Security Convergence In Southeast Asia:
Indonesia's Initiative In *Asean Our Eyes* (AOE) 2017

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ABSTRACT: Security convergence in the Southeast Asian region has become an important focus, particularly with Indonesia's initiative in ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) in 2017. In this regard, the purpose of this research is to identify Indonesia's interest in initiating ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) as a strategic step in enhancing regional security in the Southeast Asian Region and highlight the importance of intelligence cooperation in the context of cyber defence as well as add to the understanding of new strategies to enhance regional security stability in the Southeast Asian Region. The support for this initiative was triggered by a series of terrorism and cyber events in the region, including bomb attacks and global malware such as WannaCry and Fireball in the same year. In this study, a qualitative approach with a literature study technique was used to identify Indonesia's interest in the AOE and its impact on regional security. The results show that through regional intelligence cooperation, Indonesia can access crucial information to counter threats, as well as strengthen its domestic intelligence capacity. Furthermore, the exchange of information and best practices in intelligence is expected to enhance Indonesia's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to security threats. Thus, Indonesia's participation in the AOE is not only in its national interest, but also to support regional security stability in Southeast Asia. This highlights the importance of cyber diplomacy and intelligence collaboration in dealing with modern security challenges.

Keywords: Security, Cyber Diplomacy, *ASEAN OUR EYES* (AOE).

INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian region, with its significant cultural, political and economic diversity, has become a major focus in regional security dynamics. Geopolitical changes, non-traditional threats, and inter-state tensions have been the basis for security developments in the region. In this context, Indonesia's role as a member of ASEAN has a pivotal relevance in the endeavour to enhance national stability and security. Therefore, efforts to strengthen national security have become increasingly important. The concept of security is no longer limited to the military dimension alone, but also involves related political, economic and social aspects, which have the potential to disrupt the security stability of a country. Technological development is also a factor that has the potential to trigger security threats in every country.

In 2015, Indonesia experienced a terror attack at Alam Sutera Mall that involved a bomb blast and shocked the public. The perpetrators of the attack demanded a ransom of 100 Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency that was still rarely used at the time. Four bombs were planted inside the mall by the terrorists, causing a number of injuries. The National Police's Criminal Investigation Unit (Bareskrim), Densus 88, and Intel were involved in the investigation, which was led by Inspector General Albertus Rachmad Wibowo, Head of the Cyber Sub-Directorate of Bareskrim. During the investigation, Oscar Darmawan, CEO of Indodax, who was suspected by the police, collaborated with the authorities. However, due to Wibowo's intelligence and wisdom, Darmawan was eventually proven innocent and instead helped in the process of exposing the perpetrators, even though blockchain was still new in Indonesia at the time. The Bareskrim Polri cyber team managed to trace the identity of the perpetrator through investigation. It was revealed that the perpetrator was an outsourced employee at one of the tenant companies in Alam Sutera. Although the perpetrator used technology to hide his tracks, the investigation is still ongoing. This attack attracted attention because it was the first terror attack with an economic or extortion motive. The perpetrators had IT expertise and obtained ATM cards through the dark web. They also learnt how to assemble bombs through the dark web. (Tempo.co, 2024).

In early 2016, the public was shocked by the terrorist attacks in Jakarta, where six explosions were followed by a shootout in front of Starbucks coffee shop and Sarinah police station. The motive behind the bomb attacks is thought to be an attempt to retaliate against the massive arrests of terrorist groups in December 2015. The terrorist groups that carried out the attacks may have ideologies associated with radical Islamist or terror organisations such as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) or ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant). (Munir, 2016).

In 2017, major cyberattacks took place around the world, attacking computer systems in many places such as universities, hospitals, and organisations in several Asian countries such as Indonesia, China, Singapore, Japan, and Korea. These attacks were carried out using ransomware known as WannaCry, WannaCrypt, WanaCrypt0r 2.0, and Wanna Decryptor. Not only does this malware demand ransom payments via Bitcoin, but it also has the ability to spread quickly to other devices using worm applications. (Engagemedia, 2022). The WannaCry virus spread to more than 200 countries, including Indonesia. In Indonesia alone, more than 100 thousand computers were infected by WannaCry, causing losses estimated to reach billions of rupiah Internationally,

WannaCry is recognised as the "biggest cyber attack of all time". Europol noted that it has spread to 150 countries, with 200,000 computer systems affected. Europol warned that the WannaCry infection could still be widespread (Yusuf, 2017).

