

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

The Breakdown of International Economic Activities: The Pathways of Global Uncertainty

Editorial Team

Relationships within the international system are multifaceted, encompassing economic, political, social, and cultural domains. Globalization promotes the establishment of international economic networks. International economic relations are the economic exchanges that take place between different countries and the global economy as a whole. The dynamics of International economic activity driven by many activities, such as trade, investment, finance, and technology. Thus, in this edition of Journal Global Focus (JGF) Vol. 3 No. 1 is dedicated to unpacking the dynamics of international economic issues. the six articles published in this edition with different point of view and case study.

The first article is entitled "*The Dynamics of Inter-firm Cooperation within Global Business*" by Rochdi Mohan Nazala, University of Gadjah Mada. The dynamics of inter-firm collaboration practices during the previous three centuries are the topic of this study. In this regard, the author of the article concludes that after 1945, there was a shift in the strategic aims of cooperation into a more competitive orientation - previously employing a cooperative capitalist system. Prior to 1945, industrial alliances were focused at raising profits through market division, hence they functioned similarly to cartels. This structure, however, was eventually called into doubt by libertarians, who began to flourish after 1945. The shift in economic relations led by the United States and its allies stressed a more competitive corporate model while enacting restrictions to avoid cooperative abuses. Thirty years later, in the 1980s, the cooperative business system reappeared, this time with a focus on innovation and technological development.

The second article is entitled *“A New Lighthouse on the Horizon: The Emergence of ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”* by Abel Josafat Manullang and Raden Agung Wicaksono, University of Padjajaran. This article explains that strategic partnership (CSP) was able to increase ASEAN's prestige and centrality in the Indo-Pacific region amidst bad perception about China which was suspected of deliberately steering this Southeast Asian regional organization for the interests of its country only. On the other hand, this article also explores a number of challenges that may be faced by ASEAN in line with the current tight competition. However, even so, there is a chance for its own improvement for ASEAN to expand its wings.

The third article is entitled *“Saudi Arabia's Efforts to Maintain Global Oil Supply In The Persian Gulf”* by Muhammad Nur Rizky and Haryo Prasodjo from University of Muhammadiyah Malang. This article describes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's efforts to maintain global oil supply through both military and non-military means. The military efforts of Saudi Arabia involve their decision joining the US-led maritime coalition to conduct sentinel operations and also conduct the Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF) exercises in the Persian Gulf, while non-military efforts include holding emergency meetings with Gulf countries to raise awareness of the need for serious efforts to protect shipping in the region, following attacks on two Saudi oil tankers and drone attacks on oil facilities in Saudi cities of Kurais and Abq.

The fourth article is entitled *“Ekspansi Fast Fashion Lewat Jaringan Produksi Global”* by Yusuf Fadillah Tirta Kusumah, Arfin Sudirman, and Deasy Silyya Sari. This article explains on the impact of capital expansion and fast fashion on labor absorption in West Java is highly relevant to global economic development. This article delves into the intricate workings of the fast fashion industry and its global production network, providing insight into the economic impact it has on the absorption of labor in the region. By using the concept of Capital Expansion, this article highlights the role that capitalism plays in driving economic growth and

promoting investment in developing countries like Indonesia. The findings of this study suggest that the fast fashion production network has the potential to reduce unemployment and increase economic productivity in West Java, thereby helping Indonesia compete with other developing countries in the global market. It is crucial for policymakers and industry leaders to take note of the impact of the fast fashion industry on labour absorption in West Java and to implement measures that ensure sustainable and equitable economic growth in the region.

The fifth article is entitled *“Tracking the Money: The Case of 1MDB Scandal”* by Rizqi Shafira Chairunnisa, Lana Shabrina, Julia Rahma, and Zaidan Allaam. This article explains on how transnational crime and money laundering is highly significant for understanding the complexities of the global financial system. With the UN estimating that billions of dollars are laundered each year, it is evident that this is a pervasive issue that affects many countries, including Malaysia. Malaysia's open economy and strategic location make it particularly vulnerable to money laundering threats, as evidenced by its high-risk rating by the Basel Institute of Governance. This paper presents a detailed case study of the 1MDB corruption scandal in Malaysia, offering insights into the models and conditions that allow money laundering to thrive in authoritarian regimes.

The last article on this volume is entitled *“The US Foreign Policy Toward China During Trump Administration”* by Yuliannova Lestari and Fardana Kusumah from Central China Normal University. This article explains about the US Foreign Policy's strategy on the Asia-Pacific region toward China. It highlights the contrast between Obama policy's style that is more engaging, and the more combative approach that adopted by Trump including Trans-Pacific Partnership rejection, imposing tariffs on Chinese exports that led to trade war between the two countries, and his attempt to halt Huawei's 5G Network. This article tries to see how the Trump administration wanted to pursue the same goal as Obama but with a different

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approach. Trump also tried to implement his idealism about putting “America First” on his administration style. This led to Trump persuade other nations to join America in opposing China.

Furthermore, we encouraged additional academics and researchers to submit their paper to JGF to improve the discussion of International Relations. As the world continues due to the globalization an exchange of opinion and ideas is needed. We are certain that JGF will continue to be a vital resource for both researchers and practitioners, and we look forward to the journal's future development. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the development of JGF. We wish the journal can move ahead in the next publication.

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