Greetings from the Journal of ASEAN Studies. We are very grateful to reach the fifth year of contributing to the Southeast Asian studies, both Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as institution and also individual country in the region. With the publication of this Volume 5 Issue 1, 2017, we are pleased to stay on track in providing an academic venue for scholars, practitioners, diplomats, businessmen, and larger stakeholders of ASEAN to contribute to the development of knowledge and debates pertaining to the Southeast Asian political, social, economic, and security issues.

In this issue, there are six interesting manuscripts that consist of five articles and one research note. The first article is entitled, “The Evolution of Southeast Asian Regionalism: Security, Economic Development, and Foreign Power Support for Regional Initiatives, 1947-77” written by Sue Thompson from Australian National University, Australia. Thompson discusses Southeast Asian regionalism by focusing on the aspect of economic development and security. She argues that the evolution of Southeast Asian regionalism was a combined effort of foreign power support for Asian initiatives throughout the economic development with the aim to provide security during the political transformation of the region from the post-war period into the early years of ASEAN and the aftermath of the war in Vietnam.

The second article is entitled, “Redefining ASEAN Way: Democratization and Intergovernmental Relations in Southeast Asia” written by M. Faishal Aminuddin and Joko Purnomo, both from University of Brawijaya, Indonesia. Aminuddin and Purnomo review inter-state relations in Southeast Asia countries and find that regional cooperation in the region has achieved limited political development. They provide an alternative type of political diplomacy by combining formal diplomacy actions done by state institution and informal diplomacy actions done by non-government actors.

The third article is entitled, “The Rohingya Muslim in the Land of Pagoda” written by Leni Winarni from Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia. Winarni examines why the Buddhist community in Myanmar turns into religious violence against Rohingya people in the State of Rakhine. She uses historical perspective to analyze the ethnic-religion violence and finds that the conflict is either an indication of a weak state or failure state in managing diversity.

The fourth article is entitled, “Higher Education Integration in ASEAN: ASEAN University Network Case” written by Teuku Rezasyah, Neneng Konety, Affabile Rifawan, and Wahyu Wardhana from Padjadjaran University, Indonesia. Rezasyah et al. discuss the role of ASEAN University Network (AUN) in enhancing regional integration in the higher education sector in ASEAN. Lastly, the fifth article is entitled, “Sub-National Government and the Problem of Unequal Development in ASEAN Economic Integration: Case of Indonesia” written by Agus Suman, Pantri Muthriana Erza Killian, and Ni Komang Desy Arya Pinatih. They elaborate the problem of increasing intra-national development gap due to regional integration by using Indonesia as a case study.

This issue ends with a research note entitled, “Liberal World Order in the Age of Disruptive Politics: A Southeast Asian Perspective” written by Moch Faisal Karim from University of Warwick, United Kingdom. Karim explores the notion of disruptive politics and the challenge it poses to the liberal world order.
Finally, the editor-in-chief would like to express highest appreciation for the authors who have submitted their manuscripts as response from our invitation and call for papers, as well as who have participated in the International Conference on Business, International Relations, and Diplomacy (ICOBIRD) at Bina Nusantara University whose papers are published in this issue. We also would like to thank the Indonesian Association for International Relations (AIHII) for continuing support of this joint publication with the Centre for Business and Diplomatic Studies (CBDS) of the Department of International Relations of Bina Nusantara University.

Jakarta, 31 July 2017

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Editor-in-chief