Policy Brief Series

UNDERSTANDING SOUTHEAST ASIA IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL-SECURITY AND SOCIO-CULTURAL





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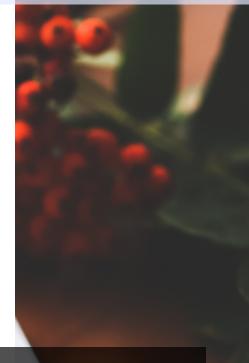
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Policy Brief Series at a Glance

The purpose of the Policy Brief Series is to serve as a basis for discussions related to Economic, Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Issues in Southeast Asia. Our Policy Brief Series focus on Thematic Priority Issues including Maritime, Sustainable Development, and Regional Economic Cooperation. The Analytical Brief is used to identify potential policy can be used as a tool for substantive discussions with various key stakeholders. The Analytical Brief is bimonthly publication for relevant major events and will support discussions on emerging issues and provide short and informative analyses on southeast asia related issues.



www.cseasindonesia.com



cseas.information@gmail.com



CSEAS Indonesia



(+62-21) 7418835 / 7415969



(+62-21) 74706845



Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Jl. Ir. H. Juanda No. 50 Ciputat, Tangerang Selatan, Banten 15412 INDONESIA

CONTENTS

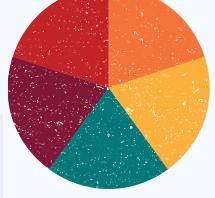




Norway Launches New Initiative to Reduce Plastic Pollution in ASEAN
(Jakarta Post)



Plastic Nation, is Indonesia to blame?
(Kirana Agustina)



Infographic: Views on climate change
(The State of Southeast Asia: 2020 Survey Report)

17



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has both positive and negative effects on the host country's economy. FDI is a driver of economic growth in a host country (Blostrom and Kokko, 1998 and Rodriguez and Clare, 1996). It creates jobs for people, increases the performance and productivity of local firms through technology spillover, increases taxes and alleviates poverty in host country government (Rodriguez and Clare, 1996). However, many conflicts happened between MNCs and local communities, MNCs (usually in mining sectors) creates environmental

problems and pollution, MNCs destroy local companies which unable to compete with MNCs (Pavlinek, 2004).

Since FDI has both positive and negative impacts on development, currently a concern of many policymakers has shifted from an economic oriented paradigm into the sustainable development paradigm. Sustainable development is a development that meets not only the needs of current people but also future generations (World Commission for Environment and Development, 1987). Furthermore, sustainable development considers development by looking at three important aspects: economic development, social development and environmental development (WCED, 1987). As example of the shifting paradigm, the United Nations (2015) determines Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which consists of 17 (seventeen) goals and 169 indicators to be achieved by all UN Member States by 2030. Similarly, UNCTAD (2012) has developed an Investment Framework to achieve sustainable development. According to the framework, investment policies should be connected with overall development strategies and the policies to attract FDI and the policies to regulate FDI should be balanced (UNCTAD, 2012).

^{*}Kuswanto is Senior Research Fellow at Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS). He obtained his PhD from University of Groningen, the Netherlands and Master Degree of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Colorado Denver, USA. His research interest; Good Governance, Local Governance and Regional Economic Development.

This essay attempts to examine how sustainable development is perceived by policymakers in Indonesia and is embodied in the policies. Our examination found that the concept of sustainable development has been embodied in the development and investment strategic plan. Moreover, sustainable development is formally stated as an objective of development in Indonesia, therefore, investment policies are directed to achieve sustainable development (Law 25/2007, President Regulation No. 16/2012, and President Regulation No. 2/2015). The main strategy to achieve sustainable development from an investment is by shifting investment priority sectors from natural resources-based investment into knowledge-based economy investment albeit gradually (President Regulation No. 16/2012).

The timeframe can be explained as follow:

- Within 1-2 years the priority sectors are import substitution manufacturers and industries of primary material production.
- Within five years, the priority sectors for investments are in infrastructure and energy sectors.
- Within 10 15 years, the priority sectors for investment are the large-scale industries (manufacture); and within 15 years ahead, the priority sectors are knowledge-based economy.

