

Indonesian Mediation in ASEAN
A Case Study of Peace-building in the Preah Vihear Temple Border Conflict between
Thailand and Cambodia

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Southeast Asia is a region that has complex problems in security issues, especially issues related to territory and national borders. Indonesia, as one of the core member countries in The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), has a national goal of maintaining world peace, including in the region. However, one of the strong criticisms of ASEAN is the principle of "non-interference" in the domestic affairs of member countries which has evolved a unique way of achieving regional peace by deliberating for consensus.

The study highlights the role of ASEAN as a facilitator for peaceful dispute resolution in Southeast Asia. It emphasizes the organization's potential to prevent conflicts from escalating and promote regional stability. The lessons learned from the Indonesian-led mediation efforts in the Preah Vihear Temple dispute can serve as a valuable reference for future peace-building initiatives within ASEAN and beyond.

The results of this research showed a strong correlation between the factors of national stability and strong leadership for Indonesia in reducing and mediating conflict in the two case studies. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's (SBY) government succeeded in ending the border conflict involving Thailand and Cambodia. The style of bilateral, multilateral diplomacy and the ability of the foreign ministers in the SBY era were the reasons for successful diplomacy. On the other hand, ASEAN chairmanship is also essential in providing access to communication with member countries and larger organizations.

In conclusion, this case study provides insights into the dynamics of Indonesian-led peacebuilding in the ASEAN context, offering a deeper understanding of the Preah Vihear Temple border conflict and the constructive role played by Indonesia in resolving it. The success of this mediation process demonstrates the potential for peaceful conflict resolution within regional organizations, fostering stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Keywords: ASEAN, Indonesia, Peace-building, Preah Vihear Temple.