

NARCOTICS SMUGGLING ROUTES IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION (CASE STUDY IN THE RIAU PROVINCE, INDONESIA)

RENDI PRAYUDA*

TULUS WARSITO**

SURWANDONO***

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This paper describes narcotics smuggling routes in the Southeast Asia region, with a special focus on the case of the Riau Province, Indonesia). Southeast Asia occupies the area of 4,4 million square kilometers. The populations of ASEAN has increased from 563.7 million in 2006 to 631.8 million in 2015 at a rate of 1,14% per annum. The population growth in Southeast Asia has impacted the increased use of drugs. The Golden Triangle, i.e. the territory where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and

* Rendi Prayuda, Universitas Islam Riau; correspondence address: Jalan Kaharuddin Nasution, Pekanbaru Indonesia; e-mail: prayudarendi904@gmail.com

** Tulus Warsito, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta; correspondence address: Jl. Lingkar Selatan, Tamantirto, Kasihan, Tamantirto, Bantul, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, Indonesia 55184; e-mail: tuluswarsito79@gmail.com

*** Surwandono, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta; correspondence address: Jl. Lingkar Selatan, Tamantirto, Kasihan, Tamantirto, Bantul, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, Indonesia 55184; e-mail: surwandonow@gmail.com

Thailand meet, is a hub for narcotics smuggling. Riau Province is one of gates for narcotics smuggling from other states in Southeast Asia to Indonesia. **Method:** The paper uses qualitative methods with accompanying descriptions. The theories applied in this paper are realism approach together with international security concept, human security, and narcotics smuggling. **Findings:** Narcotics smuggling routes in the Riau Province, Indonesia run along unofficial port lines along the coastline. Some regencies that participate in narcotic smuggling are Bengkalis, Dumai, Meranti, Rokan Hilir and Indragiri Hilir Regency. Narcotics smugglers use sea lanes and fishing boats, and act at night to trick patrol officers in the border region.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The dynamics and changes in the polarization of interactions between countries in the international political arena influence the development of the thoughts of international relations experts and state decision makers regarding relations between countries – the bilateral, regional, as well as multilateral ones. The discovery of non-traditional security issues in the perspective of international security after the Cold War is a major phenomenon in the history of world human social life, especially related to the problem of transnational crime. In 1995, the United Nations agency identified various types and forms of transnational crime activities, including money laundering, terrorism activities, theft of art and cultural objects, intellectual property theft, illegal circulation of weapons, sea piracy, insurance fraud, computer crime, environmental crime, human trafficking, trafficking in human body parts, trafficking in narcotics and drugs, bankruptcy of frauds, legal business infiltration, corruption and bribery of public officials, and other violations carried out by organized criminal groups.¹

¹ “Ninth United Nations Congress on The Prevention of Crime and The Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, Egypt, 29 April–8 May 1995”, 1995, pp. 6–14.

The mobility between countries has resulted in the blurring of state borders and the waning of state authority, which, in turn, results in the emergence of various new problems, one of which is an increased opportunity for transnational crime. A manifestation of transnational crime which is the most crucial as it concerns the future generation of a nation, especially the world's younger generation, is crime in the field of narcotics abuse. Circulation of narcotics can easily penetrate the borders of the world through a neat network of management and sophisticated technology.²

Drug trafficking is an activity that involves the importation, manufacturing, cultivation, distribution, and/or sale of illicit drugs. In this hierarchical system, narcotics are moved from smugglers, growers, or manufacturers to wholesalers who pass the product down through the chain of distribution to retailers and eventually to the consumer or drug user. Various attempts have been made to develop typologies of upper level drug dealing networks based on roles, position in the market, tasks undertaken, or organizational structure.³ Natarajan and Belanger used court records of 39 trafficking organizations in New York City to classify drug syndicates into four main types: "freelance" networks are composed of small nonhierarchical entrepreneurial groupings of individuals; "family businesses" are cohesive organizations with clear structure and authority and trust based on family ties; "communal businesses" are flexible organizations bound together by a common tie such as ethnicity, religion, nationality, or neighborhood residence; and "corporations" are large organizations in which there is a formal hierarchy and a well-defined division of labor.⁴ In the development of this international narcotics distribution network, the Southeast Asian region is also used as an international drug trafficking route. The issue of the production and illicit circulation of narcotics on an international scale, according to the data from the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, consists of three regional forms. The area is one of the three largest drug producing regions in the world, along with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran which are often called the Golden Crescent, and the regions