To support the strategies, several measures are taken. Firstly, the government attempts to improve the country's attractiveness for investors. The licensing procedure is simplified by using the electronic system in the one-stop services office, and the time to obtain investment licenses is shortened by decentralizing approval power from President to Head of National Coordinating Board for Investment and by introducing three hours licensing services (Head of BKPM Decree No. 14/2015). The Indonesian government is also very benevolent to provide financial incentives to foreign investors.

At the same time, the Indonesian government has loosened the restrictions toward foreign investors and opened many sectors previously closed to foreign investors such as tourism, film industry, cold storage, pharmacy, and infrastructure (President Regulation No. 44/2016). To create a good environment for investors, the government has enacted anti-monopoly law, intellectual property laws, and anti-corruption law. To support export-import, the tariff barriers are eliminated significantly; custom and border trading systems are simplified by using an electronic system with the platform of National Single Windows, and the land registration system is reformed. The efforts have resulted in an improvement of Ease of Doing Business from ranking 120 in 2014 to ranking 73 in 2019 (World Bank, 2019). Also, the number of FDI



increases from \$ 19 billion in 2012 to \$ 21.9 billion in 2018. If we compare to the situation in 2004, which was only \$ 1.8 billion, the number has multiple twenty times (UNCTAD, 2019).

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Secondly, the government attempts to support domestic industries by imposing some performance requirements on foreign investors. Those performance requirements are classified into three types:

- 1) Joint venture in which all foreign investors in agriculture, forestry, and economic creative sectors must create joint venture companies with local companies.
- 2) Local content requirements; all foreign investors must use local raw material at certain level in manufacture sectors (30% in automotive and electronic industry).
- 3) Local equity and direct technology transfer requirements; all foreign investment in mining sectors should divest its stakes gradually up to 51% after ten years, develop smelter to process mineral ore; hire domestic companies as subcontractors; transfer of technology to local companies.

This policy has direct impacts on the performance of inflow FDI but no clear impact on the performance of local industries. The amount of inflow FDI went out from Indonesia reached \$ 1,2 billion in 2018 and \$ 5 billion in 2019 (inflow FDI – \$ 1,2 billion in 2018 and - \$ 5 billion in 2019). Furthermore, the effectiveness of the policy to support local industries is not yet felt. Indonesia is experiencing a de-industrialization period in which the contribution of manufacture sectors toward national GDP decreases over time. In 2014 the contribution was 21,08% decreases over time (20,99 in 2015; 20,51 in 2016;20,16 in 2017; and 19,66 in 2018) (BPS, 2019). If it is compared with the situation in the 1990s, the contribution decreases by 7% (BPS, 2019). Much research confirms the inability of inflow FDI to support local industries in Indonesia. For instance, Takii (2005) said that local companies did not take advantage of MNCs in Indonesia due to the big technological gap between MNCs and local enterprises. Similarly, Tadjoedin and Chowdhury (2019) also state that foreign ownership is not a significant determinant of enterprises' export in Indonesia.

Last but not least, to prevent environmental damage, environmental impacts assessment and environmental permits are determined as part of investment license protocols. Therefore, to receive environmental permits, all companies are subject to audits from the environmental agency at central, provincial and district levels. All companies, which exploit natural resources such as mining companies, agriculture, and plantation companies must provide compensation to any destruction caused by its activities. As part of the coercive mechanism, all companies will be audited by environmental agencies in accordance with an environmental standard developed by central, provincial and local governments (Law 32/2009).

However, weak law enforcement causes the ineffectiveness of the policies. Indonesian environmental performance index remains poor which ranks 133 out of 180 countries with a score of 46,92 from the max of 100 (Yale University, 2018). Furthermore, despite serious policy measures taken by the government, Indonesia is still categorized as top ten contributors for gas emission in the world which contributes 1,7% of CO2 world emission (World Resources Institute, 2019).

From the above explanation, we observe several problems cause the ineffectiveness of policies.

1

Firstly, there is little coherence between investment policies, industrial policies, education policies, and environmental policies. For example, on the one hand, the government loosens the restrictions overtime by revising the Negative List of Investments, on the other hand, some laws such as Horticultural Law, Industrial Law, and Mineral and Coal Mining Law impose many restrictions on foreign investments. That fact implies that General Investment Plan is not used as a cornerstone in developing other economic regulations and policies.

