

Executive Summary

Quick Research on the Urgent Issue of ASEAN Community : Maritime Security

Oceans and seas are very important both in terms of values and areas to global community which includes ASEAN Community as well as Thai people. Oceans and seas provide many goods and services to human at the same time are under threat from many different kinds of human activities. Furthermore threats to oceans, known as maritime security has been changed from traditional which is national security (military security), to broader threats which have impacts on more sectors and more people. Furthermore, the uniqueness of the sea, which is its connectivity and borderlessness, has made the issue of maritime security important and interrelated with everything in the blue planet. Globalization, population growth and unsustainable development aiming at economic growth has led us to new kinds of threat which are claiming minority rights, competing use of resources and climate change. As a result there has been global effort to apply sustainable development in addressing maritime security. The concept of sustainable development has emerged for several decades and has received global attention since the Rio Conference in 1992. Under United Nations framework, countries adopted the Rio Declaration, the Agenda 21 and subsequent documents such as the Future We Want which call for a paradigm shift towards sustainable development. The Millennium Development Goals has also incorporated Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability as one of the global goals for the period 2000-2015. Last year, the world leaders gathered in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs. The United Nations has called for international cooperation on oceans and seas, for example Chapter 17 of the Agenda 21 (Protection of the oceans) and SDG 14 (Life below water). At the regional level, the ASEAN Community also attaches great importance to the issues of security and oceans as reflected in the ASEAN Charter and the Roadmap for ASEAN Community 2015. ASEAN's Maritime cooperation becomes more evident in the ASEAN Vision 2025. Under the ASEAN Political Security Community, ASEAN is forging together to enhance maritime security and maritime cooperation within and outside ASEAN by strengthening mechanisms established by ASEAN and implement of commitment under international conventions and agreements related to oceans. There are enough frameworks at regional and global levels to deal with ever increasing complex and situations and problems. In many cases, ASEAN is facing many challenges in maintaining its stability and principles. Based on situations and problems, maritime security can be divided

into 5 categories: 1) overlapping maritime boundary claims; 2) maritime transport security; 3) transnational crimes; 4) marine resources and environment security; 5) marine natural disasters. Chapter 3 describes suggestions and guidelines in dealing with each problem. One observation is that based on geographic characteristics and international law Thailand as maritime nation, coastal state and strait state, we shared the common maritime security problems at international, regional and national levels with the global community, ASEAN and neighboring countries. Thailand ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas by making declaration under Article 310. As a result, Thailand and both right and obligations related to the use of the seas and oceans. However, majority of Thai people has not yet realized that Thailand is a maritime nation, our administrative system, policies, plan and strategies have not developed in accordance to such condition. In managing the national maritime areas of the country, we need to take holistic approach since the beginning, taking into account men, activities and natural resources, as well as policies, plans and strategies at different levels. Sectoral approach can create overlaps and gaps in both vertical and horizontal dimensions of the maritime administration. Such an approach will result in a loss in development opportunity all over/throughout the past, present and future creating prosperity lower than it should be. This could have impact on the country effort in moving from middle-income status and transformation towards the value-based economy (Thailand 4.0). Regarding oceans and seas, Transformation from green to blue economy at global, ASEAN and national level also involves oceans and seas. From the above reasons, it is recommended that relevant existing laws and regulations should be revised to be in accordance with UNCLOS 1982 and ASEAN Vision 2025 as soon as possible as to meet international standards, which cover all maritime zones both within and outside national jurisdiction. After that first priority, each type of problems related to maritime security should be addressed according to recommendations in this report.