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Building Regional Readiness: Indonesia's Leadership in Enhancing AHA Centre's Disaster Response Capabilities

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Abstract

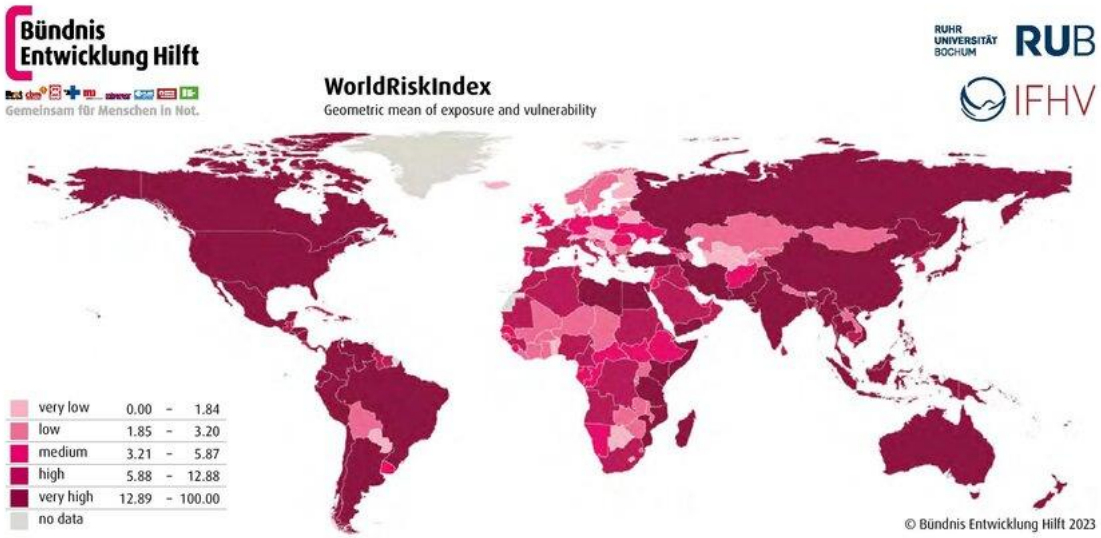
This study assesses public perception of broadcast media coverage of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Adamawa State, Nigeria. Employing a survey research design, data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to a sample size of 400 respondents, drawn from a population of 2,196,566. Perception theory served as the theoretical framework, offering insights into how the public interprets and evaluates media content. The findings reveal that 69% of respondents identified talk shows as the most prominent form of broadcast programming used in the coverage, followed by political music jingles. Additionally, the public perceived broadcast media to have employed mild and non-inciting frames and to have maintained objectivity in their reportage of INEC's conduct during the election. The study concludes that public perception of broadcast coverage was largely favorable, attributing this to the media's professional and impartial approach, which in turn fostered public trust. It recommends that broadcast media continue to employ balanced and non-provocative frames when reporting on electoral matters. Furthermore, the government is urged to implement policies that ensure media security, particularly during the coverage of sensitive electoral processes, to sustain positive public engagement and trust.

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Keywords: Broadcast Coverage; Election; Public Perception; INEC; Media Objectivity

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. According to the World Risk Index 2023 published by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and Ruhr University Bochum, Indonesia ranks 38th out of 193 countries, with a high disaster risk level due to geological exposure, social vulnerability, and limited adaptive capacity (AHA Centre, 2024). Located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia is highly vulnerable to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, and landslides.



Picture 1 World Risk Index

As the largest country in ASEAN, Indonesia bears not only the responsibility of strengthening its national disaster management capacity, but also plays a strategic role in enhancing regional preparedness. A key regional mechanism is the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), established in 2011 to coordinate swift and integrated disaster response among ASEAN member states(AHA Centre, 2018).

Indonesia's leadership in the AHA Centre is reflected through its active contribution in terms of personnel, funding, and policy diplomacy. Hosting the AHA Centre headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia remains a principal contributor to the Centre's

operations and to the development of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) (AHA Centre, 2019). Through defense and humanitarian diplomacy, Indonesia supports the capacity building of ASEAN countries in managing transboundary disasters.

To analyze the effectiveness of Indonesia's leadership in fostering regional preparedness, this article applies the theoretical framework of Security Community (Karl Deutsch) and the Norm Life Cycle (Finnemore & Sikkink). The security community theory emphasizes the importance of mutual trust and shared norms that enable countries to address issues peacefully, including disaster management. Meanwhile, the norm life cycle theory explains how new norms such as regional disaster resilience are promoted by norm entrepreneurs, internalized by regional actors, and eventually institutionalized through a norm cascade.

