



Analysis of Security Cooperation between India and ASEAN in the Global South

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the intensification of great power games has led to an increasingly significant role for countries in the global South in the international community. A series of actions by southern countries, such as insisting on strategic autonomy and refusing to take sides, have made the global South an important strategic force in shaping the international order. India and ASEAN countries, as important members of the global South, have a long history of cultural exchange and common security concerns. This article aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of the security cooperation between India and ASEAN from the perspective of the global South, in order to reveal its important role in regional and even global security governance.

KEYWORDS: Global South, India, ASEAN, Security Cooperation

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1. Introduction. The global South mainly refers to developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, which have abundant natural resources and population advantages, but are relatively marginalized in politics, economy, and culture compared to developed Western countries, and have long been constrained and influenced by the Western dominated international order. Although the Global South is not a group of countries with clear strategic goals and well-established mechanisms, with the rise of emerging markets and the overall strength of developing countries, the Global South has become an important force that cannot be ignored in global affairs (Cogan & Mishra, 2020). As important members of the global South, India and ASEAN's geopolitical background and position in the global South cannot be ignored. As a major South Asian country with abundant resources and a significant demographic dividend, India has experienced rapid economic development in recent years and has become one of the most promising emerging markets in the world.

The ten ASEAN countries have a vast territory, a large population, and strong economic complementarity, making them an important platform for regional cooperation. India and ASEAN are geographically adjacent, with a long history of cultural exchange and shared security concerns, which have maintained close cooperative ties between the two in regional and international affairs. With the increasingly prominent non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, transnational crime, and cybersecurity, India and ASEAN are facing common security challenges. Through security cooperation, both sides can share information, coordinate actions, effectively threaten and challenge, and maintain regional peace and stability. In addition, security cooperation can also promote exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in political, economic, and cultural fields, promote unity and cooperation among the global South, and jointly address the challenges of the US Western dominant international order.

However, the security cooperation between India and ASEAN also faces some challenges and difficulties. Due to cultural, political, and economic differences and disagreements between the two parties, communication barriers and conflicts of interest may arise during the cooperation process. On the basis of respecting each other's sovereignty and interests, strengthening communication and coordination, and promoting the in-depth development of security cooperation are issues that both sides need to jointly consider and solve. Therefore, analyzing the security cooperation between India and ASEAN from the perspective of the global South has important practical significance and theoretical value. This article will delve into the historical evolution, strategic motivations, and effectiveness evaluation of security cooperation between India and ASEAN through the review and analysis of relevant literature, in order to provide effective reference and inspiration.

2. The Historical Evolution of the Development of India ASEAN Relations.

From the perspective of the global South, the relationship between India and ASEAN has undergone profound historical evolution and development. The evolution of this process is not only influenced by multiple factors such as geopolitics, economy, and security, but has also gradually shown unique cooperation models and prospects in recent years with the rise and deepening of the strategic partnership between the two sides. Especially in the field of security cooperation, the close interaction and coordination between India and ASEAN have injected new vitality into the stability and development of the global southern region.

India's Eastward Expansion Policy and the Deepening of ASEAN Relations. India's "Eastward" policy originated from the "Eastward" policy in the 1990s. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, India faced economic difficulties domestically, while the economies of Southeast Asian countries showed a thriving trend. In order to seek new diplomatic directions and opportunities for economic development, India has introduced the "Eastward" policy, aimed at achieving the fast track of Southeast Asian economic development, utilizing ASEAN's funds, technology, and markets to seek new economic development opportunities (Gill, 2024).

After entering the 21st century, India's "Eastward" policy has significantly expanded not only in scope but also in connotation. This policy originally focused mainly on economic cooperation, but gradually developed into a multi-level strategic cooperation that includes economic, political, and military aspects. Its geopolitical influence has also expanded from Southeast Asia to the entire Asia Pacific region.

After the Modi government came to power in 2014, it further strengthened this policy and upgraded it to the "Eastward Policy". At this stage, the prominent feature of India's "Eastward" policy is the continuous strengthening of foreign military cooperation around maritime security, counterterrorism, and other aspects (Gupta, 2021). With the continuous promotion of the "Eastward Expansion" policy, its relationship with ASEAN has significantly strengthened. In 2015, India appointed a special ambassador to ASEAN and established a delegation to the ASEAN and East Asia Summit in Jakarta.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the dialogue partnership between India and ASEAN, the 15th anniversary of the summit exchange, and the 5th anniversary of the strategic partnership, the two jointly held over 60 celebration activities in 2017. Subsequently, the India ASEAN Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi in January 2018 was themed "Shared Value, Shared Destiny" (Kipgen, 2020). Further deepened the cooperation and communication between the two. At the same time, India is also promoting economic development on both sides by strengthening trade and

investment cooperation with ASEAN countries. In addition, India actively participates in infrastructure construction and cultural exchange projects among ASEAN countries. This has laid a solid foundation for cooperation between both parties.