Secondly, besides performance requirements, the strategies to nurture local enterprises and to facilitate technology spillover remains unclear. The government needs to create an enabling environment to support local businesses and to encourage and support companies to intensify Research and Development, to increase capacity through training. Also, the linkage between universities and enterprises should be facilitated by the government.

2

3

Thirdly, the change of governance system from centralized to decentralized causes ineffectiveness of the implementation of policies. Under the decentralized system, although environmental permits are becoming a requirement to control investment, the capacity of local environmental agency control environmental standards remains inadequate. An example of a weak coordination mechanism in implementing sustainable development from the investment is the fact that local governments tend to impose taxes over many investments to gain revenue instead of to provide incentives to boost investments and the local economy. The roles of local government to nurture local enterprises and matchmaking between local and foreign enterprises need to be enhanced.

In summary, the sustainable development concept has been embodied in the investment policies in Indonesia. The concern of policymakers is not the only economic aspect of development but also considers social and environmental aspects. Nevertheless, the implementation of policies is not effective due to some problems such as economic policies is lacking coherence, unclear strategies to execute policies and the changed of governance system from centralized to the decentralized governance system.

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Introduction

In 2018, International Public Policy Research (IPPR) completed a report that claimed ocean pollution which include plastic waste has become one of the most disturbing consequences of over-exploitation nature by human beings and triggering environmental degradation. Yet, it is imperative to understand the 'root cause' when reflecting a global phenomenon like ocean plastic. The development of plastic production in the marketplace commercially begin in the 1930s, and exponentially growth from 2 million tons in the 1950s to 381 million tons in 2015 – of which 26% of the total volume is for plastic packaging – and more than 8 million tonnes of plastics leak into the ocean and degrade the environment. More importantly, the latest report from GAIA highlights how fossil fuel companies, which produced 99% of the by-products for plastic creation, reap capital from this industry. Unfortunately, plastic can last up to thousand years, and this 'durability' trait makes plastic, if not appropriately managed in the landfill, impossible to 'go-away' and create more problems in the future.

The Geographical Imaginations of Indonesia

Taking Indonesia for example, the exploration of environmental problems such as ocean plastic in Indonesia provide insight related to the scientific, political, and economic practices that are shaping human perspectives in relation to the ocean. Largely driven by the work of Jambeck et al. (2015) the research has placed Indonesia as the second-most significant contributor for marine plastic debris in the world. Coincidentally, in the same year, joint research conducted by the University of California Davis and the University of Hasanudin found microplastics ingested by the fish that they purchased from a traditional market in Makassar, Indonesia. These researches became an eye-opener for the global community, especially the Government of Indonesia, to call for action.

^{*}Kirana Agustina works at World Resource Institute (WRI) as Policy Specialist for Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP). She earned a Master Degree in the University College London. She joined the eXXpedition Round the World, a scientific voyage in which all the crew were women to carry out research missions on plastic pollution at sea. This opportunity made her the first Indonesian woman to join the eXXpedition team sailing for two weeks across the North Atlantic Ocean from Plymouth UK to the Azores, Portugal (International Maritime Organization/IMO Scholarship).

As the largest archipelagic state in the world, given its enormous geographical size and large population, Indonesia is also well-known as one of the world's most important regional powers. The country is strategically positioned between two oceans, two extreme transitional regions, the Sundaland and Wallacea and global hotspots of ocean resources, known as the 'Amazon of the Ocean'. This location delivers several benefits:

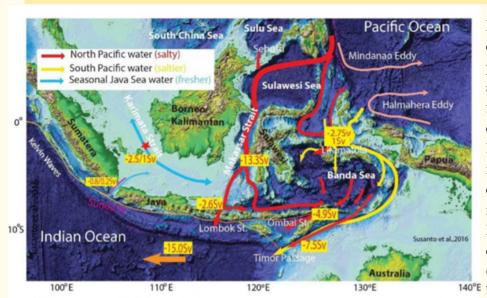
- 1). It creates ocean connection between Asia and Australia which are governing vital sea lanes of communications (SLOC) for the military and commerce activities in the region, Middle East and Europe.
- 2). It is part of the busiest ocean pathways for shipping industry. Finally, scientific communities widely recognize the country as one of the most



A map comparing Indonesia and the United States. (Source: Central Intelligence Agency 2019)

biologically rich countries on the planet for land species and the global epicentre for marine life. Unfortunately, these blessings seen as a continuing weakness than its power. The capacity of Indonesia to govern their resources are intertwined with its status as a developing country and the stability of the political situation.

