

# Summit Diplomacy under Jokowi Governance: Revealing the Implementation and National Interest in ASEAN Summit

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## Abstract

*The rapid development of today's era due to advancement of science and technology also the increasement of world dynamic complexity has driven ramification of diplomacy concept that promote summit diplomacy. As Jokowi reputation bolstered up since Indonesia successfulness to run G20 presidency and contribute to many summits without marginalizing diplomats' roles, the highlight discussion enhanced to practice of Indonesia summit diplomacy towards ASEAN since it always be cornerstone of Indonesia foreign policy in line with ASEAN Chairmanship 2023. Within case of ASEAN Summit and ASEAN + EU Summit in 2022 particularly, this research aimed to answer how's the implementation of Indonesia summit diplomacy under Jokowi administration which applied Ku framework of summit diplomacy by using Lamont qualitative approach. The result shown that first discussed leaders as performer, Jokowi is able to perform impressively during ASEAN summit regardless his background, Summits activities and diplomatic whereas under his leadership the summit is addressed to enhance relations and cooperation to achieve common interest with bringing Indonesia goals, media control that informed expansively the result of summit and portray Jokowi as appreciation towards his work for Indonesian and ASEAN people and last Collaborating with Other States as Joint Production reflected from Jokowi intensively encouragement that succeed enhancement of ASEAN-EU cooperation. To support this study, data is obtained from primary resources from declaration, formal report etc., with support secondary sources including textbook, articles and literature reviews. The main outcomes indicate a well implemented Jokowi's summit diplomacy that highlight national interest amidst international agenda.*

## INTRODUCTION

The successful presidency in conducting G20 leaders' summit during 15<sup>th</sup> until 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 under Jokowi administration, is considered to highlight Indonesia legacy in the eye of the world and dynamic relation of international order. The theme which promotes, "recover stronger, recover together" successfully put spotlight and bridged the world leaders in impactful discussion and designing agenda to act for solution regarding turmoil global problems (Komarudin & Fadillah, 2024). Even though G20 Summit failed to meeting up Russia and Ukraine aimed to foster in reducing the military tension and securing peace as it aimed to achieve, Jokowi visited to both warrying countries to summon the head state to attend in person, indicated the active role of Indonesia globally (Tiara & Mas'udi, 2023). In that case, the summit brought another level of triumph driven the prominent number one figure of country—president among international issue and diplomacy.

Theoretically, the work in international relations and diplomacy was done by diplomats under foreign minister control operation. Its roles as state representative to address national interest and actively practice international order through diplomacy to ensure the sustainability of peace etc., determines notable services to implement international system flow and achieve its national agenda (Rana & Kurbalija, 2008). The notion of diplomacy has been transformed due to technological revolution and dynamic of globalization era. Diplomats' autonomy also has been gradually reduced, making it more difficult to balance domestic issues with international interest (Finn, 2000). At this crucial point, scholars tend to contemplate the highest diplomacy practice done by state leaders.

Summit diplomacy type is high-level diplomacy carried out with the participation of the heads of states themselves. High-level meetings between head-to-head government meetings are one of the important phenomena international relations and global governance that surfaced along with the occurrence dynamics of international order (Zulkarnain, 2018). This side puts an important lesson on how impactful summit diplomacy as the main instrument to foster world agenda whether in field of conventional or modern IR. Thus, summit diplomacy would be rationally valued as a strategic way to succeed in international relations without defunction diplomats in implementing foreign policy.

Reflecting from Indonesia that is envisioned with principles of independence and active in conducting foreign policy, it doctrines the government to stay prominence in the international arena amidst attention to extent work into domestic sectors. It is portrayed from trend of Indonesia political leader since Soekarno until SBY era which consistently foreground Indonesia presence in foreign affairs. The outlook, "millions of friends and zero enemies" by SBY is consolidated domestic and international agenda equally which then yielded doubts and questions pragmatics at first when he handed power presidential into successor president Jokowi. In addition, Jokowi orientation of inward-looking foreign policy by promoting, "pro-people diplomacy" along with considerations into less global politics experiences are understandable to question how he would figure and brand himself as leaders in global arena (Andika, 2016; Piccone & Yusman, 2014; Wardhani & Dugis, 2023).

Despite challenges and people comments on Jokowi personal engagement into foreign affairs, Indonesia successfulness to run G20 presidency as studied by also his

grand strategy in international affairs including the concept of Global Maritime Fulcrum as studies by Simatupang (2023); proves wrong prejudice underrated towards his figure in foreign affairs; as the influences in global remained (Lai, 2022). Additionally, accomplishment of ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 under Indonesia period which amplify its important role at the stage regionally and globally as researched by Siborutorop (2024) reaffirmed Jokowi settlement in highest-level diplomacy.