The cornerstone construction of economic integration, security protection, and cultural progress. The relationship between India and ASEAN has undergone complex and profound historical evolution, and the cornerstone of economic integration, security cooperation, and cultural progress behind it is an important component of the historical evolution and development background of India ASEAN relations. These three aspects are intertwined and mutually reinforcing, providing strong support for the sustained development of bilateral relations.

Since India implemented its reform and opening-up policy in 1991, its foreign economic policy has undergone significant changes, especially towards ASEAN countries. The economic relationship between India and ASEAN was further strengthened after the signing of the Free Trade Agreement in 2009, involving multiple fields such as trade, investment, and services. In 2014, the two sides signed an agreement on trade in services and cross-border investment, deciding to open up sectors such as telecommunications, finance, and insurance services (Koga, 2022). These agreements greatly promote economic complementarity between the two sides, allowing India's information technology, pharmaceutical, and service industries to enter the ASEAN market, while ASEAN's natural resources and manufacturing products are also crucial to the Indian market. This economic integration brings interdependent economic benefits to both sides, laying the foundation for further political and security cooperation.

In addressing regional security challenges, India and ASEAN are working together to tackle various issues such as piracy, terrorism, and transnational crime. At the third ASEAN India Summit in 2004, India and ASEAN signed the Partnership Agreement for Peace, Progress and Common Prosperity, marking an important step towards strengthening regional cooperation and common development.

At the same time, both sides also emphasized their determination to jointly combat international terrorism and other transnational crimes by signing a joint declaration, demonstrating a new path of cooperation between India and ASEAN in the global counterterrorism field (Manhas, 2024). Due to the fact that countries such as India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines are all deeply affected by terrorist activities, the common security challenges have prompted India and ASEAN to increasingly focus on strengthening cooperation in this field.

Under the active promotion of the Indian government, India and ASEAN have signed multiple joint

declarations on counter-terrorism, committed to protecting maritime connectivity, ensuring the security of energy supply lines, and working together to combat international terrorism. The theme of “Strengthening Cooperation between India and ASEAN Countries in Combating International Terrorism” was confirmed and strengthened at the Fourth India ASEAN Summit held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 2005. This indicates that security cooperation between India and ASEAN has become an indispensable part of their strategic partnership. By establishing a framework of mutual trust and cooperation, India and ASEAN provide solid support for regional stability and lay the foundation for addressing broader security issues.

Cultural exchange and cooperation are also important components of India ASEAN relations. There are profound cultural and religious connections between India and Southeast Asian countries, which provide natural channels for communication in India’s relations with Southeast Asia. Religion and culture are not only important ways for India to communicate with Asian countries, but also play a crucial role in strengthening connectivity with Southeast Asia in India’s Eastward Policy.

Through these cultural and religious ties, India can exert greater influence in regional cooperation and exchange, promoting cooperation and development in a wider range of socio-economic fields. Meanwhile, the rich and diverse historical and cultural heritage of ASEAN countries has also had an impact on Indian society. In India’s “Eastward” policy, cultural exchange is seen as an important component in enhancing political and economic ties. India emphasizes strengthening its ties with Southeast Asian countries through cultural exchanges, such as visits between scholars and cultural groups, exhibitions of cultural relics and crafts, and joint hosting of traditional cultural festivals and sports and economic activities in both regions. This cultural exchange not only promotes mutual understanding and respect between the two sides, but also provides a solid social and cultural foundation for bilateral political and economic cooperation.

3. The Motivation of India ASEAN Security Cooperation from a Global Southern Perspective.

From the perspective of the global South, the security cooperation between India and ASEAN countries presents significant strategic importance. Geographic proximity, shared security threats, and the process of economic integration are all driving both sides to strengthen security exchanges and cooperation. This kind of cooperation not only helps to solve security challenges both inside and outside the region, but also promotes economic development and regional stability. In depth analysis of the motivations behind India ASEAN security cooperation from a global southern perspective, exploring from multiple dimensions such as regional security, economic integration, and strategic autonomy, can help us better understand and evaluate the significance and potential of bilateral cooperation.