Indonesia is a frequent target of global malware attacks. In 2017. Check Point's Threat Intelligence and research team revealed that this Chinese-originated threat operation managed to infect more than 250 million computers worldwide. Around 20% of corporate networks were also affected, with high attack rates in India (10.1%), Brazil (9.6%), Mexico (6.4%) and Indonesia (5.2%). This was contained in a report by security research organisation Check Point In Indonesia alone, approximately 5.2% of enterprise networks were affected by this attack. While this percentage may seem small compared to other countries such as India, Brazil and Mexico, the impact is still significant given Indonesia's large internet population. Attacks like Fireball show that Indonesia is vulnerable to cyber threats originating from abroad. Factors such as a lack of cybersecurity awareness, weaknesses in information technology infrastructure, and a high rate of illegal software use are the main triggers for such vulnerability. (Point, 2017).

Table 1

The high level of *Global Terrorism Index* (GTI) in ASEAN countries in 2017

Global Rank	Country	Score (out of 10)
12	Philippines	7.13
16	Thailand	6.61
37	Myanmar	4.96
42	Indonesia	4.55
60	Malaysia	3.33
80	Lao	1.96
128	Cambodia	0.04
134	Vietnam	0.00
134	Singapore	0.00
-	Brunei	data unavailable

Source (Prajogo, 2022)

As we can see from Table 1, the high level of *Global Terrorism Index* (GTI) in ASEAN countries in 2017 highlights the serious escalation of terrorism issues in the region. GTI, as a globally recognised indicator, provides a clear picture of the intensity and impact of terrorism activities within a country or region. The increase in GTI scores in ASEAN countries shows that the threat of terrorism has become one of the main challenges in the regional security agenda. (Prajogo, 2022). The increase of GTI in ASEAN illustrates the complexity of terrorism issues in the region. The threat of terrorism is not only national in nature, but also crosses national boundaries, involving complex and diverse networks. Indonesia as a country with the largest Muslim population is reported by the *World Population Review* data, Indonesia is the country with the second largest Muslim population in the world. In total, there are around 236 million people in Indonesia who follow Islam. (Dwi, 2024). With this statement, it is certainly a potential for the spread of radicalism, especially with the advancement of technology at this time. With these advances, anyone around the world can easily access content published by individuals or groups.

Therefore, the spread of radicalism online through social media has become a crucial element in the formation of modern terrorism. By utilising the intelligence resources owned by each member state, Indonesia as a member of ASEAN seeks to improve security stability in the ASEAN region with one of the initiatives that attract attention is ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE), which is a form of Indonesian diplomacy in an effort to strengthen national security.

In his book entitled "The Anarchical Society", Hedly Bull puts forward various concepts of diplomacy that describe diplomacy as a process of peaceful interaction between states and other entities in global politics, represented by official representatives. (Bull, 1977). Meanwhile, Adam Watson in his book *"The Dialogue Between States Diplomacy"* views diplomacy as a process of negotiation between political entities that recognise each other's independence. (Watson, 2019). Bull and Watson's definition is often used to explain diplomacy as it clearly highlights a non-violent approach to resolving conflicts and balancing interests between international actors, particularly states. Bjola points out that although diplomacy uses a non-violent approach, it can also create conflict and co-operation in international politics simultaneously. (Bjola & Jiang, 2015).

Against this background, this research will examine the dynamics of regional security convergence in the Southeast Asian region and Indonesia's initiative in ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE). Through a theoretical approach that integrates Diplomacy Theory, this research will identify Indonesia's interest in initiating ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) in improving regional security in the Southeast Asian Region. As such, this research will make an important contribution to our understanding of the increasingly complex dynamics of regional security in the region.

In previous research conducted by (Bintang Ramadhan Yusuf Khadafi & Zahidi, 2023) in a journal entitled "Defence Diplomacy: Intelligence Cooperation in ASEAN Our Eyes as an Enhancement of Southeast Asian Security Stability", studied defence regionalism which includes cooperation in the field of defence in a regional context. This research highlights the relationship between Indonesia and ASEAN and how the relationship is realised in the form of cooperation. The difference with the research I wrote reviews the threat of terrorism and malware crimes related to cybercrime and is a significant factor in threatening the stability of a country's national security. Therefore, the importance of intelligence cooperation to strengthen cyber defence is highlighted by the author in this study. The speciality of this research is its comprehensive discussion of security threats in Indonesia that include the cyber dimension, as well as Indonesia's efforts in diplomacy through initiatives such as ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE).

