

Report on the Final ExamName of the Chair: Maung Aung Myoe

On behalf of the Thesis Examining Committee, I would like to report the result of the Final Exam as follows.

1. Student ID	1B9D03
2. Name	Arianto Christian Hartono
3. Cluster	International Relations Cluster
4. Thesis Examining Committee	Chair: Maung Aung Myoe
	Referee: David A. Welch
	Referee: Nawalage S. Cooray
	Referee: Seunghoo Lim
5. Dissertation Title	Geopolitical Influence and the Dynamics of Regional Order in East Asia
6. Submission Date	Draft: 18 April 2022
	Final: 13 June 2022
7. Final Exam Date	25 May 2022
8. Faculty Meeting Date	20 June 2022
9. Degree Title	PhD
10. Result	Pass

I. Dissertation Overview and Summary of the Presentation

The dissertation analyzes the impact of the geopolitical influence of China, Japan, Russia, and the United States on the dynamics of regional order in East Asia. It proposes a model which measures the geopolitical influence index and uses the index as the parameter to analyze the impact of the above mentioned states and their geopolitical influence in the dynamics of regional order in East Asia. The dissertation addresses two very important questions, namely, why are there dynamics on the regional orders of East Asia and how the geopolitical influence of China, Japan, Russia, and the U.S. affects the dynamics of the regional order in East Asia. The conceptual framework in the literature review summarizes concepts of geopolitics, both classical and critical, and places the dissertation in a proper context to explain how the geopolitical influence would be viewed in this research, what are the elements of geopolitical influence, what variables are included to measure the geopolitical influence, and how is the relationship between geopolitical influence and the regional order. Three chapters that follow the literature review deal with analyses of geopolitical influence and regional order in Northeast and Southeast Asia with focuses on regional cooperation and integration, the Role of North Korea and Taiwan, and polarization among the ASEAN Member States. Then the next chapter is about an overview and analysis of East Asia region as a whole. The conclusion chapter neatly highlights the findings.

The candidate has carefully constructed his arguments and solidly presented his analyses during the oral defence. His presentation was satisfactory and the defence went well and the committee decided to give him a PASS grade with minor revision under local supervision.

II. Notes from the Thesis Examining Committee (including the changes required to the dissertation by the committee)

The dissertation is the result of good research work and it explains the impact of geopolitical factors on regional order in East Asia. The dissertation applies a mixed research method to analyze geopolitical influence of great powers in the region and it makes this study an important contribution in the field of geopolitics. However, the committee recommend the following two points to be clarified. First, the dissertation should further clarify on the concept of "order" from different theoretical paradigms and the characteristics of "regional order" in East Asia. Relatedly, it should also explain which aspect(s) of "regional order" has been subjected to dynamism being affected by the geopolitical influence. Secondly, with regard to "geopolitical acceptance" among ASEAN Member Countries (AMC), the dissertation should address the issue of "acceptance by willingness" and/or "acceptance by necessity" and explain the discrepancy between the quantitative and qualitative analyses, such as in the cases of Vietnam and Myanmar. Overall, the dissertation defense went well and the examination committee unanimously decided to give a "Pass" grade.

III. Confirmation by the Chair that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the committee

The committee confirms that the revised version reflects the recommendations and questions during the oral examinations as listed in the previous section of this report.

IV. Overall Evaluation

The examination committee finds that the dissertation is well researched and the candidate comes up with a model which measures the geopolitical influence index and uses the index as the parameter to analyze the impact of the above mentioned states and their geopolitical influence in the dynamics of regional order in East Asia. It is also a major attempt to study the geopolitical influence of great powers in East Asia by applying a mixed research method. More importantly, the study highlights geopolitical factors that impact on regional order in East Asia. In general, the dissertation is a good contribution to the literature on geopolitics and regional security and cooperation.