Regional security dilemma and consideration of jointly resisting transnational threats. Currently, India and ASEAN countries face common challenges in the face of regional security challenges, mainly manifested in the increasing threats including terrorism, transnational crime, illegal drug trafficking, and piracy. These threats are no longer simple local issues, but increasingly highlight serious threats to the overall security and stability of the region.

In this context, it is particularly urgent for India and ASEAN countries to deepen security cooperation and jointly address these transnational threats. The core purpose of security cooperation is to acquire and share complementary resources, enabling both parties to obtain more heterogeneous information (Panda, 2022). Through security cooperation, India and ASEAN countries can timely obtain key information including the activity dynamics of terrorist organizations, the operation mode of criminal networks, and changes in drug trafficking routes.

The exchange and sharing of this information will provide strong support for both sides to formulate more effective policies and actions in counterterrorism, anticrime, and combating illegal drug trafficking. By sharing intelligence resources and experiences, India and ASEAN countries can learn from each other and work together to improve their intelligence analysis capabilities. This will help to have a more comprehensive understanding of the regional security situation, identify potential security risks, and take corresponding measures in a timely manner.

Integration of non-traditional security needs in the process of economic integration. With the deepening of economic integration, the economic ties between India and ASEAN countries are becoming increasingly close. Especially after the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, promoting economic recovery has become the main theme of the Indo Pacific region. At the India ASEAN Business Summit held in October 2021, Indian Foreign Subrahmanyam Jaishankar explicitly stated that India plans to launch new cooperation plans with ASEAN in multiple areas such as health security, digital economy, supply chain stability, and sustainable economic development, and further strengthen the bilateral cooperation relationship. However, economic integration has also brought a series of non-traditional security challenges.

Firstly, trade security has become an important issue. With the increase in trade volume, India and ASEAN countries are facing issues such as trade controls, illegal trade, and counterfeit products, which may have a serious impact on the regional economy. The Indian Ministry of Commerce has publicly expressed dissatisfaction with the complex regulatory procedures of ASEAN countries, pointing out that these non-tariff trade barriers prevent India's exported goods from enjoying true trade convenience,

which further exacerbates the tension between the two sides in terms of trade security.

Secondly, energy security has also received significant attention. With the growth of energy demand, India and ASEAN countries have increased their dependence on energy, and the instability of energy supply and energy security threats may pose risks to regional stability and economic development.

Thirdly, network security issues are becoming increasingly prominent. With the acceleration of digitalization and informatization, network attacks, data breaches, and information security have become urgent challenges that need to be addressed. These security challenges not only threaten the information systems of individual countries, but may also have a negative impact on the network infrastructure and economic operations of the entire region. As important members of the global South, India and ASEAN countries bear the responsibility of maintaining regional stability and promoting common development.

Therefore, in order to ensure regional economic security, India and ASEAN countries need to integrate traditional security needs into the process of economic integration. This means that they need to jointly develop response measures, strengthen the detection and response to these security threats, promote peace and prosperity in the global South while ensuring regional economic security.

Strategic autonomy and demand linkage to resist external influences. India and ASEAN tend to seek a mechanism for mutual cooperation in the face of influences from other global powers and regional powers, in order to maintain their strategic independence and autonomy. Firstly, both India and ASEAN countries are facing influences from traditional and emerging powers, particularly in terms of geopolitics and regional security. These impacts come from multiple fields including economy, military, and politics, posing challenges to maintaining their respective national interests and regional stability. Faced with increasing security challenges, security cooperation has become a common concern and new pillar of India ASEAN relations.

In this situation, establishing a security cooperation mechanism has become an inevitable choice, by sharing intelligence information and analyzing external threats, in order to enhance the ability to resist external influences.

Secondly, both India and ASEAN countries are pursuing greater voice and dominance in international affairs. As early as the period when India was striving for independence, leaders such as Nehru had set the goal of making India a "vibrant and influential power" and had it throughout India's development. As a regional integration organization, ASEAN has always adhered to the concept of "great power balance", taking the establishment of a "peaceful and free neutral zone" as its core mission, and striving for survival and development opportunities for member countries through collective action (Putra, 2019).

