Indonesia's Efforts in Supporting Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Joint Goals as Global Collective Action 2022-2024

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ABSTRACT

The Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) was established by Japan and has been agreed upon by 11 partner countries since 2022 consequently to the environmental issues affecting Asian countries. Indonesia, as one of AZEC's initiators, has been actively working to achieve AZEC's common goals, supporting energy transition and green economy in the Asian region. This paper aims to analyze Indonesia's efforts in supporting AZEC's common goals as a regional community focused on reducing carbon emissions as a form of Global Collective Action (GCA). Todd Sandler's concept of GCA shows that complex modern global challenges and their interrelatedness can only be effectively addressed through joint and coordinated action between countries and other transnational actors, since they exceed the capacity of a single entity. AZEC represents GCA through regional cooperation in Asia, addressing the challenge of zero emissions. AZEC represents institutional neoliberalism's principles regarding the role of international institutions in facilitating cooperations for global goals. This research uses a descriptive qualitative methodology. The research data was obtained through a comprehensive literature study on Indonesia's efforts to support AZEC's common goals. Carbon emissions are a global issue that cannot be resolved independently, requiring joint efforts to address them. Indonesia's endeavor to contribute to AZEC by setting Net Zero Emission (NZE) target for 2030 as a national goal that continues to be realized. Indonesia has also undertaken several global collective efforts involving collaboration between government sectors, private sectors, and cross-border communities, supporting the goals of energy transition and green economy in the Asian region.

Keywords: *Global Collective Action, Regional Partnership, Indonesia, Asia Zero Emission Community*

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is an urgent issue due to its significant risks that affect various regions, sectors, and global populations. One of the key global challenges in addressing climate change is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the main driver of global warming that leads to climate change. The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is projected to increase by 50% by 2050, driven by a massive rise in energy consumption that could generate up to 70% more CO_2 emissions. This could cause the Earth's average temperature to rise by 3ºC to 6ºC—far beyond the Paris Agreement target of limiting warming to 2ºC (Indonesia-UNFCCC, 2021). Currently, carbon emissions in Asia already account for more than half of the global total. This figure is largely driven by rising energy demand in line with the region's rapid and significant economic growth. While economic growth is generally positive, energy security and sustainable development remain

critical issues. This makes the realization of decarbonization in Asia an essential response to these challenges (Japanese Government, 2024).

The decarbonization issue has prompted several Asian countries to form a collective initiative to tackle carbon emissions, known as the Asian Zero Emission Community (AZEC). Established in 2023 by 11 countries, AZEC's main objective is to achieve net-zero carbon neutrality in Asia. This goal is pursued through energy transition efforts by each member country according to their specific circumstances (ERIA Asia Zero Emission Center, 2024). AZEC holds a shared commitment to addressing climate change as a global challenge while ensuring energy security and mitigating geopolitical risks. It has set a target of keeping the rise in average global temperature below 2ºC above pre-industrial levels, with the aspiration of further limiting it to 1.5ºC, in line with the Paris Agreement as a shared global responsibility (Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023). However, AZEC still faces numerous obstacles in achieving its goals. Many partner countries lack adequate support for developing clean energy, such as modern electricity grids and energy storage infrastructure. Moreover, large-scale investment and capital are needed to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy (Utama, 2025).

The Indonesian government has also committed to supporting the global Net-Zero Emissions (NZE) target by declaring a national emission reduction plan in the near term. In 2023, Indonesia aimed to cut carbon emissions by 31.89%, aligned with the global reduction target of 43.20% by 2030 (EKON, 2022). However, Indonesia is still expected to achieve its national net-zero target only by 2070, as there are not yet sufficient concrete targets or legal frameworks in place to realize it. This 2070 target has been criticized as too slow by environmental activists and observers, especially given the Paris Agreement's global net-zero goal of 2050, as well as targets set by other countries such as Malaysia (2050) and China (2060) (Suryani, 2021). Clearly, Indonesia's carbon reduction efforts must be implemented gradually while taking into account the nation's economic conditions and demographic profile. This is particularly important given Indonesia's large population size, which directly correlates with high energy consumption.

