

Webinar Series on “*Indonesia in Korea and Korea in Indonesia*”

Seoul National University Asia Center &
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia

Motives and Interests of Indonesia’s Foreign Policy toward Korea

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Indonesia has cultivated strong relations with South Korea. Such relations have been primarily upheld by the robust economic interactions between two countries, underpinned by beneficial trade links and high economic complementarity. Beyond bilateral mechanism, Jakarta also engage Seoul through several regional and multilateral forums, such as the ASEAN+3, ARF, East Asia Summit, G20, and APEC. The two countries are also members of a middle power caucus called MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, and Australia). Indonesia and South Korea seem to have more modalities to expand their interactions, thanks to the existence of various channels that have allowed increased interactions and exchanges between people of these countries. Against such a background, I attempt to identify the motives and interests of Indonesia’s foreign policy towards South Korea. I argue that relations with South Korea cannot be separated from the strategy of the Indonesian government in power to sustain their rule. Moreover, the general tendency to be pragmatic interact with the personality and motivation of subsequent Indonesian leaders further shaping the pace and characteristics of Indonesia’s foreign policy towards South Korea.

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Place: Zoom Meeting