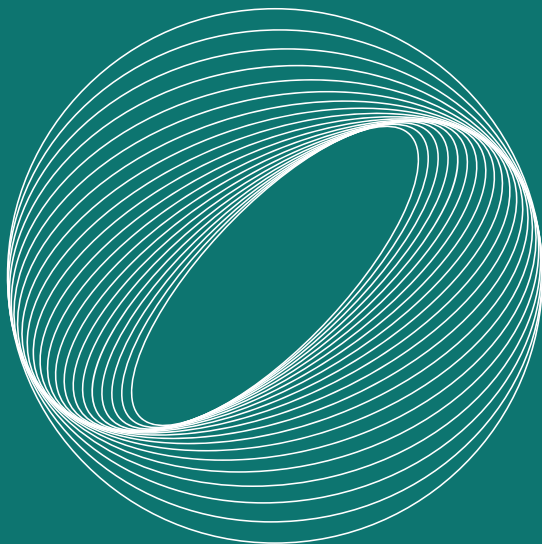




Institute of  
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DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



# ***FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW #65***

**16 FEBRUARY – 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OR DEVELOPING ECONOMIC INJUSTICE?

For over 50 years, transitions towards greener technology have become a global movement taken through international agreements and activism with the means of reducing the impacts of climate change. The most recent one was at the Conference of Parties (COP) 28 Climate Summit in Dubai last December 13, 2023, where nations agreed to “transition away from fossil fuels”, including coal, oil, and gas (Plumer & Bearak, 2023).

As these actions improve the advancement of more sustainable innovations, there are parts of the world that face injustice, those being nations that historically come with natural resources contributing to climate change. These types of resources are significantly relied on as national incomes. According to Venditti (2023), South Africa, China, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam are the top 5 countries that depend most on coal, oil, and gas. Consequently, deciding to subsidize green transitions is a tough decision.

Since many fossil fuel producers come from the Global South, the spotlight often falls on them to take significant responsible measures to tackle climate change. Indeed, while the Global South has made efforts to adhere to international laws, it remains imperative to recognize and confront the accountability of the Global North in addressing climate change. This issue demands collective responsibility on a global scale, and mere environmental campaigns without genuine action are nonsense. Despite many Global South countries bearing the brunt of climate change, climate colonialism persists due to the asymmetrical power dynamics between the North and South. Thus, only after the Global North fulfils its responsibilities can the Global South be expected to drastically reduce its use of fossil fuels, mitigating global injustice and tackling climate change. (Mellyna Girindraputri Laufer, HI UGM 2022).

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## CLIMATE CHALLENGES AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN INDONESIA'S MARITIME FOOD SECURITY

As a maritime country with more than 17,000 islands, Indonesia faces a significant threat to maritime-based food security due to climate change fueled by human activities like fossil fuel consumption and deforestation. Since the industrial revolution began, anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration has increased significantly yearly, reaching  $37.5 \pm 2$  GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2023 (Friedlingstein et al., 2022). As a result, ocean warming and ocean acidification collectively pose significant challenges for Indonesia to optimize the potential of marine resources to provide food security and sustainable maritime resource-based economic growth.

Coral reefs, teeming with marine life, face grave vulnerability to bleaching caused by ocean acidification and warming. It is projected will be marginalized between 2030 and 2050 (Hoegh-Guldberg, 2017). In addition, oysters, bay scallops and hard clams, integral to local food sources and economies, face difficulties in survival and reproduction (Osborne et al., 2022). The decline in coral reefs, crucial shelters and food sources for 25% of known marine species, and the decrease in various shellfish types can yield fatal consequences. This is especially concerning as around 3.3 billion people worldwide rely on them for their livelihoods and sustenance, particularly those in low and middle-income nations (FAO, 2020). In response, coastal communities adapt their fishing strategies and embrace sustainable practices such as right-based fishery management, community-based integrated coastal management and marine protected areas (MPAs) at local and individual levels to protect their resources. Ecologically, MPAs can benefit the recovery of certain species to achieve nature-positive by 2030 (Humphreys and Clark, 2020). As a result, it would increase fish stock and benefit society's socio-economic aspect.

In this delicate dance between climate challenges and community resilience, Indonesia charts a course toward a sustainable future, where the adaptability of local communities becomes a key asset in safeguarding both their well-being and the nation's maritime-based food security. However, it is not just about the resilience of the local community; rather, it hinges on the collaborative efforts of the government, society, and other stakeholders involved in addressing these issues. **(Muhammad Habibullah Galih Tri Aji, University of Toyama).**

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# THE WORST DEATH TOLL IN NEARLY A DECADE: AN ALARMED CALL TO ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

The ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis is showing an alarming surge in the death toll throughout 2023. Being the highest toll since 2014, approximately 569 Rohingya have died or gone missing, accounting for one out of eight of almost 4.500 people who attempted to seek protection (Strangio, 2024). Despite this danger, Rohingya keep choosing to flee by boat because they are continuously subjected to violence in Bangladesh camps, leaving them with the only choice of crossing the sea (Gelineau, 2024). However, after reaching other countries, predominantly Indonesia and Malaysia, they still experience violence due to rejection from the locals and authorities, often in the form of protests, pushback, and detention (Chuah & Vallentine, 2024).

Noting the soaring death toll and hostility in camps, the vicious cycle of the refugee crisis in the Global South became more evident. The fragility of the Global South's economy and political conditions has shaped the hosting country tension behind this vicious cycle. Because the influx of refugees is perceived as a "threat" to the country's stability, the obligation to protect Rohingya refugees becomes insignificant. Consequently, the state insecurity leads to the construction of refugee dehumanization that discourages the effort to fulfill their human rights, as seen through the locals' rejection and government indifference.

It is also worth noting that the hosting countries are not receiving adequate support from the international community (Chuah & Vallentine, 2024). In particular, there is a lack of coordinated protection measures and responses to the increase in boat arrivals, leaving the Rohingya in uncertainty until today. Answering the alarmed call, collective action, and comprehensive solutions are crucial not only in ensuring Rohingya refugee protection but also in reforming the complexity of refugee protection in the Global South. (Annabella Arawinda Arundhati, HI UGM 2021).

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