Abdilla, through her journal article entitled "Indonesia–Japan Collaboration in Achieving Net-Zero Emission Goals through the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)", examines the Indonesia–Japan partnership within AZEC, focusing on Indonesia's Net-Zero Emission target under the Paris Agreement. Indonesia requires financial and technological support for its energy transition, while Japan seeks to maintain its leadership in renewable energy technologies and strengthen its regional geopolitical influence. This cooperation has resulted in several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on renewable energy projects in the electricity, industrial, transportation, and eco-friendly fuel sectors, supported by Japanese financing. While beneficial to both parties, challenges arise in implementation effectiveness due to the involvement of numerous private companie (Abdilla, 2024).

Meanwhile, the journal "Global Action Networks: Agents for Collective Action" by Glasbergen explores how Global Action Networks (GANs) function as agents of systemic change and address collective action problems in global governance for sustainable

development. Four case studies of GANs are analyzed: the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the Fair Labor Association (FLA), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). This research highlights the crucial role of GANs in producing public goods and services, although in ways that differ from classical collective action. Their performance depends on balancing flexibility and structure while fulfilling two main roles: acting as brokers that bring together actors around specific discourses, and entrepreneurs that drive issue-based change. GANs' success is influenced by the nature of the issue, stakeholder configurations, leadership, government involvement, and their ability to transition from loose networks to more structured professional organizations (Glasbergen, 2010).

In addition, Prinanda et al., in their article "Towards a Clean Energy System in Southeast Asia: ASEAN's Efforts to Encourage Net Zero Emissions", analyze ASEAN member states' efforts to transition toward a cleaner energy system to achieve Net-Zero Emissions (NZE) by 2050. The research emphasizes the urgency of shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy in order to reduce emissions, strengthen energy security, and promote sustainable economic growth. Despite challenges such as fossil fuel dependence and inadequate infrastructure, ASEAN possesses significant opportunities through its natural resources and growing environmental awareness. The success of NZE depends on commitment, cooperation, and concrete action by member states (Prinanda, Aprilya, & Rijal, 2024). Through this research, the authors identify a research gap, which contributes by applying the Global Collective Action (GCA) framework to examine Indonesia's contribution to AZEC during the 2022–2024 period.

In this research, the author aims to provide readers with an understanding of how Indonesia contributes to supporting AZEC as a collective goal to be achieved. As one of the member states of this community, the research reviews the steps taken by Indonesia in its efforts to realize a world free from emissions. This research connects the concept of Global Collective Action (GCA) with the concept of regionalism (AZEC), where AZEC—representing a form of regionalism among Asian countries—serves as a small step toward a larger framework, namely GCA.

Carbon emissions are an issue not faced by a single country alone, but an international challenge whose impacts are felt worldwide. Given the shared nature of this problem, several countries have begun engaging in collective cooperation to address it. Carbon emissions cannot be tackled by one nation in isolation. For example, global warming affects every country—and the planet as a whole. Therefore, collective action is essential to address this collective problem. As a participant in AZEC, Indonesia has undertaken several efforts to support the community's objectives. One of these is the establishment of the Net Zero Emission (NZE) target, which sets Indonesia's emissions reduction goal for 2030. Additionally, Indonesia has collaborated with other actors such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and cross-national governments to promote the transition toward greener, more environmentally friendly energy both within Indonesia and across Asia.

METHODS

The author employs a qualitative research methodology, utilizing secondary data as the principal source of information. These data are obtained through access to academic documents, including reputable scientific journals and credible online publications. Additionally, the author incorporates various reports and press releases issued by governmental institutions via official websites. Such documents contribute to a deeper understanding of the theoretical framework and reinforce the analysis of the phenomenon under investigation. The data collection technique applied is documentation, involving the systematic tracing, identification, and analysis of document content. This approach enables the author to extract nuanced meanings and construct a more comprehensive interpretation of the research topic.

For the data analysis techniques, the author used descriptive qualitative. According to (Saleh, 2017), qualitative analysis methods are techniques that comprehensively and deeply dissect data, interpreting something factually. Therefore, this method is considered an objective approach. This qualitative research is then explained using a descriptive type. This type explains the data obtained sequentially, describing variables related to the topic being studied so that it can be clearly understood (Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023). This type is oriented towards clarifying or exploring a phenomenon or symptom being studied. This analysis technique is used by the author to explain in detail the efforts made by the Indonesian government in achieving the common goals of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) and viewing it as a form of Global Collective Action (GCA). The objectivity of this technique is necessary to explain the related phenomena in an actual and factual manner.