As representatives of the global South, they aspire to break free from the constraints of traditional powers and play a more active role in regional and international affairs. But this pursuit is limited and competitive by other regional powers. In this situation, through security cooperation, India and ASEAN countries can better understand the intentions and actions of external forces, thereby more effectively protecting their own interests and seeking more international support and recognition. In addition, in history, India has had close trade, cultural, religious, and personnel exchanges with Southeast Asian countries, and India's religion and culture have had a profound impact on the Southeast Asian region. The similarities and complementarity in social, cultural, and economic aspects provide a more solid foundation for security cooperation. By sharing information, India and ASEAN countries can better understand each other's needs and concerns, seek common solutions, and form closer cooperative relationships in regional affairs. This cooperation not only helps to cope with external influences, but also promotes regional development and prosperity.

Overall, in the context of the global South, India and ASEAN countries have realized that only through cooperation can they better maintain their strategic position and sovereignty, respond to external challenges, and play a more active role in international affairs. Therefore, establishing a security cooperation mechanism has become an inevitable choice, which helps to strengthen regional stability and development, and promote the common interests of countries in the global South.

4. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Security Cooperation between India and ASEAN.

From the perspective of the global South, security cooperation between India and ASEAN is a crucial part of the regional security architecture, but there are also many risks and challenges, including political risks, technological security issues, economic impacts, and the sustainability of cooperation. By analyzing these risk factors in detail, we can gain a deeper understanding of the cooperation dynamics between India and ASEAN in maintaining regional security and promoting regional stability. At the same time, we can identify and propose strategic recommendations to address these risks, providing reference and guidance for future cooperation. In addition, the evaluation will also explore how to optimize cooperation outcomes through mechanism innovation and policy adjustments, ensuring the long-term effectiveness and efficiency of security cooperation.

Significant achievements: conflict prevention, regional stability, and enhanced security capabilities. The security cooperation between India and ASEAN is an important component of the regional security architecture, with the aim of enhancing mutual trust and coordination among participating countries in the political, economic, and security fields, thereby improving the overall security capabilities of the region.

Through intelligence sharing, cooperative defense, and capacity building, India's cooperation with ASEAN has shown positive results in multiple aspects, mainly reflected in three key areas: conflict prevention, regional stability, and enhanced security capabilities.

Firstly, India's security cooperation with ASEAN has played a significant role in conflict prevention. With the implementation of the 'Eastward Action Policy', the relationship between India and ASEAN has further strengthened, and strategic cooperation has become closer. Through regular intelligence exchange and cooperation, both sides can more effectively identify and respond to potential security threats.

In terms of specific participation in the Western Pacific and South China Sea regions, the Indian Navy has established regular visiting arrangements, frequently docking at ports of neighboring countries in the South China Sea such as Vietnam, Singapore, and the Philippines, and conducting joint military exercises with these countries. India and ASEAN have enhanced their monitoring and early warning capabilities for illegal fishing, piracy, and unauthorized military operations in the region by sharing intelligence on maritime activities. The maritime interaction between India and ASEAN countries is gradually strengthening, India's activity in the South China Sea is constantly increasing, and an all-weather partnership has been established between India and Vietnam.

In addition, India has further strengthened its cooperation and exchanges with ASEAN countries in combating terrorism and piracy (Sundararaman, 2004). By establishing joint working groups and specialized committees, India and ASEAN have strengthened their monitoring and crackdown on terrorist networks. This cooperation not only includes information sharing, but also involves joint training and capacity building, effectively blocking the channels for terrorists' cross-border activities and reducing the occurrence of terrorist attacks.

Secondly, security cooperation also helps to maintain and strengthen regional stability. The cooperation model between India and ASEAN has promoted mutual understanding of each other's political and security dynamics, enhancing mutual trust. This deepening mutual trust reduces the possibility of misjudgment and helps to quell potential regional conflicts.

In practical applications, India and ASEAN discuss and coordinate security issues of common concern through regular bilateral and multilateral meetings. This high-level dialogue and policy consultation provide a platform for both sides to resolve disputes and avoid confrontation, which is an important guarantee for regional stability. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Indian Navy not only participated in rescue efforts in Indonesia and Thailand, It has demonstrated its humanitarian concerns. At the same time, India and ASEAN have strengthened cooperation in disaster prevention and reduction,

especially in providing emergency intelligence support for responding to natural disasters, significantly enhancing the region's ability to respond to emergencies, thereby helping to maintain long-term stability in the region. In terms of security capabilities, by sharing the latest technological information and collaborating to develop intelligence collection and analysis tools, both sides' intelligence agencies can more effectively handle complex security intelligence, improve their ability to warn and respond to rapidly changing security environments.