² J. Broome, *Transnational Crime in The Twenty-First Century*, "Jurnal Kriminologi Indonesia", 2000, <http://journal.ui.ac.id/index.php/jki/article/view/1238/1143>

³ Cf. B.D. Johnson, A. Hamid, H. Sanabria, *Emerging models of crack distribution*, [in:] *Drugs, crime and social policy*, T. Mieczkowski (ed.), Boston 2017, pp. 56–78.

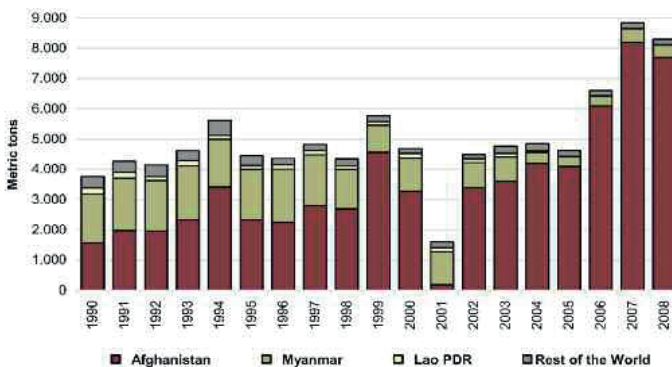
⁴ M. Natarajan, M. Belanger, *Varieties of Drug Trafficking Organizations: A Typology of Cases Prosecuted in New York City*, "Journal of Drug Issues", 1 October 1998, pp. 1005–1025, DOI 10.1177/002204269802800410.

of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia which are often called the Golden Peacock. The Southeast Asian region in which narcotics are intensively produced is often called the Golden Triangle.⁵

The Golden Triangle area, located on the border of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos, produces 60% of the world's opium and heroin production. Drugs produced in the region made from a species of poppy called *Papaver somniferum*, which is a raw material for heroin, are included in the category of narcotics and potentially addictive substances. Thus, the region contributes to the heroin industry, which is worth 160 billion US dollars per year.⁶ The growth of poppy in the Golden Triangle area, from the cultural perspective, is one of the sources of community income, especially in Myanmar. Since 1997 the Myanmar government has begun to implement a ban on planting poppy plantations, but this has met with resistance and protests from various communities because most of the people of Myanmar depend on the income from agriculture, including poppy plantations. In addition, for the Myanmar Government itself, poppy plantations are a source of foreign exchange, with opium production of around 470 tons, about 5% of global opium production (as compared to e.g. opium production in Afghanistan of around 8,200 tons and about 93% of global opium production).

The following figure presents the data on the development of opium growth in the Golden Triangle region according to the UNODC report.

FIG. 1. OPIUM GROWTH IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGION (LAOS, MYANMAR AND THAILAND)



Source: Opium cultivation in the Golden Triangle (1998-2007) – UNODC Report.

⁵ Badan Narkotika Nasional, *Laporan Kinerja BNN Tahun 2014*, Jakarta 2014.

⁶ Z. Othman, *Myanmar. Illicit Drugs Trafficking and Security Implication*, Jakarta 2004.