Global Collective Action (GCA) concept, developed by Todd Sandler, expands the classical principles of collective action by incorporating key factors such as group size and composition, institutional rules, the strategic nature of interactions, available information, and the sequence of actors' actions. This concept highlights how states and international actors address global challenges that require collective cooperation, particularly in the context of international market failures such as climate change, terrorism, and infectious diseases. Sandler also identifies the conditions that enable successful collective action, namely: group size and composition; rules of interaction or institutional frameworks; leadership by dominant states; recognition of common threats; sufficiently shared interests; and collective action constraints (Sandler, 2004).

According to Louise Fawcett, Regionalism concept refers to formal cooperation among states that was initially defined by geographical proximity but has since evolved beyond those boundaries. Fawcett identifies three waves of its development: the first wave (1945–1965), driven by material interests in the post–World War II era; the second wave (1965–1985), focused on developing countries with security-oriented subregional initiatives; and the third wave (1985–present), or "new regionalism," which emerged after the Cold War with greater diversity in economic and security integration, also influenced by regional identity. Fawcett emphasizes that regionalism demonstrates resilience and adaptability, driven by shifts in the international system and the role of

core states, and is valued for its ability to provide a predictable basis for cooperation and diplomacy (Fawcett, 2008).

In this research, AZEC is understood as a form of regionalism that seeks to achieve zero emissions in Asia, interpreted as a manifestation of Fawcett's third wave of regionalism, where states collaborate to confront global challenges in the post–Cold War era. Indonesia's efforts within AZEC, as examined in this research, directly contribute to realizing the broader collective goal of GCA, consistent with Sandler's argument that international market failures (such as those caused by climate change) necessitate global collective action. Thus, this research not only analyzes Indonesia's specific measures within a regional context but also highlights that its contributions form an essential element of broader GCA efforts, demonstrating how regional synergy can pave the way toward global solutions.

It should be noted that this research does not apply the GCA element of collective action constraints, as its focus lies on Indonesia's efforts, contributions, and cooperation in AZEC rather than the barriers or obstacles to its implementation. Likewise, only the third wave of regionalism is employed in the analysis, since the first and second waves are not relevant in terms of timeframe and theme, with AZEC established in 2022 and focusing on non-traditional issues such as climate and energy.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

INDONESIA'S EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING ASIA ZERO EMISSION COMMUNITY

In achieving the goals of the Asia Zero Emission Community, Indonesia has made various efforts to reduce emissions in the country. One of the methods used by the Indonesian government is to set a target to achieve "Net Zero Emissions" by 2060. This effort demonstrates Indonesia's seriousness as a member of AZEC in striving to achieve zero emissions. The transition to green energy is one of the steps taken by the Indonesian government to reduce emissions in the country.

In its green energy transition efforts, Indonesia certainly needs to focus on state-owned enterprises (BUMN) as the entities undergoing the transition. Indonesia has two BUMN related to energy. First, there is Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), which is oriented towards supplying electricity in Indonesia. Of course, PLN needs power plants to meet Indonesia's electricity needs. However, some of PLN's power plants produce carbon emissions in the process of generating electricity. For example, steam power plants (PLTU) work by burning coal. The steam produced by this coal generates carbon emissions that are released into the air and pollute the environment. Eliminating PLTU is indeed the fastest solution to achieve NZE. However, this is not an easy route when faced with the fact that Indonesia itself is still very dependent on coal in the electricity sector, which is a commodity that is abundant in Indonesia and can relatively reduce electricity generation costs (Abisono, 2024).

In addition, power plants in Java-Madura-Bali are still relatively high in coal usage, with these coal-fired power plants producing 26,382 MW. This is a significant amount, considering the total national capacity of 36,728 MW (Zahira & Fadillah, 2022). As an

alternative effort, PLN is also collaborating with a Saudi Arabian company called ACWA Power (Arabian Company for Water and Power). The purpose of this collaboration is to develop renewable energy (EBT) in the electricity sector to reduce emissions from power generation. This collaboration resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2022 regarding the construction of a Solar Power Plant (PLTS) planned to be built at Lake Singkarak, West Sumatra and Saguling Reservoir, West Java (Aristi, 2022). This green transition effort is also being undertaken by Pertamina. This state-owned enterprise has refined its NZE roadmap for 2022-2060. Pertamina has stated that in its efforts to achieve the NZE goal, the company has set a target to reduce CO2 by up to 81.4 million tons by 2060, in line with the policy of reducing emissions by 29% through global partnerships targeted for 2030 (Zahira & Fadillah, 2022).

