



e-ISSN: 3109-6425
p-ISSN: 3109-6433

Proceeding Jakarta Geopolitical Forum

Lembaga Ketahanan Nasional Republik Indonesia (LEMHANNAS RI)

Volume 8 | 2024

WEB : <https://proceeding.lemhannas.com/index.php/jgf>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.55960/jgf.v8i1.281>

Conference Paper

GEO-MARITIME RESILIENCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC: STRATEGIC INSIGHTS FROM THE JAKARTA GEOPOLITICAL FORUM VIII/2024

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Abstract

The Indo-Pacific region holds strategic significance as a maritime corridor critical to global trade, yet the region faces escalating geo-maritime challenges, ranging of transnational crimes, environmental degradation, and regional instability. This study applies a qualitative content analysis to evaluate insights from the Jakarta Geopolitical Forum VIII/2024, focusing on the interplay between maritime governance, security, and sustainability. Drawing from forum proceedings, policy frameworks, and relevant literature, the analysis identifies key themes: the importance of cooperative regional mechanisms, adherence to international maritime law (particularly UNCLOS), and the integration of technological and ethical strategies for resilience. The Global Maritime Fulcrum (GMF) policy emerges as a practical framework for operationalizing maritime security and sustainable development. Results highlight the need to embed the principles of Ethics, Environment, and Economy into future policymaking. The findings underscore the value of cross-sectoral dialogue and multilateral cooperation in building a secure and inclusive maritime future for the Indo-Pacific.

Keywords: ASEAN Maritime Forum, environmental governance, Geo-maritime resilience, Indo-Pacific, maritime security

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Article History:

Received : 19-04-2024
Revised : 16-05-2024
Accepted : 28-06-2024

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Published by Lemhannas Press.

Introduction

The Jakarta Geopolitical Forum VIII/2024, held under the theme "Addressing Geo-Maritime Resilience Challenges in the Indo-Pacific," generated critical insights into maritime security, cooperation, and sustainability (1,2). As part of a strategic initiative to respond to evolving geopolitical dynamics, the forum fostered dialogue on strengthening maritime resilience across the Indo-Pacific. Convened through the Lembaga Ketahanan Nasional Republik Indonesia (LEMHANNAS RI) and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, the event facilitated cross-sector engagement among policymakers, scholars, and professionals. These exchanges reflected growing concerns over regional instability, strategic rivalries, and the need for cooperative frameworks to safeguard maritime interests in an increasingly contested global environment(3).

Literature Review

Theoretical Studies

Geo-maritime resilience in the Indo-Pacific requires a comprehensive theoretical foundation rooted in maritime security, regional cooperation, and international law (4–6). The Indo-Pacific functions as a strategic maritime corridor, hosting vital sea lines of communication (SLOCs) that support global trade. The region's geopolitical relevance aligns with theories of maritime power, interdependence, and regionalism, which underscore the importance of cooperation among nation-states to ensure collective security and economic stability (7). The "whole-of-government" approach reflects governance theories that advocate for integrated policy responses across sectors and institutions. Frameworks like the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provide legal underpinnings for territorial claims, conflict resolution, and maritime resource management (8,9), while ASEAN-led mechanisms embody functionalist and constructivist approaches to regional diplomacy and multilateralism (10).

Empirical Studies

Empirical observations during the Jakarta Geopolitical Forum VIII/2024 identified key challenges facing the Indo-Pacific maritime landscape (1,2). Participants acknowledged the persistence of transnational crimes, ranging of piracy, illegal fishing, and trafficking (11). Environmental degradation, driven by overfishing, pollution, and climate change, emerged as a critical concern. Social and governance issues, for example the vulnerability of coastal communities and weak cybersecurity in maritime systems, also featured prominently. Empirical data suggest that while technological advancements like artificial intelligence and real-time data sharing have improved maritime surveillance and operational

efficiency, they have not fully mitigated security threats. Case examples, like the responses to cyclones and marine pollution incidents, highlighted the region's uneven preparedness and varying levels of resilience. The Global Maritime Fulcrum (GMF), Indonesia's national policy launched in 2014, was presented as a practical case of how a country can operationalize maritime strategy through multilateral engagement and sustainable development initiatives (12,13).

Methods

The study adopts a qualitative content analysis approach (14,15) to examine the strategic, environmental, and security dimensions of geo-maritime resilience in the Indo-Pacific, as highlighted in the Jakarta Geopolitical Forum VIII/2024 . The method enables a systematic evaluation of forum proceedings, policy frameworks comprise of Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum, institutional reports, and scholarly literature managing maritime governance, climate-related risks, and regional cooperation. Data sources consist of official forum summaries, ASEAN maritime cooperation documents, and peer-reviewed publications from the past decade. The selection criteria focus on materials relevant to maritime security, regional governance, technological adaptation, and sustainable development. The unit of analysis centres on regional maritime strategies and cooperative mechanisms aligned with international law, particularly UNCLOS. Data reliability was ensured through source triangulation and validation against established academic and institutional references.

Results and Discussion

Key insights from the forum coalesced around the Indo-Pacific's strategic centrality and vulnerability. Emphasis fell on strengthening maritime cooperation and governance through regional frameworks like the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) (16,17). The application of UNCLOS remained a legal cornerstone for dispute settlement and maritime boundary management (16). Discussions confirmed that technological innovation, while necessary, must be complemented by ethical leadership, inclusive governance, and climate resilience. Participants identified "Ethics, Environment, and Economy" as core principles to guide future maritime policy (1,2,18). Collaboration across sectors and the integration of green technologies were presented as urgent steps toward achieving decarbonisation and preserving marine ecosystems.

The evolving maritime challenges in the Indo-Pacific reflect a convergence of security, environmental, and economic pressures (19). Fragmented governance and uneven capacity across nations

weaken the collective ability to respond to transboundary threats. Strengthening geo-maritime resilience demands both normative and operational alignment, anchored in legal commitments, technological adaptability, and multilateral cooperation. The GMF serves as an instructive model by combining strategic foresight, environmental stewardship, and active regional diplomacy (12,20). Future policy trajectories must internalize the “three E’s”, ethics to ensure just governance, environment to sustain marine biodiversity, and economy to promote inclusive growth. Continued dialogue and regional engagement will remain essential in translating forum insights into coordinated actions across the Indo-Pacific maritime domain (1,21–39).

Conclusion

Strengthening geo-maritime resilience in the Indo-Pacific demands integrated, multilateral, and forward-looking responses to a complex set of security, environmental, and economic challenges. The Jakarta Geopolitical Forum VIII/2024 reaffirmed the region’s strategic centrality and the urgency of cooperative governance to maintain maritime stability. Key takeaways highlighted the need to uphold international law, particularly UNCLOS, while advancing technological innovation and sustainability through ethical leadership and strategic partnerships. The principles of Ethics, Environment, and Economy offer a holistic framework to guide future policies. Moving forward, sustained dialogue, institutional synergy, and regional solidarity will be essential to ensuring a secure, sustainable, and inclusive maritime future for the Indo-Pacific.

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