Based on the graph above, from 1997 to 2000 opium growth in the Golden Triangle (the area between Laos, Myanmar and Thailand) increased from 4,000 tons in 1990 and reached 90,000 metric tons in 2008. Therefore, several countries in Southeast Asian regions such as Myanmar, Laos and Thailand are known as countries producing and processing narcotics such as opium, cocaine and heroin. The destination country for the production of opium in the Golden Triangle area was originally the United States, Europe and Australia; the transit went through Indonesia. However, in the course of its development, Indonesia has become not only one of the transit countries for narcotics to Australia, but also as a market for narcotics itself.

Geographically, Indonesia is an archipelago that has \pm 17,000 islands with a coastline of \pm 95,181 km. The geographical location is, unfortunately, very strategic for smugglers: with its long land border, as well as a long water border (coast), Indonesia is a vulnerable area for smuggling illegal goods. In addition, Indonesia's population of around 270 million also results in the country being an international market share. The widespread illicit drug trafficking in Indonesia is caused by a couple of factors. The first one is the demand from consumers who need the supply of imported narcotics. The second factor is that Indonesia is considered a good land for drug trafficking due to its strategic geographical location: the country is an archipelago and there are 10 entry points that make it easier for dealers to enter drugs into Indonesia.

According to the data from the Indonesian National Police (Polri), the number of narcotics and illegal drugs cases in Indonesia has increased in the recent years. In 2010 there were 26,614 narcotics cases, then the number slumped to 26,500 cases in 2011. In 2012, the number of narcotics and illicit drug cases increased by 0.23 percent (61 cases) to 26,561 cases. In 2013, the number of narcotics and illegal drugs cases in Indonesia increased again, this time with a significant number, namely 32,470 cases in 2013 and in 2015 cases that occurred in Indonesia totalled 44,321 (www.asean.org/news).

Based on the data from the BNN report, Indonesia is the highest ranking country in the distribution of narcotics in the Southeast Asian region. According to the data of the National Police Headquarters, several cities in Indonesia, such as Bali, Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya, Batam and Pekanbaru, are cities with a high level of narcotics circulation. One of the regions of Indonesia which is the gateway to the entry of narcotics from Southeast Asia by sea is the province of Riau. This is because the region directly bor-

ders with Malaysia and Singapore, and thus it has a fairly high mobility in the flow of goods and people.

2. RESEARCH PROBLEM AND METHOD

The geographical location of the Riau Province which is strategically adjacent to Malaysia and Singapore has resulted in a network of transnational crime making the Riau Province region a transit area for narcotics from Malaysia, especially from the type of shabu-shabu, that are sent through the illegal ports in the Riau Province. Several frameworks of cooperation that have been carried out by countries in the Southeast Asia region through the ASEAN forum have not been able to minimize the smuggling of narcotics in the Southeast Asian region, especially narcotics smuggled into Indonesia through the entrance routes of the Riau Province. Based on this explanation, this paper focuses on examining the dynamics of transnational crime related to narcotics smuggling in the Southeast Asia region, especially in the Riau Province.

The research approach used in this study is the qualitative approach. However, this study also uses quantitative data such as statistical data tables, graphs and quantitative diagrams regarding the numerical scale of an empirical phenomenon. This research is a case study that uses a qualitative approach. The data in this paper come from field research and library research.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

The research on upper level drug trafficking forms part of the broader literature on organized crime; however, there is no agreed upon definition of organized crime. There are two main competing views of organized crime and drug markets. One image, commonly portrayed in the media and promoted by some scholars, suggests that enterprise crime is controlled by a relatively small number of large criminal mafia type syndicates that are tightly organized, based on ethnic ties, hierarchically structured, and highly disciplined. They involve a clear division of labor, endure over long periods of time, gain monopolistic control over illicit markets within specific geographic areas, and use violence and corruption to maintain their dominance.⁷

In the second view, organized crime consists of a relatively large number of small independent criminal syndicates, each of whom competes with

⁷ D. Cressey, *Theft of the nation*, New York 1969.