As the term of summit diplomacy have yet become famous in the study of IR, and from series of studies writers have researched rarely discussed about summit policy; this paper is researching topic about summit diplomacy of Indonesia leader, Jokowi since so far we found nothing similar particularly when it get focused on ASEAN level. Therefore, the article is aimed to study summit diplomacy under Jokowi administration with specific studies on ASEAN summit.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### Understanding the Nurture of Summit Diplomacy

The importance of states in conducting international relationships is framed basically within the war and diplomacy dimension, which is organized through embassies and consulates to attach foreign policy. Kissinger (1994) defines diplomacy as, "a new world order and modern diplomacy is the balance of power between the forces of war and peace" (Berridge, 2010) reflected national and global interest in harmony. As the practice of diplomacy evolved due to the progress of science and technology, the field interest and characters of diplomacy has also been developed in which diplomats have not just been the single owner into international relations (Finn, 2000).

In line with that the origin of summit diplomacy terminology back into Cold War era. The idea of Winston Churchill who stated, "parley at the summit" as a means of easing and overcoming East-West tensions where the UK has a fundamental role in managing the cold war through series of meetings between Soviet and American leaders that became starting point for diplomacy ramification that born summit diplomacy idea. It is defined as highest-level of diplomacy that involves the leaders of state themselves working into the international system to advance agreement for action towards global problems without have to deprecate state objective and interest. The primary benefits of summit diplomacy bring together the most knowledgeable individuals on the issue concerned and guarantee the fastest outcome (Ku, 2022).

Summit diplomacy that is based on summity activities as Ku (2022) explains it to be interactions between leaders for benefits domestic and foreign people, implemented through international meeting mechanism in IR to perform logically and manage impression towards leader. Ku state there are 4 embodied based on synthesizing result concept of summit diplomacy; they are leaders as performer which emphasize presentation, negotiation and personalization presented in summit to give impression; Summity activities and diplomatic which targeting state-centered policies and negotiations through summit activities routinely; Media control as story framing to translate the result of summit in covering people perspective also Collaborating with Other States as Joint Production indicated by the successfulness of state to convey inter-state cooperation based on interest.

## METHODOLOGY

To answer the research question explained, the writer applies qualitative method to incorporate the effort of collecting data conflated with non-numerical analysis in understanding the faces of the world we live in focusing on international politics value and process are made up through comprehensive studies on events, phenomena, countries etc., (Lamont, 2015). In addition, particular case of Indonesia Summit Diplomacy is selected with the use of inductive thinking to draw up the knowledge and data compiled without testing variables or calculating to find new outcomes. It attempts to understand the phenomenon to undertake Summit Diplomacy under Jokowi administration, acknowledging the interest and implementation of it. To carry this research, data itself is collected through a series of primary sources with the relevant reports, and speeches as well as secondary sources with relevance scholar literatures including journals, peer-reviewed books and news. Data obtained then is analyzed within the frame of literature review to understand the key points and reasons.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **The ASEAN Summit as Best Practices for Indonesia**

The core principles of Indonesian foreign policy have remained consistent. This indicates that foreign policy remains autonomous and proactive, with Pancasila serving as the foundational ideal and the 1945 Constitution as the constitutional framework. Indonesia's foreign policy is guided by Concentric Circles, positioning ASEAN as a main pillar to advance national interests along showcasing its role in international relations (Rafaldhanis, 2023). As Indonesia is striving to enhance its stature and impact to resolve regional and international challenges, Indonesia actively participate in some of organizations and forums in which ASEAN become significant platform to address Indonesia leadership (Abdurofiq et al., 2024). For Indonesia ASEAN is more than customary organization but reflection of harmonize relations that integrated each member to become family.

Indonesia significant influences towards ASEAN's vision and objectives, contribute to maintain regional southeast Asian integration, security, and stability. Participation of Indonesia for ASEAN encompass the initiator and organizer the institutional that actively promotes dialogue, resolves conflicts, and promotes peaceful resolutions among ASEAN members and actualize to one community. Another noteworthy evidence on how Indonesia-ASEAN are bound firmly is ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta. The building resulted from Indonesia hosting to ASEAN first Summit 1976 and diplomacy capacity of government in reaching consensus of ASEAN members states (Abdurofiq et al., 2024). Indonesia involvement is considered extraordinary for ASEAN. It is also entrusted to host various ASEAN Summit learnt from the Indonesia's success to run ASEAN main and first summit. Adapted from the ASEAN official portal, The ASEAN Summit is the paramount policy-making entity within ASEAN, consisting of the Heads of State or Government of ASEAN Member States. The summit is implemented biannually at designated time under the one of members chairmanship. ASEAN Summit would be best practice to start and realized Indonesia summit diplomacy.