The passageways of the Indonesian Throughflow (ITF)

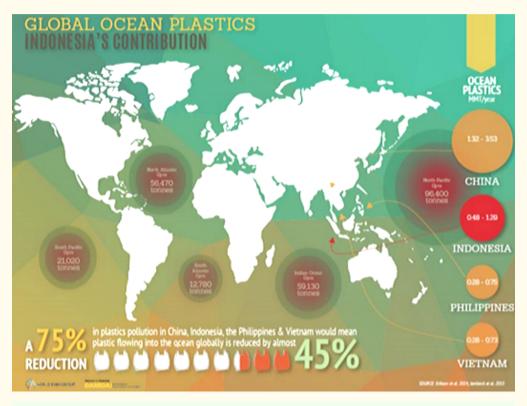


The passageways of the Indonesian Throughflow (ITF)

(source: CMMA 2017)

Delving deeper, it would be worth considering the alternative ways that plastic enters Indonesia's waters from sources such as rivers, shipping and fishing activities, and ocean current circulation, based on its geographic location. There are some external and internal pathways for plastic waste ended in Indonesia water. Externally, in respect to geographical location, Indonesia has its ocean current, called Indonesian Throughflow (ITF). As illustrated in the picture beside, It is crucial to also consider ITF that is unique for Indonesia, being the only pathways that connect

the Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean via Indonesia. The ITF pushes 90% of total global ocean plastic waste which passes through Indonesia's waters. Through ITF, one can understand the connectivity of plastic waste, although it is at a national scale, the waste in Indonesia's waters also comes from outside Indonesia's territory.



Infographic on Global Ocean Plastic Contribution

(source: WorldBank 2017)

It is also interesting when we the infographic developed by the World Bank (2017). At first glance, the figure portrays the main contributors to the marine debris problem as Asian countries, which are also listed as Global South countries. Second, all the topranked countries surrounded by the Pacific and Indian Ocean. The the illustration also helps imagine the reality of the global economic landscape in the North. Thus, it could be argued that the waste generated by the Global through the over-North, consumption of goods and overproduction of waste, uses

the Global South as a 'uncosted sink' for dumping trash of High-Income Countries. Individuals in wealthy countries generally produce more waste than the average person in developing countries.

In January 2018, China introduced the 'National Sword' regulation, banning the practice of exporting global waste to China which become another eye-opener of the 'business as usual' practices on the global waste trade. International waste trade practices have grown in the last two decades, and China had become the main country importing plastic waste, taking in 45% of the total waste exported from the North. This begins a new narrative on the importance of understanding waste on multiple scales and how plastic can be viewed as a non-human actor that drives countries, companies, and other interests embedded in this issue. They also utilize developing countries with limited capacity to handle waste as their landfills. As a result, a country like Indonesia, which has no proper waste technology and infrastructure may suffer from additional plastic waste that comes from Global North, and thus much of that waste generated by high-income countries will end up in the ocean. The amount of waste generated per person in Indonesia, combined with Indonesia's high population (ranking 4th largest in the world), as well as contributions from trash sent to Indonesia from countries Global North, equals a high total contribution of marine debris from Indonesia. To conclude, as a nation with more than 18,000 islands, Indonesia shows unique profiles consisting of multiple determination, either internal factors or transnational interests, which already rooted within Indonesia waters. In respect to its complexity, it is imperative also to approach the issue accordingly.

