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NEWSLETTER



The Last of SEAN-CSO 2022

- Indonesian Women Ulama Congress (KUPI) II - 2022: Affirming the Roles of Women Ulama in Peace
- **Content Contributor:** Calvin Khoe (Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia) and Elyzabeth Bonethe Nasution (Pelita Harapan University, Indonesia)
- **Member Highlights:** Pakigdait Inc., (The Philippines), Institute for Autonomy and Governance (The Philippines)
- Funding Opportunities
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023 from SEAN-CSO!





Introduction

SEAN-CSO's journey in 2022 has finally come to an end. We have successfully informed, equipped, and empowered societies in Southeast Asia to learn more about P/CVE. Through the total of 1 workshop, 6 campaign topics, 6 interviews, 6 webinars, 13 webinar speakers, and 7 member highlights, we have engaged ourselves with the audience, and our members itself.

However, this is not the end of SEAN-CSO's journey. We still have many things to serve you in years to come. To close our journey this year, this newsletter will include KUPI article, member highlights, content contributor's article, and funding opportunities.



Indonesian Women Ulama Congress (KUPI) II - 2022: Affirming the Roles of Women Ulama in Peace



KUPI is a groundbreaking movement of Indonesian women ulama that aims to build an Islamic civilisation that treats women and men equally. KUPI takes place every five years, starting in 2017. This year, one of the themes covered is the role of women in maintaining peace from the dangers of violence in the name of the state is one of the themes of discussion. In general, women are associated only as victims of violent extremism, even though in recent years, women have become perpetrators of violent extremism.

Therefore, the thematic discussions at the KUPI's international and national sessions try to affirm the role of women as peacebuilders and how to engage religion against threats of violent extremism. Furthermore, according to one of KUPI initiators, Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah (AMAN Indonesia), the event aims to raise the standard for the global movement of women clerics. Hence, the international session invites representatives from 31 countries to jointly discuss how women's peacebuilding efforts

can use religion to promote gender justice and social peace in Muslim-majority countries.

At the international conference at Semarang, three speakers shared their views on methodology and their own experiences regarding peacebuilding from a woman's perspective. Two speakers from Indonesia, Misbah Zulfa Elizabeth and Inayah Rochmaniyah (UIN Sunan Kalijaga and Walisongo), discuss the methodology, which focuses on the inclusive reading of religious and intellectual resources. The third speaker, Hamsatu Allamin (Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development Nigeria), shares about the lack of education and credible voices from women and men ulama as having contributed to the radicalisation of youth in rural areas. If KUPI can offer a way to reinforce the importance of religious and intellectual education, she believes extremist movements can diminish.

Meanwhile, the national congress at Jepara has three sessions: thematic discussion, pre-discussion and discussion results presentation. The theme of the role of women in protecting the country from the dangers of religious extremism was attended by representatives of the government, non-governmental organisations, and academics both domestically and abroad. Various arguments from women who were directly present in the thematic discussions expressed concerns about the lack of economic support for women at the grassroots countering violent extremist groups narration that holds youths in rural areas of West Nusa Tenggara.

KUPI board members collect various concerns and inputs from its participants to be discussed in their discussion session. The result for the subject of women and violent extremism is as follows: 1) KUPI declares that it is compulsory for every citizen to defend Indonesia from the threats of extremism in the name of religion, 2) It is forbidden for government institutions, civilians, social and religious organisations to marginalise the role of women that can cause violent extremism in Indonesia, 3) Declares all parties are responsible for any kinds of violence in the name of religion, especially the state and its authorities, religious and social institutions, business, civil society, family and media.

KUPI received a good reception from several participants and observers interviewed on the event's final day. First, a teacher and women ulama herself as one of the respective participants, named Siti Sadira (56, from Pesantren Muslimin Indonesia Center Samarinda), finds that the KUPI event is crucial as it provides space to address social issues through an Islamic lens. While Muhammad Ammar (University of Queensland), as an academic scholar, appreciates what KUPI did for addressing violence against women from the perspective of women ulama into the light as it has not been generally spoken about. In the last segment, Alfi Ramadhani (Mitra Wacana), an observer from CSO, said that not just discussing gender equality, KUPI managed to bring over social issues that resonate with women, especially protection towards women against violence.