one another for market share. A number of studies suggest that organized criminal syndicates operate largely through network structures in which individuals are organized into medium to small groups or cells and operate in local niche markets. These networks represent informal and loosely organized associations of entrepreneurs, who use friendship, kinship, and ethnic networks to select partners, employees, suppliers, and distributors whom they know and trust (Desroches, 2005; Langer, 1977; Morselli, 2001; Potter, 1993; Zaitch, 2002a, 2002b). Pearson & Hobbs' (2001) study of upper level drug syndicates in the UK describes small, flexible networks and partnerships of free-trading entrepreneurs or brokers who operated with a correspondingly small number of suppliers and customers.

The development of transnational narcotics crime in Afghanistan is influenced by two factors, namely by the geographical and the economic factor. Geographically, Afghanistan is flanked by two valleys: the Wakhan Corridor connecting with China, and the Pamir Knot, connecting with the Indian Himalayas. Economically, industries important for Afghanistan are mining and the cultivation of poppy, including the species that is a source of opium, which can be then processed into heroin and legalized by the Government. This plant is mass produced in the Helmand Province. Afghanistan is the largest source of opium production beyond Burma and Myanmar.⁸

4. DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING WORLDWIDE AND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

One of the real contemporary threats to human security is the illegal trade and abuse of narcotics. The rates of drug abuse in the world have increased from 2006 to 2018. Although the curve looks sloping, the total amount is quite high. The number of people abusing narcotics was estimated at 4.9% of the world's population, or 208 million users in 2006; then it experienced a slight decline in 2008 and 2009 to 4.6% and 4.8% respectively. But then it increased again to 5.2% in 2011 and remained stable until 2013. In absolute terms, it is estimated that there are around 167 to 315 million abusers in the world population aged 15–64 years who have been using drugs at least once a year since 2013 (UNODC 2015).

⁸ D.M.P. McCarthy, *An Economic History of Organized Crime. A national and transnational approach*, New York 2001.

In the last five years, the trend for ecstasy drugs has been indicated to decline by around 15% in various countries, while the use of amphetamine has been reported to be stable. However, there has been a dramatic increase (158%) in the last five years in the consumption of methamphetamine. In addition, several types of synthetic drugs have emerged and developed in the drug trade, and even more and more countries are reporting the emergence of new drugs each year. In 2014, new types of drugs were reported in more than 90 countries, and the number of countries reporting new types of drugs increased by about 1.5 times compared to 2009. These types of synthetic drugs became “legal highs” commodity and replaced drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy. They are sold on the Internet as well as in special shops. Cannabis use is also increasing in most countries. Cannabis abuse is the most abuse group that requires special treatment for users. The use of ATS is increasing globally as well; however, this might be because ATS is used as a drug to treat opiate use disorders (UNODC 2015).

After the Cold War, the Southeast Asian region, in particular Thailand, became the main route of opium trade from Myanmar and of heroin trade, which also enters Thailand through the Laos border. The soaring illegal production of drugs in Myanmar in the 1990s was followed by the swift flow of drug trafficking in Thailand from Myanmar. In Laos, opium cultivation is widely practiced in the northern part of the country, e.g. in the Phongsaly Province, and in the western part, i.e. the Xieng Khouang Province, especially in Nonghet and Xam Nue districts. In Myanmar opium cultivation is found in two districts in the Shan Province, namely Wa district and Kokang district, which are located along the border between Myanmar and China, as the localisation of drug production near this border facilitates sale and distribution. In Thailand the main areas of opium cultivation lie in the mountains of Doi Tung and Doi Mae Salong in the Chiang Rai Province. Large-scale opium fields were also found in several villages west and southwest of the city of Chiang Mai. In addition to these three countries, opium growers were also found on the Vietnam border, but planting was still small-scale there.

