia region in the case of Malay-Thai border, it has several ways that is the globalization trend called as "Regionalization" and the regionalism trend. Then, it has been developed to be the ASEAN Community as the new context. However, it still has the original problem that is from the boundary problems and the border problems between the neighboring countries in the world, especially in Thailand and neighboring countries, such as Malay-Thai border with connecting to the stabilization problem too. Thus, the travelling between borders of the terrorists always causes the several problems further or as in the case of Prasat Preah Vihear to bring Thailand and Cambodia to be judged by the international court of justice

Thirdly, the guidelines of solving problems for the borders of South East Asia region in the case of Malay-Thai boundary with the disputes between countries, it has the general principles by using the guidelines for having the agreement with 3 fields as this following:

Firstly, for the first guideline it is about the negotiation and the agreement about the problems between countries that each of them should have the equality. Thus, it should bring the information and the evidences to confirm about the benefits by realizing about their nations at most. Besides, it comes from the rights of the fact appearing in the law documents, such as the contracts, the subcontracts, the protocols, the agreements, the verbal notes, the declaration, the memorandum of understanding and other documents with the affected result of the historical evidences.

Secondly, for the second guideline every part should accept in the rights and the dignity of the equality as the neighboring countries. Then, it should negotiate with the way of friendship, sincerity and pure attention without bringing the biases from the historical reasons of them to combine with the facts according to the first guideline principle.

Thirdly, if it has the problems occurred with the conflicts of the opinions in the documents as the first guideline principle and/or the suspicions and the incompatibility as the second guideline principle, it should consider that these negotiations have the objectives in which way. However, if it has the objective to make the peacefulness and the stabilization of the quality of life for people in both countries, it should be based on the cause and reason principle to achieve the goal in rapid way. Therefore, it should open the opportunity for the local people to have participation in making decision too. Thus, with this above information it seems that many countries in ASEAN are necessary to participate for having the agreement on the boundary disputes. Furthermore, nowadays, the globalization trend has resulted in the new concept idea of the world without border, which results in the reducing of importance for the border problems because of the new boundary in the form of internet and cyber world. Then, it seems that it makes the border line to be opened to make the phenomena of the countries to combine as the European Union. Additionally, it prevents people in the world from seeing the importance of the borders between nations as the past times as seen from the populations of the member countries in the European Union to come across the border lines for travelling with freedom.

## Discussion

In this research, it has applied the concept idea of regionalism to analyze the problems as the one tool that many countries have used to make their own stabilization in the borderless world. Thus, it can't deny that the globalization and the regionalism have the big role to determine the political economy. However, it should make the explanation that the globalization is the phenomenon connecting between countries without limitation. Thus, it has the development for the relationships between countries by moving the products, the services, the investment, the humans, the cultures, the languages and the information resulting from the development of transportation technology and the community. Therefore, when the globalization has brought about the reducing of the importance for the borders between countries, it results in the increasing of importance for the regionalism because each country can't deny for the new opportunity outside their borders. Thus, it is one of all tools for the countries to apply for increasing the capability in economy competition including of increasing the negotiation power in the stage between countries and pushing up themselves into the world. Besides, with the concept idea of Shaun Breslin, Richard Higgott and Ben Rosamond in A.D. 2002: 8, it has given the example of the good points of regionalism relatively with the globalization in the subject of the member expanding of the European Union. Then, with the conditions to become the members of the European

Union, it should push up the country to participate, improve the policies and develop the basic infrastructures of the country to have the good standard and achieve with the conditions. For example, it involves with the conditions of opening the free trade and the finance of the country as the one part of the European Union to bring into the world economy system. On the other hand, in the case of ASEAN it isn't depending on the conditions to become the members, except for the geography of the location since Laos and Vietnam have been the members of ASEAN. Therefore, it is vital to develop the countries in several ways to be equally with other member countries in the group. Then, it can be one part of the capitalism market in the world. In the same way, for the academic people there are some groups to view that the globalization with the regionalism is supported with each other. Thus, it has seen that the regionalism isn't the way to destroy the Sovereignty and block the participation of the world. However, in the opposite way it shows that the regionalism has become to be the connectors between the government and the world when each country hasn't have its own strength or the readiness to compete or participate in the world. On the other hand, it can first participate with the countries inside the region until gaining the strength to participate with the outside countries in the region. Consequently, with the concept idea of Praephat Yodkaew, A.D. 2012 it shows that the regionalism doesn't mean not only to stay alone with the member countries in the same group but it also mean to serve with the participation with countries or the outside group in the region. On the other hand, some academic people have viewed that the regionalism is the mechanism to protect themselves that the government have created to anti the globalization trend without being the mechanism to bring the government as one part of the world social. Additionally, the regionalism can reduce the importance of the worldlism and internationalism and makes the free trade procedure of the world agreement to be delayed, such as the case of agreement for free trade of the world trade organization as the multilateral agreement in the world level for negotiating with more than 100 parties around the world to serve their own highest benefits. However, when it can't find the most suitable agreement, it makes some countries to join for setting up the multilateral group in region level or in the participation with bilateral form instead. Therefore, it has counted as obstructs to have the agreement in the world level. In the same way, the academic people have supported in the subject of globalization by presenting that the participation group in the region should be adjusted as the regionalism to open and expand the opportunity and the benefits for the outside countries in other groups too. Then, it can be replace of the limiting the participation networks for only the members inside the group. However, this opened participation pattern has the basic form with the concept idea of the new liberalism principle to support for each country to have the free trade of economy. Therefore, it includes with the reducing of the roles of the governments to aid the countries for compete with economy and have the stabilization among the globalization trend. For example, it has the participation in the form of opened regionalism to be seen clearly that is the participation of the Asia and Pacific economy as the framework of the economy participation of the countries in Asia and Pacific region. Consequently, it has the aim with supporting the bilateral free trade of the region and the world. Furthermore, it should realize about the co-benefits of the economy to reduce the free trade obstructs between them including of giving the benefit rights for the countries inside the group. As the result, it shouldn't divide for the outside countries, but it should give the benefit right for other countries without being the members too.

#### Recommendation

In current day, the international countries are facing with the concept idea of the borderless country. However, in fact in our world there is still another type of the border line without limiting in only the scopes of geography between the nations. Then, the determining of the border line is in the way of the government administration power and it can increase the continuity of the political benefits. Thus, it is the more interesting subject that the border line has the obstruction to the moving of humans, investment, products and services including of the obstruction for thoughts, conceiving, knowledge and imagination. However, it is necessary for the border lines to exist in the world because if it hasn't had the border lines, it doesn't know that the foreign policies with the neighbor countries in the new context should be developed in which way.

In conclusion, it should review for the policy of the ASEAN countries group by considering about the travelling across the border lines with the new liberalism form. Then, it can change the paradigm from the border as the problem to be the border as the opportunity. Therefore, it can select by using the concept idea about the boundary between the hard border problems and the light border problems or as the administration to develop the public policies, especially for the foreign policies. Thus, it can operate with the dependent relationship with the complexity between the neighboring countries. Then, with the new policies it should operate with the diplomacy in several ways with the relationship operation of the multilateralism increasingly, especially for the two borders between the governmental border lines. In addition, originally it was the subject of bilateral one, but if the government has the good attention of the politics in the regions sufficiently, the border area can be the administration one to manage together in several patterns and levels, such as the patterns between the government, the patterns across the government and the patterns across the region and others.

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