Content Contributor

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed below are those of the authors.



Image: Left to right: Calvin Khoe & Elyzabeth Nasution

Prevention and Counter-Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia: Is Cyber-Terrorism the Blind Spot?

Author: Calvin Khoe (*Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia*)

Southeast Asia was known as a region of conflict 50 years ago because there were many wars in the region. Since the formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 1967, the region has gradually found stability and peace. However, the twenty-first century introduced a new threat to the region: terrorism and violent extremism. Read more of this article on our website www.sean-cso.org.

Peace from Below: A Glimpse to Youth and Peace Project

Author: Elyzabeth Nasution (*Pelita Harapan University, Indonesia*)

Perhaps the most common things to witness in Indonesian style of democracy are religious conflict and violent action that follows the aftermath of the conflict. Across the country from burning churches in Aceh province to Poso riots, Indonesia is flooded with rigorous conflict and violence. Some might say that these are the consequences of the old government of the New Order; others might claim that this series of struggles are part of our democracy learning process. Whatever the explanation, it is clear that democracy is questionable; is it truly the best form of government? The paper proposes that every form of government has its own merits; however, democracy appears to be the most beneficial although it comes with a price. Indonesia is indeed democratic, though the dominating top-down system seems to be still in existence. The paper depicts collective violence in Indonesia since the downfall of the New Order up until the Reformation era. It then explains the causes of collective violence and finally provides realistic suggestions and recommendations for us—the government and the people—to accommodate these conflicts and violence. The paper suggests that political violence and religiously motivated attacks are treatable—if not avoidable—and peace education is imperative to accommodate them. Read more of this article on our website www.sean-cso.org.



Member Highlights

Pakigdait, Inc.

The Philippines



Pakigdait Incorporated is one of the SEAN-CSO members based in Mindanao, Philippines. The word 'Pakigdait' itself means 'Compassion' in the local language, which mirrors Pakigdait's identity as an organization. Pakigdait is an interfaith grassroots peacebuilding organization in Northern Mindanao that has been working for over 12 years. This organization engaged in conflict transformation, peace advocacy, interfaith dialogue, cultural sensitivity and

peace-anchored community development. Currently, Pakigdait is working on a few projects. First, they are addressing the former returnees of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and helping them process their transformation. They also have a project with another organization, the Asia Foundation, regarding social preparation for Muslim-Christian Dialogue in the context of Marawi rehabilitation. Last but not least, Pakigdait also focused on the issue of women, peace, and security.

Institute for Autonomy and Governance

The Philippines



Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG)

is the leading policy centre on government and human security. IAG

has core principles for

asserting indigenous peoples' rights and performance, women, and other stakeholders. Not only that, but IAG also tried to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and pluralism for sustainable peace and development. Based in Mindanao, The Philippines, IAG's mission is to engage with society, leaders, and institutions in capacity building, dialogue, and knowledge production. Therefore, it would be used to

produce evidence-based public policies and sustainable peace and development.

For their work, IAG is currently working on a few projects. First, they are researching the issue of addressing the rise of violent extremism to inform the policymakers in the Philippines. They are doing research by looking at the madrasah system and finding the answer regarding the factors of youth's vulnerability to violent extremism. Second, IAG is helping the security sector understand how to treat those who have been suspected and/or convicted of violent extremism. The security sector is expected to be able to rehabilitate and bring the convicted back on track to the Philippines society.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!



Dear SEAN-CSO members,

We wish you a merry christmas and happy new year! May the new year bring us happiness and peace.

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Funding Opportunities

Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Digital Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Models

▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-CSDM3

2023 GCSP Prize for Transformative Futures in Peace and Security

▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-GCSP202

CCP Fellowships: Strengthening Civil Societies

▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-IFACCPFellowship

2023 Hansen Leadership Institute

▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-Hansen2023

Call for Papers: 2023 International Conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-ICERM2023

Synergy in Harmony

Walk together for a better world



This update has been brought to you by SEAN-CSO in collaboration with Peace Generation Indonesia.

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