Literature Review

These findings are also remarkably consistent with a significant body of existing literature that highlights the growing importance of regional organizations in global governance, particularly in addressing complex, non-traditional security issues such as disaster management (Interpreter, 2020).Such organizations often serve as indispensable platforms for multilateral cooperation, especially when global responses might be too unwieldy or insufficient to address localized yet widespread challenges. Studies on ASEAN's unique brand of regionalism, characterized by the "ASEAN Way" of consensus-building and non-interference, often acknowledge its limitations but also frequently emphasize the significant role played by larger member states in driving integration and policy development (ANTARA, 2024)This research specifically elaborates on this point, detailing precisely how Indonesia, as the largest country in ASEAN, strategically leverages its considerable influence and resources to concretely build regional preparedness. This granular analysis complements broader conceptual analyses of ASEAN's institutional development by providing a vivid, real-world case study of a specific functional area. For example, the strong emphasis on joint training, information sharing protocols, and standardized response mechanisms resonates deeply with prior research on capacity building in humanitarian assistance and disaster response(Larosa, 2017). The move towards common operational procedures, while challenging, reflects global best practices in humanitarian coordination. Similarly, the persistent focus on policy harmonization across

diverse national contexts underscores the intricate diplomatic efforts and sustained political will required for achieving true regional coherence in crisis management. Critically, the challenges identified in this research – such as persistent disparities in national capacities, varying levels of political commitment across diverse member states, and the complexities of data integration – also echo concerns consistently raised in previous assessments of regional cooperation, including the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook 2021 and analyses by scholars like Gaillard & Mercer, reaffirming the persistent nature of these obstacles despite progress. The study further aligns with arguments that effective regional disaster management requires not just technical capabilities but also strong political will and shared understanding among member states (Peterson, 2020), both of which Indonesia has actively fostered.

Theoretical Framework

Security Community (Karl Deutsch)

The Security Community theory, as proposed by Karl Deutsch, posits that a foundation of mutual trust and shared norms is paramount for a region to develop into a community capable of resolving conflicts peacefully. Deutsch argued that such a security community materializes when a group of states or political actors internalizes the expectation that all disputes, regardless of their nature, will be settled without recourse to violence, instead relying on dialogue or established institutional mechanisms(MINDEF Singapore, 2019). This form of community is fundamentally characterized by several key elements: high levels of interaction and intensive communication among its members, fostering continuous understanding and coordination; the presence of shared norms and values that cultivate a robust collective identity among the participating states; and crucially, a deep-seated trust and solidarity that effectively minimizes the potential for armed force, even when addressing complex, non-traditional security challenges such as large-scale disaster management.In the context of regional disaster management, this theory is relevant because it underscores that the success of cross-national collaboration heavily depends on building trust and establishing shared norms and practices that enable coordinated and peaceful collective responses(Gustavsson, 2016) .

Norm Life Cycle (Finnemore & Sikkink)

The Norm Life Cycle theory, developed by Finnemore and Sikkink, provides a comprehensive framework for understanding how novel norms are adopted and

subsequently internalized by various actors at both international and regional levels. This developmental process unfolds in three primary stages. It begins with Norm Emergence, where new norms are initially introduced by norm entrepreneurs—influential actors who champion specific issues, framing them as shared concerns. An example of this would be advocating for increased regional disaster resilience. Following this initial acceptance, the process moves into the Norm Cascade stage(Pangestika, 2017). Here, a widespread adoption occurs as other actors begin to integrate and adapt their policies to align with the newly established norm. This phase is heavily influenced by social pressure and a collective desire for conformity, driving broader acceptance. Finally, the norm reaches Norm Internalization. At this stage, the norm becomes deeply embedded within the routine practices, established behaviors, and foundational institutions of the region(Larosa, 2017). By this point, the norm is widely accepted, taken for granted, and rarely questioned. In the context of regional disaster management, this norm life cycle clearly illustrates how the concept of regional disaster resilience progresses from an initial idea, through its adoption by member states, and ultimately into a fully integrated component of regional policies and institutional frameworks.Applying both theories to the study of regional disaster management reveals that building a security community requires not only shared trust and norms but also a social process through which new norms (such as regional disaster resilience) are promoted, diffused, and internalized by members of the community. This theoretical combination enables research to trace the social and institutional transformations involved in developing and sustaining collective, peaceful capacities in the region to face disasters.

In this context, Indonesia acts as a norm entrepreneur by promoting disaster preparedness through joint training, information sharing, simulation exercises, and the development of ASEAN's early warning systems(AHA Centre, 2020). By advancing norms of resilience and collaboration, Indonesia leads not only through technical initiatives but also by shaping ASEAN's collective identity as a disaster-resilient community.