The following table presents the data on the types of drugs abused in the Southeast Asia region, as follows:

TABLE 1. TRENDS IN TYPES OF DRUGS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

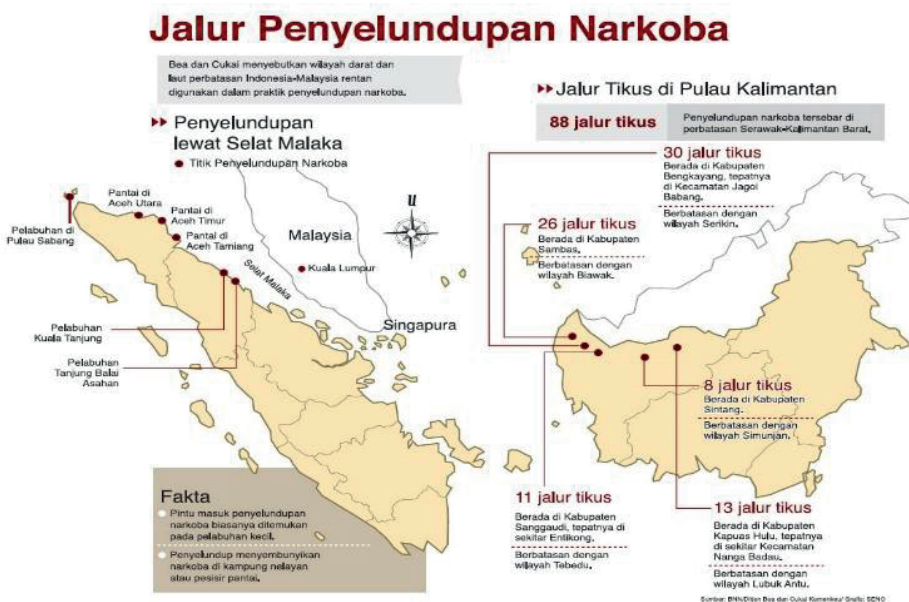
<i>Drug type</i>	<i>Trend in abuse</i>		
	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
Methamphetamine pills	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam		Thailand
Methamphetamine crystal	Cambodia, Indonesia**, Thailand	Philippines**	Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore
Ecstasy	Brunei, Indonesia**, Viet Nam	Cambodia	Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand
Heroin	Cambodia, Indonesia**, Lao PDR, Singapore, Viet Nam		Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand
Opium	Singapore		Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
Cocaine		Thailand	
Cannabis	Brunei, Philippines**, Singapore, Thailand (herb)	Cambodia, Lao PDR	Malaysia, Thailand (resin)
Ketamine			Singapore, Thailand
Barbiturates	Thailand		
Benzodiazepines	Thailand		Brunei, Myanmar, Singapore
Inhalants	Thailand	Cambodia	Malaysia

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Tahun 2016.

The above data indicate that the abuse of narcotics and dangerous drugs in the Southeast Asia region is already at a high level of urgency. Each ASEAN country has certain types of drugs accompanied by a certain amount. Starting from the types of drugs that are still made from raw materials such as raw opium, the types of drugs that have been processed such as heroin or ATS (amphetamine) are spread evenly in each country. Since 2006, there have been more and more types of drugs, resulting in national trends in each country changing along with consumer trends.

The following figure shows the flow of narcotics smuggling in the Southeast Asia region.

FIG. 2. PATHWAY FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLING THROUGH INDONESIAN BORDERS



Source: Media Indonesia (Utami, 2016).

5. THE RIAU PROVINCE, INDONESIA

One of the border regions that is the entrance to illegal narcotics smuggling from the Southeast Asia region to Indonesia is the Riau Province. Geographically, the Riau Province is located between 1°15' south latitude and 2°25' north latitude. Prior to pemekaran, the Province consisted of land and sea/waters, with an area of approximately 329,867.61 km². The position of the region stretches from the middle east coast of Sumatra to the west coast of Kalimantan. The land area is 235,306 km², or around 71.33 per cent, and the area of the Riau sea is around 94,561.61 km², or 28.67 percent. Geographically, the Riau Province has a very strategic position, which is directly adjacent to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand and face to face with the Malacca Strait which is the crossing point of world trade. In addition, the Riau Province is in the central part of the island of Sumatra on cross-regional movement trajectories, which results in good access to goods, people, information and capital. The Riau Province is geographically bordered by the following regions:

- to the north: Malacca Strait (bordering Malaysia),
- to the south: the Jambi Province and West Sumatra,
- to the east: the Riau Islands Province,
- to the west: the North Sumatra Province.