From the research that became the previous literature, the author found differences with previous research, namely from the point of view of the discussion by the author. In the context of this research, we highlight the novelty by identifying the importance of the ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) initiative initiated by Indonesia in 2017 as a proactive step in security convergence in the Southeast Asian region. Through collaborative efforts, it marks a significant step in enhancing regional co-operation in dealing with cyber and national security threats, strengthening the foundation of overall regional security. The speciality of this research lies in its comprehensive discussion of security threats that include cyber dimensions, as well as Indonesia's efforts in diplomacy through initiatives such as the AOE.

Figure 1

Conceptual framework for security convergence in Southeast Asia: Indonesia's initiative in *ASEAN Our Eyes* (aoe) 2017 .
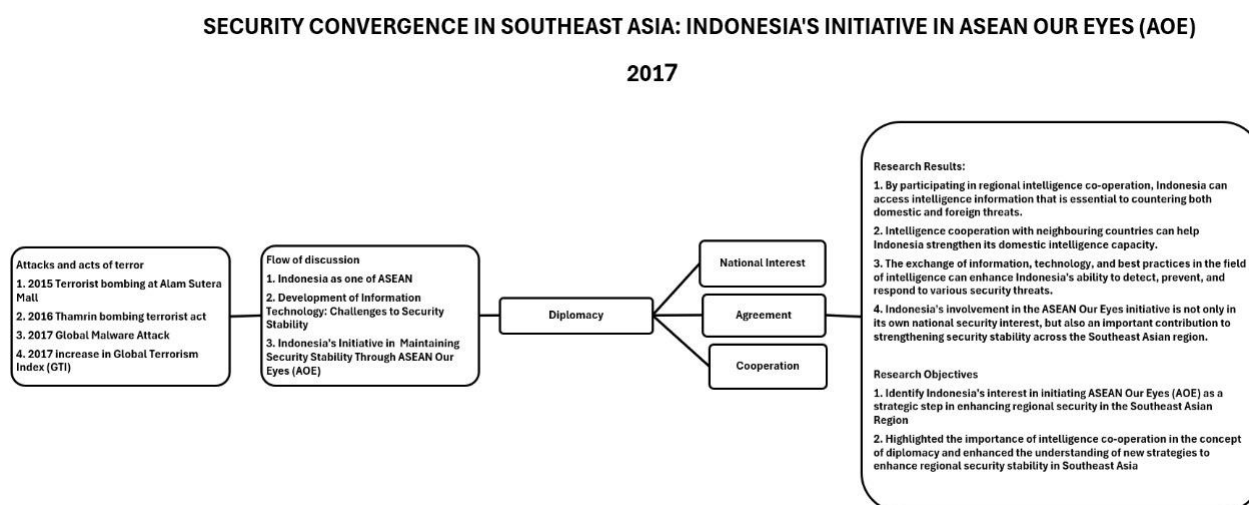

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework in this study, where the theory used in this study is the theory of Diplomacy, some of which concepts include the principles and strategies used by states and international actors in achieving their national interests, by cooperating and producing agreements. National interests guide diplomatic action, while agreements form the basis for state interaction, and co-operation facilitates the achievement of common goals. These are the essential elements of diplomacy that influence the dynamics of international relations at the global level.

This research is very important to study, considering that the threat of terrorism and other types of non-traditional threats continue to evolve, thus making the identification process more complicated. the lack of projections related to these threats causes unexpected situations. In addition, cooperation in counterterrorism in ASEAN is faced with various challenges, such as differences in national interests, different legal frameworks, and the principle of non-intervention. This situation may impact the goal of maintaining stable security in Southeast Asia. Therefore, ASEAN leaders are determined to prevent threats in Southeast Asia by strengthening cooperation through the ASEAN Our Eyes initiative.

The purpose of this research is to identify Indonesia's interest in initiating ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) as a strategic step in enhancing regional security in the Southeast Asian Region and highlight the importance of intelligence cooperation in the context of defence as well as adding understanding of new strategies to improve regional security stability in Southeast Asia. In this case, the formulation of the problem that forms the basis of this research is "What is Indonesia's interest in initiating ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) in improving regional security in the Southeast Asian Region?"