METHODS

In this research, the researcher employs the qualitative research method as proposed by Christopher Lamont. According to Lamont, qualitative research methods in international relations aim to explain the differences in sources and the tools used for data

collection, with analysis presented in both statements and written form. Qualitative research is typically conducted to gain a deeper understanding of events, phenomena, countries, regions, organizations, or specific individuals (Lamont, 2015).

The researcher will utilize qualitative research methods to enhance understanding of Indonesia's leadership in enhancing the AHA Centre's disaster response capabilities. By employing qualitative research, this study aims to address the research questions in greater detail, utilizing data that subsequently lead to analysis or written statements. Data collection and observation are central to linking existing phenomena with the theories and concepts applied in this research.The data collection techniques used in this study will include interviews, document-based research, and internet-based research(Taufik & Pratiwi, 2021). In the interview technique, the research will involve interviewing individuals who are believed to be involved or have clear and in-depth knowledge about Indonesia's leadership role in the AHA Centre and regional disaster response.

For the document-based research technique, data will be collected through documents and archives such as agreements, reports from official entities, policies, legislation, and media reports (Lamont, 2015, p. 80), which will then be categorized into primary and secondary sources. The primary document sources for this research will be original documents related to Indonesia's contributions to the AHA Centre, such as policy papers, operational reports, and joint training materials. Meanwhile, secondary documents will be used to analyze primary documents in relation to the theories and concepts employed in this study.

In the internet-based research technique, the researcher will access online resources to gather data such as academic journals, articles, and news reports to gain alternative insights into specific phenomena. Data obtained from the internet must undergo re-validation, as the internet offers a wide range of information, and therefore, the sources used must be factual and reliable (Lamont, 2015, pp. 87-88).

The subjects of this research are the actors directly involved in the implementation and capacity building of the AHA Centre, particularly from Indonesia. The main subjects include officials from the BNPB, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Indonesian representatives at the AHA Centre. Additionally, other subjects may include disaster management officials and diplomats from other ASEAN member states actively participating in AHA Centre initiatives. These subjects were chosen because they play a key

role in the implementation of AHA Centre initiatives and can provide in-depth insights into how this cooperation functions, the challenges faced, and Indonesia's contributions to the forum.

The object of this research is Indonesia's leadership role within the AHA Centre as part of efforts to strengthen regional disaster response capacity. This study will examine the cooperation mechanisms employed by Indonesia, the initiatives it has spearheaded, and their impact on collective disaster preparedness in the Southeast Asian region.

Data collection will involve various activities, including in-depth interviews, literature reviews, and document studies. Primary data will be obtained through interviews, utilizing an interview guide as the instrument. The method for acquiring primary data involves conducting in-depth interviews with designated research informants. To select these informants, the researcher will employ purposive sampling, which involves identifying individuals who meet specific criteria relevant to the study. Purposive sampling is a sampling method based on certain indicators. In other words, this approach entails selecting individuals who are believed to have knowledge and understanding of the research subject, thereby facilitating the research process.

The interview techniques used will include structured and semi-structured interviews, meaning that the researcher will prepare an interview guide in advance of the discussions. Regarding the collection of secondary data, this will be conducted through a literature review of sources such as books, journals, news articles released by relevant agencies, government documents, regulations, and other pertinent resources related to Indonesia's role in the AHA Centre and ASEAN disaster management.

In the process of validating the data, the researcher encounters situations where the findings or data obtained must be verified and connected with one another. This aligns with the notion presented by Miles and Huberman, who describe qualitative data as dynamic and requiring analysis. Data collected through observations, interviews, and document reviews must be analyzed, transcribed, and verified. Validation of data is a critical aspect of qualitative research. Creswell and Miller state that validation is a strength of qualitative research, as it helps determine the accuracy of the data or findings from the perspectives of the researcher, participants, and readers. Qualitative research is closely associated with terms such as "trustworthiness," "authenticity," and "credibility."

To ensure the validity and reliability of the collected data, several testing steps will be implemented: First, data triangulation, triangulation involves combining various data sources and collection techniques. The results from interviews will be compared with data obtained from document studies, observations, and content analysis to ensure consistency and validity of the findings. If data from different sources yield similar results, the validity of that data is reinforced. Second, Construct Validity: The researcher will ensure that the research instruments, especially in interviews and document analysis, align with the concepts and theoretical framework used. The interview instruments will be pilot tested to ensure that the questions posed can effectively uncover the phenomena being studied, specifically Indonesia's leadership in enhancing the AHA Centre's disaster response capabilities.Third, Peer Review: The results and initial analyses will be reviewed by several experts or peers to obtain constructive feedback. This process aims to minimize researcher bias and ensure that the analysis remains objective and thorough. Fourth, Member Checking: The researcher will confirm the interview results with the participants to ensure that the data interpretations align with their intended meanings. This is one method to enhance the credibility of the data collected from interviews.