Overall, the achievements of India and ASEAN in security cooperation are not only reflected in specific security operations and technical aspects, but also in enhancing strategic mutual trust and cooperation capabilities between the two sides on the regional and international stage through cooperation. This cooperation model provides strong support and guarantee for regional and even global peace and stability. In the future, as cooperation deepens and technology advances, the potential for security cooperation between India and ASEAN will become even greater, and their role in maintaining regional security will become more significant.

5. Difficulties and Challenges: Discussion on Trust Building, Information Security, and Legal Differences.

In the field of security cooperation between India and ASEAN, a series of complex challenges have emerged, especially in trust building, information security, and differences in the rule of law. These challenges not only involve technical and strategic considerations, but also touch upon deep political and cultural factors. By delving into these core challenges and studying how they impact security cooperation between India and ASEAN, as well as exploring possible strategies to address these issues, the efficiency and effectiveness of bilateral cooperation will be significantly improved.

Firstly, building trust is one of the most critical non-technical challenges in secure cooperation. For India and ASEAN countries, historical doubts, political sensitivities, and cultural differences are all sources of trust deficiency. The lack of trust in the political and security fields has limited the deepening of India's strategic partnership with ASEAN. The historical background and increasingly complex geopolitical situation in the Indo Pacific region have led to insufficient political mutual trust between India and ASEAN (Yong & Mun, 2009).

Some countries in ASEAN remain wary of India's strategic intentions and are concerned that it may play an overly dominant role in regional security affairs, which undermines the possibility of deep intelligence sharing. To address this challenge, it is first necessary to establish trust through transparent policy communication and direct high-level dialogue. India can proactively share the true intentions of its

regional security strategy to reduce misunderstandings and suspicions. In addition, trust can be gradually established through small-scale and specific cooperation projects, such as joint working groups and training programs in areas such as counterterrorism and maritime security.

Secondly, information security is a technical challenge in security cooperation. Seizing information advantage and making it the core resource and dominant factor of system confrontation is an important direction for major powers in the world to shift their military and intelligence strategies. Ensuring the security of information during transmission and processing is an important issue in the security cooperation between India and ASEAN.

The varying levels of technology and security standards among different countries increase the risk of information interception or misuse. India and ASEAN can jointly establish strict information security protocols and technical standards to ensure that all participating countries meet certain security requirements. In addition, establishing a regional information security oversight agency is also a feasible option, which is responsible for supervising and reviewing intelligence sharing activities to ensure that all operations comply with established security guidelines.

In addition, legal differences are also a common issue encountered in cooperation between India and ASEAN. Legal differences are a common issue encountered in cooperation between India and ASEAN. The legal systems and enforcement efforts of different countries vary greatly in protecting data privacy, intelligence sharing authorization, and other aspects, which poses challenges to cross-border security cooperation. To overcome this difficulty, it is possible to establish bilateral or multilateral legal framework agreements to unify cooperation standards and operational procedures. These framework agreements should cover key areas such as legal responsibility for intelligence sharing, information security, data protection, as well as the application of international and regional laws that may be involved in intelligence operations. At the same time, establishing legal coordination agencies, such as intelligence cooperation legal advisory groups, can also help solve legal issues that arise in practical operations.

The security cooperation between India and ASEAN is a complex multilateral relationship that involves a wide range of political, security, and technological issues. Trust building, information security, and legal differences are the three core issues that must be taken seriously in cooperation. Only through continuous efforts and innovative solutions can these challenges be effectively managed, ensuring the stability and effectiveness of cooperation and promoting regional peace and security. In addition, both India and ASEAN should recognize that security cooperation is not only a tool for addressing current security threats, but also a bridge for building long-term strategic partnerships. Therefore, while strengthening

cooperation, it is also necessary to continuously adjust and optimize cooperation mechanisms to cope with new security challenges and technological changes.

6. The impact and inspiration on the construction of regional and global southern order.

The security cooperation between India and ASEAN has had a significant impact on the political and security order of the region and even the global South. This cooperation not only reflects the interaction of forces within the region, but also embodies the efforts of countries in the global South to maintain their own security and promote regional stability.

The security cooperation between India and ASEAN directly affects the regional security environment, especially in anti submarine warfare and counterterrorism activities. On September 24, 2021, the Indian Navy and Singapore Navy conducted a three-day military exercise in the South China Sea, aimed at strengthening India's anti submarine warfare capabilities in the Indo Pacific waters. On February 25, 2022, the Indian Navy held the "Milan-2022" joint military exercise, attracting navies from over 40 countries worldwide. ASEAN countries such as Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia were important participants in this exercise.