METHOD

This research aims to explore the dynamics of Regional Security Convergence in the Southeast Asian Region, focusing on Indonesia's Initiative in Asean Our Eyes (AOE). This research

method uses Qualitative method with literature study technique which includes references from various sources such as books, journals, newspapers, press releases, official government documents, and news websites. This literature study approach allows researchers to gather information from various sources, thus broadening the scope and deepening the analysis of the topic under study. Data were analysed descriptively through verbal explanations describing the natural context of the research subject, utilising a variety of relevant natural methods. (A. Khoirunnisa & Basri, 2020). According to Bogdan and Biklen as explained in Sugiyono's book, descriptive qualitative research methods emphasise data collection in the form of words or pictures, without prioritising the use of numbers. After the data is collected, the analysis is carried out and the results are described in a way that makes it easy to understand for the reader. (Sugiyono, 2020). This research is intended to provide an overview, describe and interpret what Indonesia's interests are in initiating ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) in improving regional security in the Southeast Asian Region. In this study the author uses Diplomacy Theory as a concept and strategy used by countries and international actors in achieving their national interests including cooperation and the formation of agreements. In this context, national interest becomes the main guide in diplomacy activities, while international agreements serve as the basis for interaction between states. Through co-operation, states can achieve common goals. These elements are important components of diplomacy that influence the dynamics of international relations at the global level.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesia as ASEAN's One-Of

Since its formation in 1967, ASEAN has endeavoured to maintain peace and stability in the region. However, regional security dynamics in the region have evolved significantly in recent years, especially with the emergence of new challenges such as terrorism threats, arms trafficking, and maritime tensions. Through dialogue, diplomacy, and enhanced security mechanisms, ASEAN continues to strive to maintain stability and peace in the region. In the face of these challenges, ASEAN has sought new ways to enhance security cooperation. The Asian security complex can be categorised as a centred great power complex, as its existence will be sustained as long as the contestation of great powers' interests continues, interdependently. The continuity of the security states of the major powers in the region is ongoing, while regional security challenges remain unresolved. (Pratama, 2015). Moreover, rapid advances in technology and knowledge have accelerated and expanded globalisation throughout the world. The changing security paradigm, as a result, must be faced by all countries without exception, taking into account their respective philosophical values, history, culture, identity, and national resources in the context of the life of the nation and state. (Darmono, 2010).

Indonesia, as one of the founding members of ASEAN, considers it important to maintain security stability in the region. As a country at the centre of Southeast Asia, Indonesia recognises that security stability is a prerequisite for sustainable economic development and deeper regional integration. Referring to one of the three pillars of ASEAN cooperation "*ASEAN Security Community*", this pillar is the foundation for political and security relations among ASEAN

countries. With the existence of this pillar, ASEAN member states continue to prioritise peace and strive to avoid political and security conflicts. ASEAN heads of state have always prioritised peaceful means of resolving differences and disputes among themselves. ASEAN leaders are also committed to creating a conducive political environment, developing norms for living together, preventing conflicts from arising among member states, and dealing with conflicts using effective mechanisms (Kominfo, 2023).

Through active participation in regional security forums such as the ADMM (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting) is a forum for ASEAN Defence Ministers to enhance defence cooperation with the aim of strengthening transparency, openness and trust among ASEAN member states. It is the highest platform for defence consultation and cooperation in ASEAN, aiming to strengthen trust through better understanding of security and defence challenges, and to enhance transparency and openness among members. (ADMM, 2024). In this regard, Indonesia seeks to promote dialogue, cooperation, and trust between ASEAN member states and external partners. Indonesia also plays a role in responding to emerging security threats, both conventional and non-conventional, such as terrorism, human trafficking, and cross-border crime. Thus, Indonesia shows its seriousness in building a safe, stable and prosperous region. In an effort to maintain security stability in ASEAN, Indonesia affirms its commitment to play a key role in maintaining peace and prosperity in the Southeast Asian region.

Information Technology Development: Challenges to Security Stability

Technology, like a double-edged blade, has a dual effect on our lives. While it helps simplify many aspects of life, it also brings negative impacts. One of them is unequal access to technology, which can create a digital divide where some individuals or communities struggle to access important digital resources. In addition, concerns about privacy are growing as cases of hacking and theft of personal data increase. Technological advances also bring cybersecurity risks, with potential threats to information systems that could be destabilising and security-wide. The development of information technology, particularly the internet and online communication media, has become a major factor in the rapid and widespread dissemination of information. However, this phenomenon also opens up opportunities for terrorist groups to spread their ideology and propaganda globally, as well as expand their network with terrorists in various countries. Due to the easy access to information and the distribution of goods through advanced technology, the characteristics of terrorism today tend to cross national and regional borders. (Janbek, 2020).