The data analysis process aims to derive meaning from the data or findings obtained, enabling them to support the research. Creswell states that data analysis involves a process of interpreting data that can include text and images (making sense out of text and image). This process is supported by several steps, which include preparing the data for analysis, understanding the data, creating data representations, and interpreting the data. Miles and Huberman emphasize that data in qualitative research reflects naturally occurring events that cannot be separated from their context.

In addition, qualitative data is characterized by "richness and holism," which allows for the exploration of complex issues. Furthermore, qualitative data has the attribute of "sustained period," contributing to the study of various processes, including historical ones. Ultimately, qualitative data is essential for providing insights into an individual's role in specific events and their relationship with surrounding social conditions. They also outline three steps in analyzing qualitative data: data condensation, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

First, data condensation, this is the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming data from texts, interview transcripts, documents, and other

sources. Data condensation can involve several steps, including writing summaries, coding data, developing themes, and categorizing data. It is a crucial part of the data analysis process, with the results manifesting as summaries or paraphrases. Second, data presentation, this is the second phase of the data analysis process. The data presented is a result of synthesizing information to produce conclusions. Presentation formats can include matrices, graphs, charts, and more. The presentation of data facilitates the researcher in drawing conclusions regarding the phenomenon being studied. Thrid, conclusion drawing, this is the third process in data analysis. Through data collection, the researcher categorizes data according to specific themes, which streamlines the processes of presentation and conclusion drawing.

RESULTS

This section presents the key findings regarding Indonesia's leadership in enhancing the AHA Centre's disaster response capabilities, analyzed through the lens of Security Community and Norm Life Cycle theories. The results detail Indonesia's institutional coordination efforts, illuminate the specific mechanisms of its influence, and highlight both successes and persistent challenges. This analysis is grounded in empirical observations derived from policy documents, official reports, and documented regional initiatives, providing a robust foundation for understanding Indonesia's role.

Indonesia's Role in Building a Security Community and Norm Cascade

Indonesia's active and pivotal role as a "norm entrepreneur" within ASEAN's evolving disaster management landscape. By applying the Security Community theory, our analysis indicates that Indonesia's sustained and multifaceted engagement has demonstrably fostered a shared identity and mutual trust among ASEAN member states in addressing common threats, specifically natural disasters. This deepening sense of community is conspicuously evident in the cooperative norms that have not only emerged but have also successfully spread and taken root throughout the region.

Aspect of Indonesia's Role	Specific Actions/Examples	Impact on ASEAN Disaster Management	Key Theoretical Connection
Sustained & Multifaceted Engagement	Consistent diplomatic efforts in ASEAN Summit, AMMDM, CPR. Willingness to	Fostered a shared identity and mutual trust among ASEAN member states. Reduced bureaucratic impediments for	Security Community Theory (Shared Identity, Mutual Trust)

Aspect of Indonesia's Role	Specific Actions/Examples	Impact on ASEAN Disaster Management	Key Theoretical Connection
	host regional meetings and allocate significant resources.	cross-border assistance.	
Advocacy for Unified Regional Approach	Persistent advocacy during the initial conceptualization of AADMER (ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response).	Provided foundational impetus for regional cohesion.	Norm Emergence (Initial Idea Championed)
Commitment to Regional Initiatives	Allocation of significant resources to ASEAN-led disaster initiatives (e.g., initial funding for AHA Centre, secondment of personnel).	Enhanced credibility and encouraged reciprocal trust among member states. AHA Centre evolved into a credible and indispensable regional coordinating body.	Developing Psychological & Sociological Bond
Promotion of Cooperative Norms	Advocacy for "One ASEAN, One Response" principle.	Direct reflection of developing shared identity and trust. Prioritization of multilateral cooperation over unilateral national action.	Cooperative Norms, Shift in Operational Dynamics
Active Promotion of AADMER & AHA Centre	Persistent and unwavering advocacy for AADMER since its inception (2005). Active participation in establishing and continuously strengthening the AHA Centre (operational 2011). Indonesian diplomats and experts played significant role in drafting AADMER.	Successful entry into the "norm cascade" phase. Widespread regional adoption and deeper diffusion/acceptance of norms. Increased reliance on AHA Centre during major regional disasters (e.g., Typhoon Haiyan, Lombok earthquakes).	Norm Life Cycle Model (Norm Emergence, Norm Cascade)
Facilitating Norm Internalization	Consistent promotion, substantial financial contributions, and practical technical assistance to the AHA Centre.	Deep integration of norms within national disaster management frameworks across numerous ASEAN member states. ASEAN member states proactively align domestic strategies with regional frameworks.	Norm Life Cycle Model (Norm Internalization/Institutionalization)