On the other hand, the Indonesian government is also looking for other ways to reduce carbon emissions in Indonesia. Implementation of carbon tax are one of the strategy chosen, which refers to the issuance of Law Number 7 of 2021 concerning Harmonization of Tax Regulations (HPP Law). Article 13 paragraph (1) of the carbon tax cluster states that this tax is imposed with the aim of controlling greenhouse gas emissions to support the achievement of Indonesia's nationally determined contribution (NDC) (Kurnaiwan, 2025). The implementation of this carbon tax supports the development of a green transition in Indonesia. The funds collected from this tax will be used for the development of facilities or infrastructure related to sustainable energy progress, emission reduction, and achieving NZE goals. From the energy sector alone, the Indonesian government has the potential to earn IDR 23.651 trillion in 2025 from the imposition of this carbon tax (Pratama, Lubis, Lubis, & Firmansyah, 2022). The implementation of this carbon tax can also encourage economic actors to start shifting to the use of renewable energy.

INDONESIA'S COLLABORATION IN REALIZING ASIA ZERO EMISSION COMMUNITY

The Indonesian government has set an ambitious goal to achieve national net-zero emissions by 2060. This target was established in response to global pressure to make a significant contribution to reducing global warming and lowering worldwide emission levels, as outlined in the Paris Agreement. To realize this goal, the government, led by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, has developed a national roadmap toward NZE 2060. This roadmap includes a series of action plans designed to regulate the future demand and supply of national energy through to 2060 (Adi, 2024). The formulation of this national roadmap involves stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Given the scale of the NZE 2060 target, cross-sector collaboration has become essential to achieving it. Consequently, the Indonesian government has partnered with various parties, both domestically and internationally, across public and private domains.

Indonesia and Japan, as key contributors to AZEC, share a strong bilateral relationship, particularly in their joint efforts to advance clean energy initiatives. To date, a total of 175 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed by various parties from both countries under the AZEC framework. This underscores Indonesia's position as a priority partner for Japan. Both governments continue to uphold their shared

commitment to accelerating the development of low-emission projects stemming from these MoUs. This commitment includes efforts to minimize barriers to project implementation through cross-sectoral approaches and strengthened partnerships between public and private institutions (EKON, 2025). The robust collaboration between the two nations has led to the emergence of numerous strategic partnerships across institutions in both countries.

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), as government-run entities, play a crucial role in achieving AZEC's goals of energy transition and reaching net-zero emissions through decarbonization. Their contribution to this effort is realized through the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) scheme, which supports the government's initiative to shift the carbon market mechanism in the power generation sector. These SOE-led initiatives align with the government's mandate assigned to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) to drive the energy transition (Kementerian Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral Republik Indonesia, 2023). To implement the SOE VCM program, the Ministry of SOEs issued Circular Letter No. SE-6/MBU/12/2022, which outlines the launch of a pilot project involving seven SOEs. These companies were selected based on their capacity as major carbon emitters or absorbers, and are expected to support the SOE decarbonization VCM program. The participating SOEs including PT Pertamina (Persero), PT PLN (Persero), PT Inalum (Persero), PT Semen Indonesia (Persero) Tbk, PT Pupuk Indonesia (Persero), PT Perkebunan Nusantara III (Persero), Perum Perhutani, and PT Biro Klasifikasi Indonesia (Persero) plays a supporting role in this initiative (Menteri BUMN, 2022).

In 2022, PLN, Indonesia's state-owned electricity company, together with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, signed four strategic partnerships with various stakeholders to support the development of renewable energy. These collaborations represent a concrete step toward achieving the national Net-Zero Emission target by 2060. PLN's strategic initiatives including establishing Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (SPKLU) in partnership with the Association of State-Owned Banks (Himbara), developing environmentally friendly power plants through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) in Lampung and Bali, issuing Renewable Energy Certificates to six partner companies, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Wide Fund (WWF) to support domestic renewable energy development and environmental quality improvement (Kementerian Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral Republik Indonesia, 2022). These strategic partnerships reflect the Indonesian government's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions through public-private collaboration.

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) also play a key role in supporting Indonesia's international energy transition efforts. Through two major SOEs, PT Pertamina (Persero) and PT PLN (Persero), both operating in the energy sector have engaged the government with global partners to advance national decarbonization. PLN's international collaboration was marked by the signing of a Protocol of Cooperation with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). This agreement covers several areas, including financial support for sustainable energy development, capacity-building assistance, and funding for potential energy projects (PLN, 2024).