Conclusion

Ocean space is an assemblage of many different things, including ocean plastic pollution that has become of one the grand challenges which faces humanity. Plastic has multiple and uncertainty effects, not only does it degrade the physical aesthetics of the environment but has tremendous hidden costs that still require advanced research. Indonesia is front and centre of the global marine debris crisis. Recognizing the severity of the problem, in 2017, the Government of Indonesia established Indonesia's National Plan of Action (NPOA) for reducing 70% of the Indonesia ocean plastic by 2025. To date, Indonesia has become the first country that has established its NPOA on Marine Debris. The active roles of Government Indonesia in addressing ocean plastic pollution can also help 'turn the tide' for East Asia since 50% of ocean plastic is generated around this region. Besides, NPOA represents the leadership of Indonesia, which also a momentum to succeed the government ambition in its maritime diplomacy.

Due to the geography of Indonesia, the size and many isolated islands, marine debris still largely unmonitored and monitoring is infrequent (Sur et al. 2018). Therefore, a more granular study across disciplines, global assessment of the total amount of mismanaged waste and plastic sources from other alternatives pathways (activities from fishing, spill vessel, and contribution from natural disasters), as well as public outreach programs are imperative to understand the scope problems and to collaboratively find the solution. In the future, Indonesia can potentially lead the discussion on this discourse on regional policy with neighbour countries on labouring gaps in debris leakage on a regional/ macro-level. Especially on the impacts on the environment, human economies such as tourism and potential risk on bilateral and multilateral relation.

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Policy Brief Series:: News

Norway launches new initiative to reduce plastic pollution in ASEAN

e are facing a serious problem of plastic pollution. According to Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Indonesians use 9.8 billion plastic bags each year. And around 95 percent of these end up as waste. Based on data from the World Bank, Indonesia produces 175,000 tons of waste each day. Alarmingly, 14 percent of that waste, or 24,500 tons, is plastic. Indonesians also use 93 million straws every day. Unfortunately, 81 percent of that waste is unsorted, making it difficult to recycle. As a result, most of this waste, especially plastic, will end up in rivers and oceans. Plastic is threatening the biodiversity of our oceans. On many occasions, we have found huge piles of plastic in the stomachs of marine animals like whales and sharks. Joko Suprianto, who works at a private company in Jakarta, told The Jakarta Post on Monday, Dec. 9:

"I think we will have more plastic than fish in our oceans very soon,"

Furthermore, Indonesia — the world's biggest archipelagic nation — is believed to be the secondlargest contributor to ocean plastic pollution, after China. Most of the plastic debris flows into the ocean through rivers. Indonesian rivers like the Brantas, Bengawan Solo, Serayu and Progo are some of the most polluted in the world. The problem of plastic pollution is not a problem exclusive to Indonesia. It is a global problem. The same situation can be seen in almost all countries in Southeast Asia. It is a complex issue, and governments cannot solve this problem alone. Public participation is required to reduce plastic pollution. For this, there is a helping hand from a faraway land. In an effort to support ASEAN efforts to reduce marine plastic debris, Norway on December 9, 2019 launched



New initiative: ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi (center, sitting) and Norwegian Ambassador to ASEAN Morten Høglund (fourth left, sitting) pose with various ambassadors to ASEAN during the launch of new initiative ASEANO to reduce plastic pollution in Jakarta on Monday, December 9 2019.

the ASEAN-Norway Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO). Norwegian Ambassador to ASEAN Morten Høglund said during the launch ceremony:

Norway is proud to launch this project with ASEAN in combatting marine litter and micro plastics, "

Norway will contribute US\$3 million for ASEANO, which will be implemented in three years starting from 2019. The main objective of this project, according to Ambassador Høglund, is to enhance cooperation with a range of stakeholders, both formal and informal, to improve plastic management practices along the whole plastic value chain. Høglund told the *Post* and *Kompas* after the launching event:

"There will be a lot of research about plastic pollution, and the results will be shared with the public. So the project is a mixture of research as well as boosting local capacity building,"

Policy Brief Series:: News



ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi in his opening remarks

The project will be implemented in cooperation with the Norway Institute for Water Research, Jakarta-based Center of Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) and Manila-based Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia. ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi welcomed Norway's initiative to reduce plastic pollution in Southeast Asia. Lim said in his opening remarks:

"The ASEANO project will add to ASEAN's continuing efforts in addressing marine plastic debris and in promoting a transition to a circular economy by learning from Norway's extensive experience and expertise,"