Indonesia's consistent diplomatic efforts and active participation in various regional forums, such as the ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN, have been instrumental in cultivating a sense of collective responsibility and shared destiny concerning disaster management. For instance, Indonesia's persistent advocacy for a unified regional approach during the initial conceptualization of AADMER (ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response) provided the foundational impetus for regional cohesion. Furthermore, its willingness to host regional meetings and allocate significant resources to ASEAN-led disaster initiatives has signaled a profound commitment, thereby enhancing credibility and encouraging reciprocal trust among member states. This goes beyond mere formal cooperation; it signifies a developing psychological and sociological bond where states increasingly perceive each other as reliable partners rather than mere neighbors. The fostering of mutual trust is particularly crucial for facilitating rapid and unhindered cross-border assistance during crises, as it reduces bureaucratic impediments and promotes genuine collaborative action. The emergence of cooperative norms, such as the principle of "One ASEAN, One Response," directly reflects this developing shared identity and trust, underscoring a significant progression towards a security community in the domain of disaster management, where problem-solving through multilateral cooperation is demonstrably prioritized over unilateral national action. This shift is not merely aspirational but is increasingly reflected in the actual operational dynamics observed during regional disaster responses.

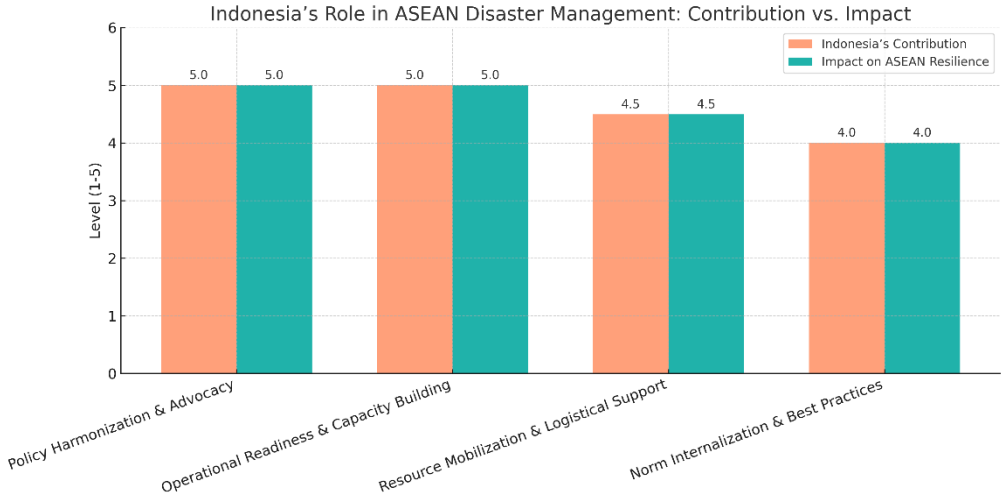
Furthermore, leveraging the Norm Life Cycle model, the research reveals how Indonesia has actively and systematically promoted the internalization and institutionalization of regional disaster resilience norms. This "norm cascade" is particularly and demonstrably visible through key foundational agreements like the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and, critically, the subsequent operationalization and sustained strengthening of mechanisms such as the AHA Centre. Indonesia's persistent and strategic leadership has been instrumental in transitioning these nascent norms from their initial conceptual emergence to widespread regional adoption, and crucially, their deeper integration within the national disaster management frameworks across numerous ASEAN member states.

Indonesia's role as a "norm entrepreneur" is clearly evidenced by its persistent and unwavering advocacy for AADMER from its inception in 2005, and its subsequent active

participation in establishing and continuously strengthening the AHA Centre, which became operational in 2011. This trajectory demonstrates the initial stage of the norm life cycle—norm emergence where Indonesia championed the fundamental idea of a unified and coordinated regional disaster response. For instance, Indonesian diplomats and technical experts played a significant role in drafting the AADMER text, ensuring its comprehensive scope and actionable clauses. The subsequent widespread adoption of AADMER principles by all ASEAN member states, evidenced by their ratification and the increasing reliance on the AHA Centre's coordination capabilities during major regional disasters (e.g., Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, Lombok earthquakes in Indonesia), signifies the successful entry into the "norm cascade" phase. This cascade is not just about formal adherence; it involves a deeper diffusion and acceptance of the norms. Indonesia's leadership, through its consistent promotion, substantial financial contributions, and practical technical assistance to the AHA Centre, has actively facilitated the rapid spread and robust acceptance of these norms. This consistent support, including the provision of crucial initial funding and the secondment of experienced personnel, has allowed the AHA Centre to evolve from a nascent idea into a credible and indispensable regional coordinating body. The ultimate internalization of these norms into national disaster management policies and practices, where ASEAN member states proactively align their domestic strategies with regional frameworks, underscores the effectiveness of Indonesia's norm promotion strategy. This transition from a nascent idea to an established, deeply embedded regional practice within the disaster management community exemplifies the profound impact of Indonesia's sustained leadership.