The Riau Province has a coastline that stretches from the Panipahan region of Rokan Hilir Regency to the Kijang Island area of Indragiri Hilir Regency, which is around 370 miles or equivalent to 685.24 km with 139 islands in the Riau Province with details of an island called 73 islands and nameless island 66 islands. In addition, the Riau Province also includes several islands with the status of leading islands, namely:

1. Jemur Island, located in the Kuching Stone area, about 45 miles (83.34 km) from Malaysia,
2. Tokong Island, adjacent to Batu Kuching, Malaysia,
3. Sinaboi Island, adjacent to Port Dickson, Malaysia,
4. Tanjung Medang, adjacent to Tanjung Rachado, Malaysia,
5. Tanjung Parit, adjacent to Tanjung Tohor, Malaysia,
6. Tanjung Kedabu, adjacent to Banana Island.

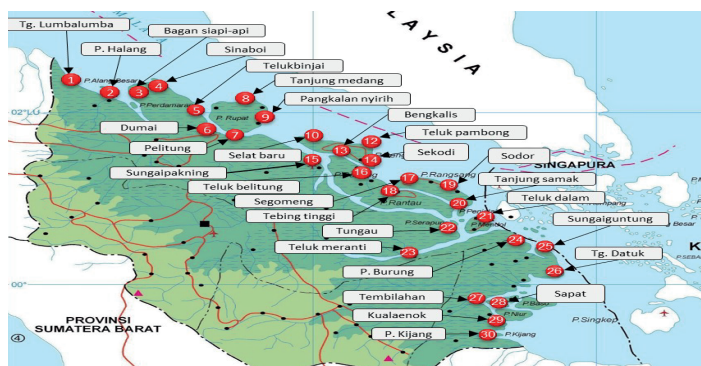
With this position, the Riau Province is one of the gates of international trade, especially from Malaysia and Singapore. Some areas of the Riau Province which are the entry points for goods from Malaysia are Tanjung Buton Port, Long Strait Port, Rupert Bengkalis Island Port, Dumai Port, Sinaboy Rokan Hilir Port and Bagan Siapi-api Port.

6. NARCOTIC SMUGGLING ROUTES IN THE RIAU PROVINCE

The development of trade relations between Indonesia, especially the Riau Province, and Malaysia, on the one hand, provides economic benefits to the community. However, on the other hand, the trade relations between the two regions are often misused by irresponsible parties by carrying out narcotics smuggling transactions from Malaysia to the Indonesian territory through the Riau Province as a transit point for the smuggling of narcotics.

The following map shows entry points for drug smuggling from Malaysia through the ports along the coast in the Riau Province region.

FIG. 3. MAP OF ENTRANCE ROUTES FOR NARCOTIC SMUGGLING IN THE RIAU PROVINCE



Source: Directorate of Narcotics at the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia in Riau, 2017.

There are five regencies/cities in the coastal areas of the Riau Province, namely Rokan Hilir Regency, Dumai City, Bengkalis Regency, Kepulauan Meranti Regency and Indragiri Hilir Regency. The smuggling of narcotics from the Southeast Asia region through sea lanes is indicated to enter Indonesia through the sea ports along the coast of the Riau Province. Besides that, based on Law Number 57 of 1983, the Riau Province has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on the area of 379,000 km².

The following map shows the territory of the Riau Province.

