

## Mori Grant Report

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**Research Project:** “Moving Beyond ‘Hub-and-Spokes’ System: US-ASEAN Non-Traditional Security and multilateral cooperation”

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**Research Content:** The Research aims at analyzing the changing role of the US as de-facto security guarantor, who assures small-middle powers willingness to commit to international order in the Cold War period. Although the US-led bilateral security ‘San Francisco system’ or the ‘hub-and-spokes system’ has become pattern of security relations between the US and Asia Pacific countries since the end of the Second World War, the evolving security environment in the Post Cold War has increasingly pressuring and complex that the US and Asia-Pacific need to be more adaptive.

Therefore, the research proposes prospect of the US policy on the Asia-Pacific that lies on how to balance between power politics strategy and long-term engagement with ASEAN especially in Non-Traditional Security (NTS) cooperation. Through NTS cooperation such as disaster relief, maritime security, transnational crimes and social/economic development, the US can utilize existing military and political relations to create sound foundation for both bilateral and multilateral relations with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members.

**Activity conducted:** Interview, researching and presentation

Venue: Vienna, Austria

Date: 6 - 15 August 2011

The result of the research is presented in the “American security role and regional institution building in Asia: A post-US regional order in the making?” panel, the World International Studies Conference (WISC) 2011, University of Porto (Portugal)

Date: 17 August - 23 August 2011

**Research outcomes:**

**1. Main Arguments:**

- The changing post Cold War security and economic environment due to the declined of communism threat and global/regional economic interdependence has pressuring the US and ASEAN allies to judge their policies more comprehensively rather than on security benefits derived from being alliance alone.

- In response to changing security environment and maintaining relevancy of US-led hub and spokes relations with ASEAN members, the US needs to move beyond;

1. Bilateral security relations to multilateral engagement and cooperation with ASEAN as a significant regional institution,

2. Applying of ‘hub-and-spokes’ system in the context of traditional (in) security but in addressing more diverse challenge especially non-traditional security (NTSs),

3. Cooperation on NTSs helps the US to move beyond its cooperation with existing close ASEAN alliances (Thailand, Philippines, Singapore) but to cooperation with other ASEAN members, especially less developing members that facing many diverse NTSs (i.e. Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia).

- Despite institutional limitation, the ASEAN-led cooperation is a potential platform for ASEAN-US to enhance regional cooperation in multilateral way particularly on the Non-Traditional Security (NTS) issues that helps both to move beyond the ‘hub-and-spokes’ relations.

**2. Policy implications:**

- Geography of the Southeast Asia sea-lanes make them both regional and global Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) in terms of economic and security matters, which at the same time increase concerns over maritime insecurity caused by sea piracy and attacks in particular after the September 11, 2001 among both ASEAN and extra-ASEAN states.

- The NTS maritime security cooperation like anti-sea piracy is an example of how ASEAN-US cooperation could move beyond hub-and-spokes system. Extra-ASEAN players are playing role in enhancing cooperation on maritime security with ASEAN states. The role of US help supplement ASEAN capability, and improve interoperability, communication, information sharing, and coordination on maritime security. This includes many US-ASEAN maritime security operational exercises that help consolidate diverse regional exercise into a single deployment. The cooperation potentially creates closer relations, trust and confidence that benefit to future cooperation in other security issues.

**3. Things to watch:**

1. ASEAN-US NTS cooperation in Maritime security-NTS case shows limited participants due to different security interests in ASEAN such as country with no connection to sea (Laos) and countries with different views over US's role in the region (Myanmar, Cambodia).

2. Thus, ASEAN strategy also lies significantly on how to engage its members and the US in other areas of NTS cooperation.

3. NTS-Maritime security between ASEAN-US and US naval presence can play as a soft balancing with China during the maritime tension in the SCS.

4. Utilizing of military in NTS cooperation in maritime security reflected less clear division between traditional and some areas of non-traditional security especially after the 9/11.

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