## **Jokowi's at ASEAN Summit: What is inside Practice and National Interest**

President Jokowi presence at Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh to attend the 40th and the 41st ASEAN Summit. This summit specifically conducted to meet up leaders of ASEAN that would focus on discussing regional challenges and sharing strategies to resolve matters. Strong commitment and affirmation effort to sustain peace, security, and stability-oriented value among ASEAN countries relations, the summit once more acknowledged practice of regional integration for ASEAN resilience via community building and development. To understand, Jokowi presences himself as the head of state went on directly mark crucial issue that concern for Indonesia particularly when it has been selected to hold chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023. He is responsible to assure the chairmanship is running well under promoted outlook themes is, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth". Jokowi open statement regarding navigation of Indonesia chairmanship as written below:

*"It is our hope that ASEAN will remain vital and relevant (ASEAN matters). It is also our hope that Southeast Asia will still be an epicentrum of growth. Indeed, it is not an easy task considering that global challenges will be enormous in 2023. Moreover, ASEAN also faces internal issue related to Myanmar's situation."*

It showed how ASEAN really matter for Indonesia and it being part of Indonesia interest to light up this integrational organization. Its fundamental role and contribution not only impacted ASEAN members strengthened relations not only in handling multidimensional problems including food and financial crises, climate change, unemployment but also bolster its institutional relevance in part of world system. Aside that, through that summit Indonesia is able to pursue priority development agenda of it owns particularly impacting its advancement in tourism and economic sector Click or tap here to enter text. The successful of ASEAN as regional integration of Southeast Asian impacts the development in Indonesia. Thus, fairly it is understandable why the summit poses fundamental roles and needs attendance of ASEAN leaders not only their representatives. Strong determination to give best for ASEAN annual summit and joined by members presidents is reflecting the principle of summit diplomacy done by President Jokowi.

Rethinking of Indonesia participation in ASEAN Summit 2022 just year before its chairmanship is examined not only effort to maintain the principle and activity of country foreign policy in which Indonesia is committed to ASEAN since the beginning and one of its founders, but also adaptive approach to achieve current national interest under Jokowi administration to strengthen the role and actively participated Indonesia in international affair. In addition, the strategy of Jokowi diplomacy to attend and handle the handover of ASEAN chairmanship from Cambodia among the business of preparing the G20 summit resulted to increase the respect and show off the full commitment of Indonesia as presidency and put higher Indonesia reputation and readiness in leading the world actively to cooperatively look for solution on world problems faced. And as country which believed to hold and host ASEAN Summit 2023, the decision of receiving the transfer symbol by himself, Jokowi could be considered to fulfil his obligation to witness and learn from the success and little failure of this ASEAN Summit to become revised under Indonesia chairmanship. Therefore, Indonesia ability to present for

ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 proved by its positive contribution during summit year before alternately catapult its leadership to expand influences regionally and globally which then put an eye into Jokowi figure as leader himself which is framed successfully to align regional and domestic interest that impress domestic and international audiences.

In the ASEAN Summit 2022, President Joko Widodo underlined the importance of the maximum efforts of ASEAN countries to maintain ASEAN unity and centrality. Jokowi emphasize the relevance of ASEAN to remains and adheres into the ASEAN charter and resolves the crisis in Myanmar. He also stated that ASEAN leaders must interpret it concretely, because ASEAN's credibility and relevance depend on ASEAN's unity and centrality. There were three important points conveyed by President Joko Widodo in the plenary session, namely pushing for the full implementation of the ASEAN Charter, strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of ASEAN institutions, and strengthening ASEAN's role in creating a resilient region. These actions represent summity activities and diplomatic which targeting state-centered policies and negotiations through summit activities to enhance collaboration intra-ASEAN members to drive the relevance and importance of ASEAN body exist. This orientation is emphasized by Jokowi statement quoted via Voice of Indonesia:

*“All these challenges can only be faced if ASEAN is united and strong. The question is, have each of us made every effort to maintain ASEAN's image and centrality? I don't want the unity and centrality of ASEAN to just be an empty mantra”*

Jokowi's disclosure which is informed spready by VOI added his leadership value. VOI framing into news about Jokowi participation in summit under slogan, “Jokowi Emphasizes the Spirit of ASEAN Unity and Centrality, Not a Blank Mantra.” Click or tap here to enter text. shown embedded ASEAN community in showing and promoting Indonesia prestigious as well as Jokowi reputation during the whole summit and his readiness to chair ASEAN leadership.

Reflecting from summit implementation by ASEAN members are able to put on the table challenges they are facing that will take concern ASEAN as whole integrated institution. VOI as media In line with this, the coordinating minister for Airlangga said that issues related to food, energy, health, and finance were priority issues discussed at the ASEAN Economic Community Council under the umbrella of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). Going forward, the framework will broaden its scope so that it remains relevant in facing global challenges. Indonesia will carry initiatives related to food security, energy, and financial stability as part of the economic priorities of Indonesia's Chair in ASEAN 2023. It provides platform to address national interest to become insightful discussion whereas strategies and realization consensus as well as agreement impacting and reaching ASEAN member states interest.