Terrorism is a serious threat to countries in the world, this is in line with what Ann E. Robertson stated in Terrorism and Global Security which explains that "terrorism can occur anywhere and anytime and is a very serious global threat". (Robertson, 2008). Each ASEAN member state has a different perception of the threat of terrorism. Terrorism in Black's Law Dictionary is defined as an act that uses violence or serious threats to threaten human life, violates criminal law, and is specifically aimed at creating fear among the civilian population, influencing government policy, or disrupting state stability by means such as kidnapping or murder (Ali, 2012). (Ali, 2012). Terrorism groups are also labelled as radicalism groups because they spread to various countries to launch provocations using Islamic ideology that they create and believe in, ideology and understanding which is then spread to people who have a lack of religious understanding or groups of people who are easily provoked. Their ideology offers the concept of peace by creating their

own state with Islamic ideology. (Subari, 2023).

The spread of radicalism and online terrorism recruitment has become one of the main challenges in combating terrorism in the digital era. With the advancement of information and communication technology, the internet has become a powerful tool for terrorist groups to recruit new members, spread propaganda, and plan their attacks. However, online terrorism recruitment is not only a threat to national security, but also a form of cyber crime that harms society at large. This activity violates the laws and policies of online platforms, and can lead to significant negative impacts, such as terrorist attacks that threaten the lives and security of citizens, as well as brainwashing and human rights abuse. (Rizkinaswara, 2021).

As a country with the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia faces complex challenges related to radicalism that fosters terrorism, potentially jeopardising the country's security and stability. Although the majority of Muslims in Indonesia practice their religion peacefully and moderately, there is a small group of radicals who interpret religion in an extreme way. Factors such as social inequality, political dissatisfaction, and influence from external radical groups can cause radicalism to emerge in Indonesia. This reinforces the existence of terrorism networks that seek to carry out attacks domestically as well as involve themselves in global terrorism networks.

In early 2016, Indonesia was the target of a terrorist attack involving bombings and shootings on Jalan M.H. Thamrin, Central Jakarta, on Thursday, 14 January 2016. This attack is said to be the first terror attack carried out openly by the perpetrators of terrorism in Indonesia. (Tempo Magazine, 18-24 January 2016 edition: 38). Police suspect that the bomb attack and brutal shooting were carried out by a group linked to the Islamic State (IS). They also suspect Bahrun Naim, an ex-convict involved in storing explosives, as the brain behind the attacks. From the attack, seven people died and 24 others were injured. Five of the seven dead were terrorists (Fitria, 2017). This highlights the role that radical ideology plays in motivating acts of terrorism. In order to demonstrate the importance of efforts to understand and respond to the threat of terrorism by taking into account the underlying ideological factors. According to Brigadier General of Police Ahmad Nur Wahid, S.E., M.M., who once served as Director of Prevention of BNPT, the public discussion 'dissecting' the teachings of radicalism, patterns of spread held at Unesa on Wednesday 7 April 2021 said that acts of terrorism are extreme behaviour, while radicalism is an ideology that is often the beginning of such acts. Radicalism has a tendency to encourage acts of terrorism, and this view can be very dangerous. The consequences can damage religious values and also the values of Pancasila. In addition, radicalism can trigger division and the spread of slander within society.
(Subari, 2023).

Radicalism in the context of terrorism refers to a view or ideology that supports the use of violence to achieve specific political, religious, or ideological goals. This can include the belief that violence is a necessary method to achieve desired changes in society or politics. This kind of radicalism often gives rise to terrorist groups that aim to cause fear, gain attention, or change the political situation through dangerous attacks. While the motivations, ideologies, and methods of these groups vary, they all have one thing in common: the use of violence or the threat of

violence as a means to achieve their goals. (Yunus, 2017).

The impact of advanced technology not only includes the spread of radicals, but also involves other phenomena such as hoaxes, hate speech, terrorism, online fraud, and cybercrime. These five threats are considered as significant challenges in the use of information technology (Rizal, 2021). These five threats occur because people are not fully careful in utilising technology, causing the internet to become a means to achieve these goals. Hoax is one form of cyber crime that is detrimental. Hoaxes are false or untrue information that is widely disseminated through social media, websites, or other online platforms with the aim of misleading or deceiving the public. As much as 92.40% of the spread of fake news mainly occurs on social media platforms, highlighting the vulnerability of communication interactions in dividing society. Currently, reading habits are still lacking when facing this phenomenon. Developments in the dissemination of news through online media have led many individuals to quickly make conclusions without making efforts to seek further information. (Juditha, 2018).