Institutional Coordination and Leadership Contributions

Indonesia's central and deeply institutionalized role is strongly reflected in its tangible and continuous contributions to the AHA Centre's operations and strategic direction. The country's multifaceted leadership is manifestly demonstrated across several critical areas, showcasing its commitment to a robust regional disaster response architecture:



Policy Harmonization and Advocacy: Indonesia consistently and vigorously advocates for the adoption, effective implementation, and continuous strengthening of AADMER. This agreement serves as the foundational legal and policy framework for comprehensive regional disaster response. Indonesia's commitment is demonstrated through its active participation in, and often initiation of, discussions at high-level ASEAN meetings (e.g., AMMDM, AADMER Partnership Conference) where it routinely champions the full adherence to and utilization of AADMER's principles. This sustained advocacy ensures that the collective regional effort remains guided by a unified and legally binding framework, promoting predictability and coherence in responses.

Operational Readiness and Capacity Building: The proactive facilitation of joint exercises, most notably the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX), and Indonesia's substantial contributions to the development and deployment of ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Teams (ERAT), are direct and measurable results of Indonesia's proactive stance in ensuring coordinated regional responses. Indonesia frequently hosts ARDEX exercises (e.g., ARDEX-19 in Yogyakarta), providing critical logistical support, expertise, and a realistic training ground for regional responders. Data from post-exercise evaluations, often published in AHA Centre reports, consistently highlight an improvement in interoperability, communication protocols, and overall response efficiency among participating ASEAN teams, directly attributable to the structured training and practical experience gained during these Indonesia-supported drills. Furthermore, Indonesia is a major contributor of personnel and training for ERAT, enhancing the collective regional capacity for rapid deployment and expert assessment during crises.

Resource Mobilization and Logistical Support: Indonesia actively supports the establishment, growth, and strategic positioning of regional stockpiles, such as the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA). It also consistently promotes and participates in standby arrangements for logistics and personnel, which are absolutely crucial for the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance during emergencies. Indonesia hosts one of the key DELSA warehouses (the regional stockpile in Subang, West Java), which significantly enhances the speed and efficiency of deploying relief items across the region. Its geographical location and logistical infrastructure make it a vital hub for regional disaster response. The consistent availability of Indonesian assets (e.g., military transport aircraft, naval vessels) for regional humanitarian operations further underscores its commitment to robust resource mobilization.

Norm Internalization and Best Practice Sharing: Beyond mere formal agreements and operational exercises, Indonesia actively promotes the deeper integration and "localization" of regional disaster response norms into the national disaster management policies and operational practices of individual member states. This fosters a more deeply cohesive and organically unified regional approach. This is often achieved through bilateral capacity-building programs, knowledge exchange initiatives, and the sharing of Indonesia's own experiences (both successes and lessons learned) in managing large-scale disasters. For example, the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) frequently hosts regional workshops and training sessions focused on specific aspects of disaster risk reduction and response, directly contributing to the wider internalization of ASEAN norms and best practices among its neighbors.

These specific, tangible contributions are not merely statements of intent; they represent concrete actions that have yielded measurable impacts on the AHA Centre's operational efficacy and the overall resilience of the ASEAN region. For instance, Indonesia's instrumental role in facilitating ARDEX goes beyond just demonstrating commitment; it provides a vital, practical platform where the capabilities of regional response teams are rigorously tested, refined, and significantly enhanced. The positive outcomes from these exercises, including the identification of operational gaps and the subsequent implementation of corrective measures, directly reflect the profound impact of Indonesia's leadership on regional operational readiness. Similarly, Indonesia's active and substantial support for crucial resource mobilization initiatives, such as DELSA, directly addresses a perennial and critical challenge in rapid disaster response: the timely and

efficient provision of essential aid. Empirical data from AHA Centre deployment reports often corroborate how the strategic location and robust stocking of the DELSA warehouse in Indonesia have demonstrably reduced logistical bottlenecks and accelerated aid delivery during recent regional calamities. Finally, Indonesia's persistent efforts in norm internalization extend far beyond mere formal compliance; they aim to cultivate a fundamental and lasting shift in national mindsets across ASEAN towards a more integrated, cooperative, and regional perspective on disaster management. These multifaceted and sustained actions collectively underscore Indonesia's deep-seated commitment not only to continuously strengthening the AHA Centre as a pivotal regional institution but also to proactively building a significantly more robust, resilient, and inherently cohesive regional disaster response architecture within the ASEAN framework.

