ASEAN Political-Security Community in 2015: Is it possible?
Structure

- What is APSC (APSC Blueprint 2009-2015)
- Indonesia’s chairmanship in ASEAN 2011
  - Priorities
- Challenges
- Recommendations
What is APSC

- One of the pillars of ASEAN Community – ASEAN Vision 2020 accelerated into 2015 (Cebu Declaration 2007)
- The original idea of ASEAN Security Community was offered in Bali Concord II (2003) and then being revised into ASEAN Political-Security Community
- Detailed in APSC Blueprint
What is APSC

- Characteristics and elements of APSC
  - Bringing ASEAN’s political and security cooperation to a higher plane – member states live in peace with one another and with the world
  - Promoting political development in adherence to the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance, and promotion and protection of human rights
  - Strengthening the relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and other countries
  - Comprehensive approach to security (traditional & non-traditional security), renunciation the use of force, peaceful settlement of dispute
What is APSC

Key characteristics:

- A rule-based community of shared values and norms
- A cohesive, peaceful and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security
- A dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world
The establishment of ASEAN human rights body – ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2009

Establishment of ASEAN Maritime Forum – 1st AMF meeting in mid-July 2010 in Surabaya
Swap with Brunei – originally Indonesia would be the chair in 2013

The reason is to “avoid the vacuum of leadership in ASEAN”

Note: chairmanship is not the same with leadership

- Short-term – one-year only
- Does not guarantee the authority to ‘lead’, esp. due to the domestic conditions in Indonesia
Indonesia’s chairmanship in ASEAN 2011

Three priorities:

- to ensure a significant progress in the achievement of ASEAN Community 2015 within the year of 2011, in all pillars of political and security, economic, and socio-cultural
- ASEAN’s role in regional architecture building, especially to give meaning to the East Asia Summit
- to develop a vision of ‘ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations’ in post-2015
To accelerate the establishment of APSC establishment – focus on 6 issues:

1. Strengthening the steps in promotion and protection of human rights
2. Promoting democratisation and good governance
3. Maritime security – empowering ASEAN Maritime Forum
4. Peacekeeping centres network in ASEAN
5. ARF, ASEAN Security Outlook and accession of SEANWFZ by nuclear weapon states
6. Transnational crimes, including terrorism and trafficking in persons
The gov’t still need to elaborate on what exactly to do from all those issues

In terms of promotion and protection of HRs -- so far, the mandate of AICHR still emphasizes more on promotion rather than protection of human rights – potential clash with respect toward sovereignty & non-interference principles

Backlash of democratic process – cases in Thailand (political instability) and potentially in Malaysia (ethnic relations). In Myanmar – toward becoming like a New Order era in Indonesia?
Challenges

- The complexity in South China Sea issue, where outside players (US & China) may interfere
- Regional peacekeeping arrangement – unlikely! -- will not be used to deal with problems within ASEAN
- ASEAN Security Outlook – demands greater transparency – still hard!
- Transnational crimes – terrorism threat
Challenges

- Bilateral issues:
  - Indonesia and Malaysia – migrant workers, territorial disputes
  - Indonesia – Singapore – haze
  - Refugees and IDPs
  - Thailand-Cambodia – recent clash over Preah Vihear
Reformulation of the ASEAN institution -- the importance to give greater authority to the ASEAN Secretariat, including ASEAN SG

- to create APSC scorecard (short-term) and to make decisions and also to monitor observance toward regional instruments – rule-based institution (long-term)

- Greater engagement with civil society esp. to give more weight to the task of protecting human rights – people-centred!

- Initiate the use of regional dispute settlement mechanism to deal with inter-state conflict – can Indonesia take a lead?