Introduction

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Introduction

Withaya Sucharithawarugse

This issue of Asian Review highlights certain problems faced by ASEAN as a regional organization, along with a global-scale study of regionalization. In addition, an investigation into the process and impact of commercialization of indigenous culture of the Ifugao in the Philippines is offered as an example of how culture can cope with change.

Gabriela Steinemann looks into the attempts to solve the border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia centering around the Preah Vihar Temple through the good offices of Indonesia. Indonesia's proposals were accepted by both countries, yet Thailand's domestic politics thwarted the move to translate these proposals into action, resulting in yet another example of the failure to utilize existing mechanisms of dispute settlement in the region.

Alessio Fratticcioli takes a geopolitical view of ASEAN and the South China Sea disputes, focusing on factors of territory, natural resources, and distribution of power. Although China is a formidable presence in these disputes, other players also have their positions. ASEAN's attempt to multilaterally engage China to deliberate the issues and to find mutual solutions has not yet proved successful.

Juan González García discusses the BRIC as an example of what he calls glo-regionalism. A few key rising economic powers come together to form a bloc that can counter the hegemonic role of the US, and may eventually lead to a rebalancing of power in the international system. Garcia sees BRIC as an alternative formulation that undermines a single economic hegemony.

Anniken Sandvik offers a very interesting study of how a culture on the brink of being forgotten, in this case the Ifugao people of

Northern Luzon, can survive rather robustly due to commercialization. She vividly illustrates how Ifugao culture practices are put on show for tourists, engaging Ifugao youngster to relearn and appreciate their culture while making money out of it too.