Currently, the situation of internet network abuse in Indonesia has reached an alarming level. The surge in cybercrime, also known as cyber crime, is a direct consequence of the development of information technology (IT). Although IT provides convenience to humans, it is often used as a means to commit crimes in cyberspace. (Sugeng Santoso, 2018). According to data from the World Bank and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), internet users worldwide have increased significantly in the last two decades. In 2017, about 49% of the world's population used the internet, a sharp increase from only about 6.7% in 2000.

Predictions from Internet World Stats show that by the first quarter of 2021, about 64.2% of the world's population had used the internet. The number of internet users is estimated to reach more than 5 billion people, an increase of about 1,300% from the number in 2000. (Permatasari, 2021).

The rise in the number of internet users worldwide has led to a significant increase in cyber threats and attacks. In Indonesia, the National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN) noted that in 2018 there were approximately 12.8 million cyberattacks. This figure increased dramatically to 98.2 million attacks in 2019, and then dropped to around 74.2 million attacks in 2020 (Honeynet Project Report, BSSN). The presence of cyberspace brings significant negative impacts. The ease of access to modern technology such as the internet invites irresponsible individuals to utilise cyberspace improperly. Cyberspace is often used as a platform to commit unlawful and deviant acts. As a result, losses are suffered by other parties as a result of these actions. This phenomenon also creates new and different forms of crime from the pre-existing conventional crimes. (Primawanti & Pangestu, 2020).

Therefore, the need to review the strategic arrangements used to achieve national security in Indonesia is crucial given that technological developments not only bring positive impacts of globalisation but also bring threats to national security systems, both in physical and digital aspects. Such a review is important due to the dynamic changes in the security landscape, where new challenges emerge rapidly and involve increasingly complex dimensions. (K. Khoirunnisa & Jubaidi, 2024).

Indonesia's Initiative in Maintaining Security Stability through ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE)

The long development in the study of International Relations has had a significant influence on the development of studies in the field of Diplomatic Law. Diplomatic Law is an important aspect of the study of International Relations and the two influence each other. Sir Victor Wellessley explained that diplomacy is not a policy, but rather an institution that plays a role in influencing policy. However, it is important to remember that diplomacy and policy are complementary, as they cannot stand alone without co-operation. Diplomacy cannot be separated from foreign policy, but both work together as part of executive policy, including in setting strategy, diplomacy, and tactics. (Suryokusumo, 2005).

National interest is the central principle driving the conduct of diplomacy, which recognises that states act in their interests. Treaties are important instruments in diplomacy that govern the behaviour and relationships between states, forming the basis for their interactions. In addition, co-operation is a vital strategy in achieving common goals, such as peace, security and economic development. Cooperation can involve countries in various areas of trade, security, and the environment. In this context, Indonesia as the one-of ASEAN initiated ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) because it has an interest in improving national security stability and strengthening information and intelligence sharing in preventing and countering terror networks in Southeast Asia, due to various incidents of terrorism and cyber attacks that occurred in the region, including events such as bomb explosions and the spread of global malware such as WannaCry and Fireball. Hence the need for the ability to collaborate with other countries in achieving these goals through this idea. Co-operation among ASEAN member states is needed to monitor, prevent, and mitigate the threat of terrorism and cyber-attacks more effectively. This involves information and intelligence sharing between member states to strengthen regional security. The signing of the joint statement by the defence ministers of ASEAN member states reinforced the collective commitment to AOE, affirming the importance of regional cooperation in addressing transboundary threats. Cooperation in ASEAN Our Eyes is strengthened by the joint statement by the defence ministers of ASEAN member states.

Diplomacy is one of the most crucial ways of achieving a country's national interests in the context of international relations. With diplomacy, the state builds an image and idea of itself (Hamonangan & Assegaff, 2020). (Hamonangan & Assegaff, 2020). Diplomacy is used as a soft power tool to guide the peaceful negotiation process between countries, ensuring the achievement of their goals and interests. (J.Morgenthau, 2024).. Cyber diplomacy is a diplomatic endeavour that focuses on using diplomatic resources to protect national interests in the cyber domain. It involves efforts and measures to address issues such as cybersecurity, crime in the cyber domain, building trust, safeguarding internet freedom, and organising internet management. (Barrinha & Renard, 2017). Each country has its own national interests and strategies to achieve its goals in international relations. Diplomacy is one of the important tools used to obtain the desired interests of a country, group, or individual. (K. Khoirunnisa, 2022)..