FIG. 4. MAP OF THE RIAU PROVINCE



BATAS WILAYAH:

- Utara : Selat Malaka (berbatasan dgn Malaysia)
- Selatan : Prov. Jambi dan Sumbar
- Timur : Prov. Kepri
- Barat : Sumatera Utara

PANJANG GARIS PANTAI

Membentang dari Panipahan (Rohil) sampai Pulau Kijang

Source: Directorate of Narcotics at the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia in Riau, 2017.

Based on the map, it can be denied that the Riau Province is directly bordered to the north by the Straits of Malacca and only 83 km from Batu Kching Malaysia. In the waters there are 3,214 large and small islands that are spread strategically, as part of them is situated in the Malacca Strait and the southern China Sea which are one of the main sea shipping routes in the world of global trade. The geographical area of Riau is directly adjacent to Southeast Asian countries, namely Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Geographically, the Riau Province has a very strategic position, which is directly adjacent to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand; face to face with the Malacca Strait which is the crossing point of world trade. In addition, as it has already been mentioned, the Riau Province is located in the central part of the island of Sumatra on cross-regional movement trajectories, which results in good access to goods, people, information and capital.

This strategic position, as indicated above, makes the Riau Province one of the gates of international trade, among others, through the ports of Dumai, Manmade, Tanjung Buton, Sungai Pakning, Perawang, Pekanbaru, Selat Panjang and Kuala Enok. However, as it also has been observed, this strategic location also poses a threat from the point of view of state security, especially human security. One of the real threats is transnational crime in the form of drug trafficking in the Southeast Asia region. Circulation and trafficking in drugs is an issue of transnational crime that is developing in the Southeast Asia region, and poor law enforcement as well as low level of control from government institutions are the main reason why drug trade business in the Southeast Asia region is so easy to develop.⁹

The following table shows data on the cases of narcotics use that were successfully revealed by the Riau Regional Police.

⁹ C. Bambang, *Hubungan Internasional di Asia Tenggara "Teropong Terhadap Dinamika, Kondisi Riil dan Masa Depan"*, Yogyakarta 2007.

TABLE 2. CASE DATA BASED ON DRUG EVIDENCE IN 2016

NO	KESATUAN	NARKOTIKA								
		KSS	TSK	BB	KSS	TSK	BB	KSS	TSK	BB
				GANJA (gr)			XTC (btr)			SHABU (gr)
1	Dit Narkoba	6	8	34336.36	19	23	19022	124	147	3877.65
2	Resta P.Baru	25	35	60,872.46	11	13	2122	165	206	2733.68
3	Res Dumai	22	28	1087.929	7	12	241	122	161	5758.4
4	Res Bengkalis	15	20	1283.21	0	0	179	145	264	1023.71
5	Res Kampar	30	38	24336.62	0	0	6	128	162	421.41
6	Res Inhu	7	9	53036.2	2	2	1148	42	53	269.59
7	Res Inhil	7	9	2008.6	7	7	277	59	75	356.25
8	Res Pelalawan	24	26	11160.83	2	2	8	62	75	79.21
9	Res Rohul	19	33	8023.71	0	0	0	62	95	154.05
10	Res Rohil	20	23	21688.54	4	7	68	127	178	617.86
11	Res Siak	11	16	402.71	0	0	0	83	117	3182.78
12	Res Kuansing	11	15	878.72	0	0	0	39	53	82.64
13	Res Kep Meranti	2	3	1.62	2	2	23	41	60	52.33
	JUMLAH	199	263	219,117.51	54	68	23,094	1199	1646	18,609.56

Source: Directorate of Narcotics at the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia in Riau, 2017.