Aside, ASEAN Summit 2022 that reflect the actualization of summit diplomacy of current president of Indonesia, Jokowi—ASEAN EU Summit after, in which the president gave his speech on December 14<sup>th</sup> emphasizing and calling the principle of further ASEAN and European Union partnership based on mutually and equally is also activity of summit diplomacy attended by President Jokowi. He believes that Southeast Asia has become an economic powerhouse for the last few decades, and he predicts Southeast Asia will remain a center of growth then the partnership with ASEAN will certainly be profitable referred to best economic opportunities. On top of that, during

this summit, Jokowi considered and encouraged the EU leader to sustain and maintain partnership with ASEAN member countries to accelerate the achievement of these opportunities.

The leader of Indonesia emphasized that the good relation between ASEAN and EU must be strengthened since EU is one of the strategic partners of ASEAN particularly in economic—trade and foreign direct investment. The trade value between ASEAN and EU in 2021 reached USD268.9 billion, confirming its position as the top three after China and the USA. As what Jokowi explained that foreign direct investment of the EU to ASEAN amounting to USD26 billion in 2021 the second largest FDI after China, making EU prominence for ASEAN. Thus, improving and strengthening good relations between ASEAN and EU. Specifically, the Head of State also hoped that the trade and investment relation between Indonesia and EU also continue to increase.

Further, President Jokowi speech at the European Union - ASEAN Commemorative Summit emphasize closely cooperation between EU and ASEAN should remain inclusive and sustainable amidst the nickel-related tensions between Indonesia and the European Union. In his speech, Jokowi expressed his views on the EU deforestation regulation proposal, which he feared would create obstacles. Jokowi also urged for more policies that help accommodate trade and investment that are expected to contribute to developing an inclusive economic recovery.

*"Indonesia wishes to underline the fact that developments that have added value and inclusivity will help support the world's economic resilience. In this case, Indonesia will continue to build our downstream industry,"* said Jokowi

The second notable aspect of the President's speech was the energy transition. Jokowi believed that the ASEAN-EU partnership must result in a greener and more sustainable future. Jokowi also applauded the EU's support for the Bali Energy Transition Roadmap produced by the G20 Summit that was held back in November in Bali. Jokowi's statement comes in the middle of the current awkward relations between Indonesia and the European Union's nickel export ban WTO lawsuit. As reported by Nada (2022) Jokowi calls for urgency to mutually partnership and agreement between ASEAN-EU members also his concise to focusing common problems faced. News spread about summit activities by the media once more coverage an appreciation towards Jokowi leadership and value his figure for Indonesian and ASEAN as whole.

The news also delivered Indonesia interest to maintain and strengthened relationship with EU under ASEAN community platform which is considered as strategic way to deal with lately tension between Indonesia and EU when it comes into nickel and other mines trading internationally and implicitly ban the export of Indonesia mining with consideration of environmental degradation. National interest upfolded by Jokowi as his strategic performance shown off from his keynote speech and participation both ASEAN own Summit and plus with EU explained the relevance based on summit diplomacy theory.

## CONCLUSION

Based on explanations above, it can be concluded that President Jokowi is actively participating and doing summit diplomacy during his reign of administration as head state of Indonesia. Summit diplomacy which is understood as the highest level of diplomacy that is measured through four components leaders as performer, summity

activities and diplomatic, media control and collaborating with Other States as Joint Production practically shown off under Jokowi leadership. His contribution in summit activities of ASEAN 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Summit 2022, ASEAN-EU 45<sup>th</sup> Summit 2022 also ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 are highlighting the excellent practice tend to promote Indonesia act of summit diplomacy. His intention to keep up national and regional interest during the summit encourages more state actors to come up with collaboration and benefits all are relevant with the component of collaboration which emphasize achievement and result of the summit. Jokowi prominent figures including purse EU members to enhance cooperation with ASEAN and put national interest within ASEAN framework as it always been main cornerstone of Indonesia foreign policy defines his leadership performance and contribution. Moreover, the implementation of Indonesia summit diplomacy through ASEAN circle is framed extensively within positive alignment and goals delivered by the president via news media coverage of people perspectives both Indonesian and ASEAN onto way to respon Jokowi involvement in ASEAN summit diplomacy. The acknowledgement of Jokowi capacity and performance to deepen ASEAN summit value and responsibility chairing ASEAN presidency is just another concreate action into doubtless of his background with less of international relations experiences, skills and knowledge. Therefore, this article concludes that, Indonesia summit diplomacy within ASEAN summity is harmonize implemented along with strong commitment to pursue national and regional benefits at one time could be one of significant gain for Indonesia foreign affairs vigorously.

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