Every country has national goals to achieve, and to achieve them, they need different types of power. This power can be divided into two main categories: hard power, which mainly includes military power, and soft power, which is more related to the power of diplomacy and influence. Initially, soft power was defined as the ability to influence another party or country to follow

one's will through a series of efforts that are not violent, but more related to attraction and persuasion (Joseph S. Nye, 2008). (Joseph S. Nye, 2008). National interest itself is a generalised concept but it is very important for a country. It is a vital factor on which decision-makers formulate foreign policy. National interest encompasses goals to be achieved in the context of the needs or aspirations of a nation or state. It encompasses the needs and desires of a sovereign state in relation to other states outside its territory, which constitutes its external environment. (Plano, Jack C, 1999).

ASEAN responded to the challenge of maintaining peace and security stability in the region by recognising the importance of addressing changing national boundaries that could threaten the existence of other states. It understands that perceptions of other states' behaviour can create wariness, even threats to regional security. Therefore, ASEAN has taken cooperative measures to strengthen solidarity and cohesion within the region. In facing the increasingly adaptive and global threat of terrorism, ASEAN countries feel the need to enhance cooperation in intelligence and security. The approach taken is through diplomacy, by consolidating and strengthening solidarity within ASEAN. This is done through joint efforts in building national and regional resilience. Cooperation and assistance between countries is key in creating a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region. These principles are then translated into security cooperation that includes various programmes and initiatives to ensure stability and security in the ASEAN region.

The dissolution of national boundaries in a region has a significant impact on how states interpret the behaviour of other states. Not always perceived positively, perceptions often reflect a wary attitude towards the perceived threatening behaviour of other states. In this context, ASEAN has responded by formulating cooperative measures to maintain peace and security stability in its region. With formulations related to this include:
1) Strengthen cohesion and solidarity among ASEAN members
2) Building national and regional resilience through collaboration and assistance
3) Create a safe, free and neutral zone

This principle is then implemented through co-operation in the field of security (Sukma Sushanti, S.SI., M.Si., 2016). Every country has national interests that become the main footing in designing its international relations strategy. A country's foreign policy is closely related to its national interests. The state is the most influential party in playing a role in achieving its national interests. (Sudarsono et al., 2018). One initiative that has attracted attention is ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE), a diplomatic move initiated by Indonesia to strengthen regional security. The initiative was initiated by Indonesia's Minister of Defence, Ryamizard Ryacudu, who was inspired by the Five Eyes intelligence cooperation established by the United States. The AOE aims to enhance intelligence cooperation among ASEAN member states in order to achieve greater security stability in Southeast Asia. This is revealed in a research journal entitled "Defence Diplomacy: Intelligence Cooperation in ASEAN Our Eyes as an Enhancement of Southeast Asian Security Stability" (Bintang Ramadhan Yusuf Khadafi & Zahidi, 2023). In this context, Indonesia's role is very important. The initiative was proposed by Indonesia in 2017 and officially launched at the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines in the same year.

"ASEAN Our Eyes" is a form of Indonesia's diplomacy in enhancing national security stability that aims to strengthen intelligence cooperation between ASEAN countries in dealing with the threat of terrorism. The initiative involves information sharing, joint training, and operational coordination between intelligence agencies of ASEAN countries. Regional cooperation in countering terrorism is crucial given the transnational nature of the threat. Terrorist groups do not recognise national borders, so their handling must also be done transnationally. With Indonesia's initiative in "ASEAN Our Eyes", ASEAN countries can support each other in monitoring, analysing, and responding to terrorism threats more effectively.