The data source presented above, as well as the interviews with the Riau Police Regional Narcotics Director conducted in 2017, indicated several factors that encourage the development of illegal narcotics business in the Riau Province. First, there is a very significant difference in selling prices among Southeast Asian countries. Second, unemployment is very high in several Southeast Asian countries, especially in Indonesia. Third, poverty conditions in several Southeast Asian countries have caused that the recruit-

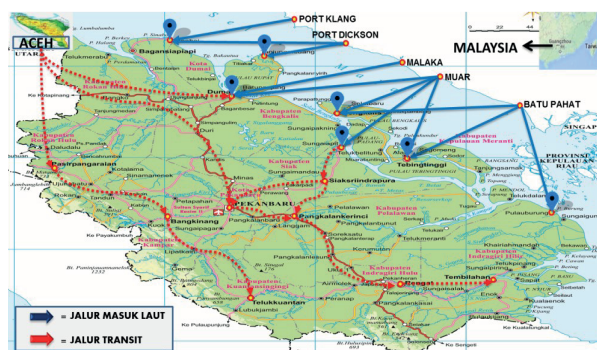
ment process and recruitment costs are quite cheap and the number of drug users currently, especially in Indonesia, has exceeded 5 million. (Results of interview with the Directorate of Investigation and Narcotics of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia in the Riau Province 2017).

Therefore, these factors certainly have an impact on the increase in the circulation of narcotics in the territory of Indonesia. Based on the author's observation in the field, it was found that the *modus operandi* of the perpetrators of circulation and the smuggling of narcotics from Malaysia to Indonesia, especially to the Riau Province, according to the Director of the Riau Regional Police Narcotics Investigation, involves the entry of narcotics through official ports by disguising contents, entering through small ports or illegal ports, using ships. Other *modi operandi* are that narcotics may be swallowed in the stomach or inserted into the anus, disguised in a suitcase or in a travel bag, wrapped up in a food packaging or in a delivery service company's package.

Most of the narcotics enter the province of Riau by sea. Narcotics entering the Riau Province originating from Malaysia are transported and sent by agents from China. Some of the ports in Malaysia which are alleged to be narcotics transit areas before the dispatch to the Riau Province are Port Klang Port, Port Dickson, Malacca Port, Muar Port and Batu Pahat Port. There are also several ports of destination for narcotics, namely Bagan Siapi-Api, Rupert Island, Selat Panjang, Dumai and Tembilahan.

The following map displays narcotics entry routes by land and sea in the Riau Province region.

FIG. 5. MAP OF NARCOTICS ENTRANCE PATHWAYS IN THE RIAU PROVINCE



Source: Directorate of Narcotics at the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia in Riau, 2017.

As the map shows, goods are brought from Port Klang to the port in the Bagan Siapi-API area so that the narcotics packages can later be sent to the North Sumatra region, especially Medan City. From the Port Klang area, the goods go to Rupa Island and from this port the narcotics packages are sent to Bengkalis, towards Pekanbaru City. In turn, from the Port of Malaka and Muar narcotics are sent to Bengkalis and Meranti and then they are sent to Pekanbaru Jambi. From Batu Pahat Port narcotics enter Port Meranti and Indragiri Hili (Tembilahan) and then go to Palembang, Bandar Lampung and Jakarta. As it can be seen, the smuggling of narcotics from the international network of the Southeast Asia region goes along a very strategic and rational pathway owing to which the narcotics mafia can smuggle narcotics and distribute them in major cities in Indonesia.

7. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the development of the narcotics business in the Southeast Asia region has increased rapidly due to the existence of business law, especially due to its aspects related to the demand and supply of countries in the Southeast Asia region. The rapid growth in the cultivation of opium in the Golden Triangle of Southeast Asia (the area between Myanmar, Laos and Thailand) has resulted in the smuggling of narcotics, which is increasingly tempting due to the benefits offered by the narcotics business. As the network of transnational crime is very neat and organized, the perpetrators have representatives in each ASEAN country. The Riau Province is one of the gates to the illegal entry of narcotics, and narcotics smuggling occurs through unofficial port lines along the Riau Province coastline through transit routes from Malaysia.

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