Through these joint exercises and regular intelligence exchanges, India and ASEAN countries have made significant progress in improving the synergy and efficiency of counterterrorism operations. More importantly, security cooperation promotes the ability of countries to handle regional tensions, especially in the South China Sea dispute, where sharing maritime activity intelligence enables countries to more effectively manage and avoid potential conflicts. This cooperation not only enhances the regional security environment, but also effectively prevents and responds to transnational crime and terrorism activities, providing solid support for regional stability.

Security cooperation has also promoted coordination between India and ASEAN at a broader policy and strategic level. Under the new international situation, the relationship between India and ASEAN is undergoing profound changes, gradually shifting from traditional economic and cultural exchanges to strengthened security and defense cooperation. Indian Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly expressed India's importance to ASEAN in diplomatic occasions, stating that "ASEAN is the center of India's policy in the Indo Pacific region.

Security cooperation has become an important pillar in the relationship between the two regions, not only enhancing ASEAN's security benefits, but also significantly increasing India's influence and voice in Southeast Asia. Through regular exchanges, India and ASEAN have maintained consistency in the security field, while also reaching more consensus in the economic and political fields. This deep level of

cooperation promotes the practice of multilateralism, especially in addressing regional and global challenges such as climate change and public health crises, where intelligence and data sharing strengthen response measures and resource allocation within the region (Wei, 2024). The security cooperation between India and ASEAN not only broadens the channels of cooperation, but also strengthens the coordination between the two sides at a broader policy and strategic level, laying a solid foundation for the long-term stability and development of the region.

The security cooperation between India and ASEAN is not limited to both sides, but also influences broader international relations by promoting strategic dialogue with other countries in the global South. For example, India has strengthened its connections with African and Latin American countries through cooperation bridges with ASEAN, which also face dual challenges of security and development. Through this approach, India and ASEAN have jointly promoted a more inclusive and mutually beneficial global southern order.

In the current era of deepening globalization, the security cooperation between India and ASEAN reflects how regions can respond to the security challenges brought by globalization through cooperation. Security cooperation enables countries to better understand the economic, social, and technological changes in the process of globalization, and how these changes affect regional security.

The security cooperation between India and ASEAN provides important insights for countries in the global South, that strengthening cooperation and building trust are effective ways to address common challenges. In the future, with the development of technology and changes in the global political and economic situation, security cooperation will need to constantly adapt to new security threats and opportunities for cooperation. In addition, strengthening legal construction, information protection, and transparency in cooperation will be key to promoting the long-term sustainability and deepening of such cooperation.

7. Conclusion. This paper explores the current situation and challenges of security cooperation between India and ASEAN from the perspective of the global South, and analyzes its impact on regional security and political stability.

Security cooperation, as an important field in international relations, plays an irreplaceable role in promoting regional stability, addressing global challenges, and enhancing multilateral cooperation. The security cooperation between India and ASEAN has played an important role in enhancing regional security and strengthening strategic partnerships, especially in demonstrating significant strategic significance in the stability of the Indo Pacific region.

However, issues such as trust building, information security, and legal differences still pose major challenges in cooperation, affecting the depth and quality of cooperation. In addition, this cooperation has also promoted coordination between the two sides at a broader policy and strategic level, particularly demonstrating the value of multilateralism in global issues such as climate change and public health crisis management. To further strengthen this cooperation, it is recommended to establish a more systematic trust mechanism, including regular high-level exchanges and joint exercises, as well as an intelligence mechanism jointly supervised by both parties. At the same time, India and ASEAN should jointly develop unified information security standards, coordinate legal and policy frameworks, and ensure the legitimacy and effectiveness of cooperation. In addition, in the broader context of the global South, both sides should strengthen policy cooperation on regional and global issues such as climate change, economic development, and technological innovation to cope with the increasingly complex international environment.

In the future, with the evolution of the global political and economic landscape, the security cooperation between India and ASEAN will face new development opportunities and challenges. In the context of the global South, this cooperation is expected to become an important force in promoting regional and global stability. The advancement of technology and the dynamic changes in international relations will drive India and ASEAN to explore new models and paths in security cooperation, especially with the help of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data, the cooperation between the two sides will be more precise and efficient. By comprehensively utilizing intelligence resources, India and ASEAN can not only better respond to common security threats, but also play a more active role in the political and economic development of the global South, jointly promoting the establishment of a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous world.

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