The establishment of ASEAN Our Eyes is also an implementation of the concept of collective security, where countries work together to strengthen their security with the principle of sharing power in the face of collective threats. These are threats that are perceived as a common threat that can disrupt the stability and security of member states. An example is terrorism, which has become the focus of many countries' attention and resulted in a joint statement to combat it. In addition, there is also radicalism, which is considered a similar threat to terrorism. (Prajogo, 2022). Within the ASEAN Our Eyes framework, intelligence from member states collaborate to tackle the issue of terrorism through clandestine operations (Wilujeng & Risman, 2022). (Wilujeng & Risman, 2020). Such operations include investigation, surveillance, reconnaissance, information gathering, and security enhancement activities (Mujianto et al., 2020). (Mujianto et al., 2022)

Cooperation in ASEAN Our Eyes is strengthened by a joint statement by the defence ministers of ASEAN member states. This was expressed through the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in 2021, where they strongly condemned terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia and around the world, and reinforced the drive for strong collaboration between ASEAN member states as implemented through the Our Eyes Initiative.The main objective of ASEAN Our Eyes is to strengthen intelligence cooperation between ASEAN countries in order to address the threat of terrorism, extremism, and other cross-border crimes.

The "Our Eyes" initiative initiated by Indonesia has been adopted by ASEAN to strengthen information and intelligence sharing in preventing and countering terror networks in Southeast Asia. Initially, "Our Eyes" was a trilateral cooperation between Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines in the exchange of intelligence data. However, the initiative has evolved into "ASEAN Our Eyes", involving all ASEAN member states. This shows that collaborative cooperation in ASEAN can build trust among member states and be important in dealing with the threat of terrorism. Initially involving six ASEAN countries, this cooperation was later adopted by all ASEAN members because it is considered vital to face the challenge of terrorism by effectively exchanging information across countries. (Habibi, 2022). Indonesia's initiative reflects an awareness of the complexity and interconnectedness of modern security challenges that require a collaborative approach. Indonesia realises that success in dealing with security threats cannot be achieved in isolation, but rather through close regional cooperation. Thus, Indonesia's participation in ASEAN Our Eyes is not only in its national interest, but also as a long-term investment in the establishment of a stable and secure security environment in the Southeast Asian region.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia's initiative in initiating ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) in 2017 was a strategic step based on by a variety of heightened security threats, both from domestic acts of terror and global threats such as malware attacks and an increase in the Global Terrorism Index (GTI). Against this backdrop, the AOE plays an important role in strengthening intelligence cooperation in the Southeast Asian region. Through the AOE, Indonesia can access and share intelligence information to counter both internal and external threats. It also allows Indonesia to enhance domestic intelligence capacity through collaboration with neighbouring countries.

In an era of rapid development of information technology, the government must take steps to maintain regional security stability. Through the AOE, Indonesia not only enhances its domestic intelligence capacity, but also strengthens cooperation with neighbouring countries in the exchange of information, technology and best practices in intelligence. This is expected to enhance the ability to detect, prevent, and respond to varied security threats in the region. Indonesia's initiative in ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) in 2017 marked a strategic step in enhancing regional security in the Southeast Asian Region. The results of this study highlight the importance of intelligence cooperation in the context of cyber defence, accessing information that is vital to countering threats from both within and outside the country. Indonesia, as a one-off member of ASEAN, has taken proactive steps to deal with increasingly complex security challenges, including terrorism and cyber-attacks with initiatives to foster cooperation with ASEAN member states through ASEAN Oer Eyes (AOE).

Indonesia's participation in the AOE is not only limited to national interests but also aims to support regional security stability. This shows the convergence between diplomacy and national interests in maintaining security stability in the Southeast Asian region. Thus, Indonesia's initiative in AOE makes a significant contribution, in addressing the complex and evolving security challenges in the region.

By using the concept of diplomacy theory, which involves the principles and strategies applied by states and other international actors to achieve their national interests. National interests guide diplomatic action, where states act in accordance with their own interests. International agreements are an important tool in diplomacy, regulating interactions and co-operation between states. Collaboration is also key in achieving common goals such as peace, security and economic development. In this regard, Indonesia encourages the ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) initiative to enhance national security stability and strengthen information and intelligence sharing to counter terrorism and cyberattacks in Southeast Asia. Incidents of terrorism and cyber-attacks such as bombs and global malware have reinforced the need for this cooperation. ASEAN Our Eyes focuses on monitoring and preventing threats by strengthening information sharing among member states. This commitment was reinforced by the signing of a joint statement by ASEAN defence ministers, which emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in addressing cross-border threats.

As an implication of this research, it is important for Indonesia to continue to develop regional intelligence cooperation and improve domestic intelligence capacity. These measures are

expected to optimise efforts in detecting, preventing and responding to increasingly complex security threats in this digital era. Thus, Indonesia's initiative in the AOE is an appropriate and relevant step in addressing security challenges in the Southeast Asian region.

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