Thailand's Permanent Representative to ASEAN Phasporn Sangasubana also expressed appreciation for Norway's help and said there should be efforts to raise public awareness, so that there would be a behavioral change in the attitudes toward reducing marine debris. The CSEAS, one of the implementing bodies from Indonesia, says it is ready to work with all stakeholders to achieve optimal results. Arisman, the chairman of the CSEAS, told the Post:

"We care about the environment. We have to work hard to reduce plastic pollution, and we are ready to provide all available help from CSEAS," Norway, a Scandinavian country that has the world's biggest sovereign fund with assets of \$1.02 trillion, is always on the front line to tackle climate change and support human rights, reforestation, environmental protection, sustainable energy, peace and reconciliation.

In 2010, Norway announced that it would contribute \$1 billion to Indonesia's conservation of forests and peatlands. According to Høglund, Norway has similar projects to reduce plastic waste in Africa and Latin America. Norway, Høglund continued, wanted to work with other countries that had similar programs in Southeast Asia. When asked about the response of ASEAN countries to Norway's initiative, Høglund said the response was amazing. Morten Høglund says:

"All Southeast Asian countries responded positively, and they are strongly committed to reducing plastic pollution,"

Raising awareness about plastic pollution, especially among young people, was the key to success, he added.

Source : Veeramalla Anjaiah, Jakarta Post



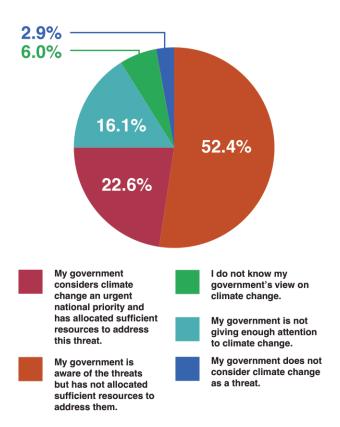
THE WORLD AND MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE. IT IS IN YOUR HANDS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

-Nelson Mandela

Views on climate change

Climate change is a clear and present danger to the global well-being and these sentiments are strongly echoed by the survey respondents. More than half (52.7%) view climate change as a "serious and immediate threat to the well-being" in their respective countries. This concern is most pronounced in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam with the respective shares of 71%, 65%, and 61.2%.

Meanwhile, 44.1% of the respondents consider climate change to be "an important issue that deserves to be monitored". The majority of respondents from Brunei (71.2%) and Malaysia (50.9%) subscribe to this position, which suggests that they are keenly aware of the negative impact of climate change but remain unconvinced that it has risen to the threatening level in their respective countries. Overall, only 3.2% of the respondents fall loosely into the "climate change denial" camp who either reject the scientific basis of climate change or do not see the problem having any serious impact.



What is your view of climate change?

Country	My government considers climate change an urgent national priority and has allocated sufficient resources to address this threat.	My government is aware of the threats but has not allocated sufficient resources to address them.	I do not know my government's view on climate change.	My government is not giving enough attention to climate change.	My government does not consider climate change as a threat.
ASEAN	22.6%	52.4%	6.0%	16.1%	2.9%
Brunei	17.5%	52.6%	16.5%	12.4%	1.0%
Cambodia	11.5%	53.9%	11.5%	19.2%	3.9%
Indonesia	8.8%	62.2%	4.7%	21.6%	2.7%
Laos	17.3%	56.5%	17.4%	4.4%	4.4%
Malaysia	14.1%	57.7%	5.5%	19.6%	3.1%
Myanmar	12.3%	48.0%	9.8%	24.6%	5.3%
Philippines	23.4%	60.6%	2.9%	11.7%	1.4%
Singapore	60.4%	32.9%	0.9%	4.9%	0.9%
Thailand	6.2%	50.0%	7.3%	29.2%	7.3%
Vietnam	22.4%	65.8%	2.0%	8.5%	1.3%

Source: The State of Southeast Asia: 2020 Survey Report is published by the ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

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Address: Jl. Ir. H. Juanda No. 50 Ciputat, Tangerang Selatan, Banten 15412 INDONESIA

Phone: (+62-21) 7418835 / 7415969 Fax: (+62-21) 74706845 Email: cseas.information@gmail.com