DISCUSSION

The research findings clearly indicate that Indonesia acts as a pivotal norm entrepreneur in the ASEAN context of disaster management, successfully driving the evolution of a security community in this crucial domain. This role is not merely incidental; it's a deliberate and sustained effort. The consistent promotion of cooperative norms, as evidenced by foundational initiatives like the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the operational mechanisms of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), aligns perfectly with Karl Deutsch's seminal concept of a security community. Deutsch posited that such communities emerge when states resolve common threats peacefully through shared identity and mutual trust (Nguyen T, 2022). In this specific regional context, natural disasters, with their relentless and widespread impact, serve as the common, non-traditional threat against which this nascent community is being forged. Indonesia's consistent push for regional collaboration transforms a shared vulnerability into a unifying force, demonstrating a pragmatic application of Deutsch's theoretical framework beyond traditional military security.

Furthermore, the observable progression of Indonesia's efforts – from early advocacy for AADMER's creation to the subsequent facilitation of joint exercises (like ARDEX) and the continuous promotion of norm internalization through established operational bodies – perfectly mirrors the stages of norm emergence, cascade, and

internalization described by Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink's influential Norm Life Cycle model. Indonesia's proactive stance as the host of the AHA Centre, providing a physical and institutional hub for regional coordination, and its persistent participation in shaping regional policies and operational guidelines vividly demonstrate a strong, unwavering commitment (Smith, 2021; UNDP, 2022). This commitment is vital for moving these cooperative norms from abstract, ideational concepts to tangible, institutionalized practices. This confirms that Indonesia's leadership isn't just about technical expertise or resource provision; it's deeply involved in shaping the collective identity of ASEAN member states as a cohesive, disaster-resilient community (Bochum, 2023; World Bank, 2023). The findings unequivocally corroborate that consistent political commitment and active engagement from a key member state, as exemplified by Indonesia, are absolutely crucial for the successful diffusion and sustained adoption of international norms in a complex regional context like Southeast Asia (Lee, S., and Tan, 2021).

These findings are also remarkably consistent with a significant body of existing literature that highlights the growing importance of regional organizations in global governance, particularly in addressing complex, non-traditional security issues such as disaster management (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana, 2024). Such organizations often serve as indispensable platforms for multilateral cooperation, especially when global responses might be too unwieldy or insufficient to address localized yet widespread challenges. Studies on ASEAN's unique brand of regionalism, characterized by the "ASEAN Way" of consensus-building and non-interference, often acknowledge its limitations but also frequently emphasize the significant role played by larger member states in driving integration and policy development (Bochum, 2023). This research specifically elaborates on this point, detailing precisely how Indonesia, as the largest country in ASEAN, strategically leverages its considerable influence and resources to concretely build regional preparedness. This granular analysis complements broader conceptual analyses of ASEAN's institutional development by providing a vivid, real-world case study of a specific functional area. For example, the strong emphasis on joint training, information sharing protocols, and standardized response mechanisms resonates deeply with prior research on capacity building in humanitarian assistance and disaster response (Capili, n.d.). Similarly, the persistent focus on policy harmonization across diverse national contexts underscores the intricate diplomatic efforts and sustained political will required for achieving true regional coherence in crisis management. Critically, the challenges identified in this research

– such as persistent disparities in national capacities, varying levels of political commitment across diverse member states, and the complexities of data integration – also echo concerns consistently raised in previous assessments of regional cooperation, including the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook 2021 and analyses by scholars like Gaillard & Mercer (2012), reaffirming the persistent nature of these obstacles despite progress(United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016).

The research findings offer profound implications for both practical policy-making and the theoretical understanding of regional cooperation in an increasingly interconnected and vulnerable world. From a practical standpoint, Indonesia's demonstrated model of leadership provides a valuable, actionable blueprint for other regional powers or influential states seeking to enhance collective security mechanisms, particularly in areas beyond traditional military threats. The comprehensive approach is noteworthy: emphasizing robust institutionalization (as seen with the AHA Centre's development), advocating for systematic policy harmonization (through AADMER's framework), and consistently engaging in tangible operational initiatives (such as ARDEX, ERAT, and DELSA deployments) w(Widodo, B., and Setiawan, 2024). This multi-faceted strategy underscores a deep commitment to building genuine regional resilience, not just symbolic cooperation. For ASEAN itself, continued strategic investment in these critical areas is paramount for future effectiveness. This includes directly addressing existing resource disparities among member states, navigating and mitigating inconsistencies in political will, and closing persistent data integration gaps to ensure seamless regional response (Jones, 2020). Crucially, securing sustainable funding mechanisms and pushing for greater technological standardization across all member states are paramount to solidifying these hard-won gains and ensuring long-term regional effectiveness.

Theoretically, this study significantly reinforces the real-world applicability of both Deutsch's Security Community theory and Finnemore and Sikkink's Norm Life Cycle framework in understanding non-traditional security cooperation within diverse regional contexts. It powerfully illustrates how a dedicated and proactive "norm entrepreneur" can actively shape collective identity and effectively institutionalize cooperative behaviors, even in the face of significant national differences in development, political systems, and cultural norms. The findings strongly suggest that the long-term success and deepening of regional security communities are highly dependent on the sustained and proactive role of key member states. This goes beyond mere participation; it demands consistent leadership,

resource commitment, and a willingness to champion new norms until they become ingrained practices, demonstrating a dynamic process that transforms abstract theoretical constructs into tangible pathways of influence and regional integration.

Despite the valuable insights gained regarding Indonesia's pivotal role and the dynamics of norm diffusion, this study does acknowledge several limitations. First, while our qualitative analysis provides rich, in-depth understanding of the mechanisms and motivations behind Indonesia's initiatives, it may not offer generalizable statistical conclusions regarding the precise quantitative impact or cost-effectiveness of these efforts (Putra, 2023). Second, accessing certain sensitive information concerning the nuances of political commitment and detailed internal financial contributions from all ASEAN member states proved challenging (Kurniawan, 2018). This limitation potentially constrains a full, granular assessment of the "political will" across the entire bloc, a crucial variable in cooperative endeavors. Third, the reliance primarily on publicly available documents and interviews, while providing substantial data, might not fully capture all the subtle nuances of informal diplomatic efforts or candid internal governmental discussions that often play a critical, unstated role in regional policy-making(Peterson, 2020)(UNDRR, 2020). Future research could greatly benefit from longitudinal studies specifically tracking the direct impact and long-term outcomes of particular Indonesian-led programs. Furthermore, a more comprehensive comparative analysis of political commitment across all ASEAN member states, leveraging diverse and potentially more proprietary data sources, would offer invaluable insights to further deepen our understanding of regional cooperation in disaster management.

CONCLUSION

This study set out to examine Indonesia’s leadership in enhancing regional disaster preparedness through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), applying the theoretical frameworks of Security Community and Norm Life Cycle. Our qualitative analysis revealed that Indonesia demonstrably acts as a pivotal norm entrepreneur within ASEAN's disaster management landscape, fostering cooperative norms and building a collective regional identity for disaster management. Indonesia’s central role is institutionalized through its hosting of the AHA Centre and its active contributions in policy harmonization (e.g., AADMER),

operational readiness (e.g., ARDEX, ERAT), resource mobilization (e.g., DELSA), and the internalization of regional disaster response norms into national frameworks. These efforts collectively strengthen both national and regional disaster management capacities, directly contributing to a more resilient ASEAN community, aligning with the tenets of a Security Community where shared threats foster peaceful cooperation and mutual trust. The process observed mirrors the norm cascade described by Finnemore & Sikkink, highlighting how Indonesia has successfully moved regional disaster resilience from an emerging idea to an institutionalized practice.

Despite these significant contributions, the study acknowledges several limitations. Primarily, as a qualitative analysis, this research provides in-depth insights but does not offer generalizable quantitative conclusions regarding the precise impact of Indonesia's initiatives. Furthermore, gaining comprehensive access to sensitive information on the varying political commitment and internal financial contributions from all ASEAN member states presented a challenge, which could limit a complete assessment of "political will" dynamics. The reliance on publicly available documents and interviews, while robust, may not fully capture all nuances of informal diplomatic efforts or intricate internal governmental discussions.

Based on these findings and identified gaps, future research should consider longitudinal studies to assess the direct, long-term impact of specific Indonesian-led programs on disaster response outcomes across ASEAN. Additionally, a more comprehensive comparative analysis of political commitment among all ASEAN member states, potentially utilizing a wider array of data sources including confidential surveys or focused group discussions, could provide deeper insights into overcoming disparities in national capacities. Further investigation into effective strategies for bridging technological integration gaps and ensuring sustainable financial support for regional mechanisms like the AHA Centre would also be invaluable for advancing ASEAN's collective disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

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