PT Pertamina (Persero) has also undertaken international collaboration efforts with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), marked by the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and a Confidentiality Agreement (CA) to explore potential partnerships in the energy transition sector. Both parties have projected opportunities for cooperation in areas such as energy transition project financing, innovative research, human resource development, and technology advancement. The LOI also outlines prospects for collaboration in maritime and logistics sectors, as well as future joint initiatives aimed at enhancing energy efficiency (JICA, 2024).

In addition, Pertamina's subsidiary, PT Pertamina Geothermal Energy Tbk (PGE), has entered into a strategic partnership with Japan's state-owned insurance company, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI). The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in August 2024 between PGE and NEXI includes insurance guarantees for financing decarbonization projects, supporting the acceleration of clean energy transition efforts. This collaboration is expected to strengthen Indonesia–Japan relations and expand investment opportunities in the renewable energy transition sector, particularly in geothermal development under the AZEC framework (PERTAMINA Geothermal Energy, 2024). The partnerships initiated by PT PLN (Persero) and PT Pertamina (Persero) were both formalized during the 2nd AZEC Summit held in Jakarta in 2024.

Community sectors, consisting of various societal groups, also serve as a key pillar in supporting Indonesia's collaborative efforts toward achieving its national Net-Zero Emission target by 2060. One such community representing business actors in Indonesia, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN Indonesia), has demonstrated its commitment to this goal through external partnerships. KADIN Indonesia has strengthened its collaboration with Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) through plans to build next-generation human networks, promote future open innovation, and jointly enhance initiatives supporting AZEC (KADIN Indonesia, 2024). Previously, KADIN Indonesia reached out to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to explore potential cooperation in accelerating the net-zero target through various conferences and business forums (KADIN Indonesia, 2023).

In addition, private sector communities have also contributed to Indonesia's net-zero efforts through strategic collaboration. The Indonesia Research Institute for Decarbonization (IRID), together with five leading environmental think tanks, Climateworks Centre, Centre for Policy Development (CPD), Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and Purnomo Yusgiantoro Center (PYC), signed a strategic partnership MoU to support the acceleration of clean energy transition in Indonesia through collaborative research, policy support, and institutional cooperation. This collaboration is also expected to strengthen Indonesia–Australia relations in the area of energy transition policy (IESR, 2025).

IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL COLLECTIVE ACTION AND REGIONALISM IN INDONESIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASIA ZERO EMISSION COMMUNITY

Through the GCA concept, Sandler helps explain key factors in international cooperation on collective problems. He highlights several crucial elements, including group size and composition, rules of interaction or institutional frameworks, leadership by dominant states, recognition of common threats, and sufficiently shared interests. For example, he notes that global collaboration succeeds when states recognize a common threat (such as terrorism after 9/11) and when there is a leading state that drives collective action, as seen in the role of the United States in the Montreal Protocol (Sandler, 2004). In the climate context, Sandler's factors can be observed in determining the extent to which states will cooperate effectively.

On the other hand, this research aligns with the regionalism concept in its third wave, or "new regionalism." According to Fawcett, this wave marks the rise of diverse forms of regional organizations worldwide since the late 1980s. New regionalism is not limited to economic integration but also encompasses horizontal and vertical cooperation schemes, including non-state actors. Fawcett points out that in Asia, many new institutions have emerged, for example APEC and ASEAN Regional Forum, reflecting the diversity of regional cooperation (Fawcett, 2008). AZEC is a concrete example of new regionalism: a flexible Asian platform without formal membership structures like trade blocs. The initiative focuses on environmental issues and the clean energy transition, involving 11 partner countries across the Asia-Pacific. AZEC reflects third-wave regionalism, built upon shared threats and common interests at the regional level.

The author finds that five key principles from the GCA concept are fulfilled in this research: group size and composition; rules of interaction or institutional frameworks; leadership by dominant states; recognition of common threats; and sufficiently shared interests. AZEC consists of 11 Asia-Pacific countries with a diverse composition of developed and developing states. This reflects a medium-sized group, which, according to Sandler's framework, is more effective in coordinating collective action than larger groups. Indonesia holds an important position as a populous state with high carbon emissions, making its contribution crucial in energy transition projects, including the Muara Laboh geothermal plant and the Legok Nangka waste-to-energy facility, underlining that AZEC's framework is inclusive yet efficient (Antara News, 2025).

As an institutional platform, AZEC is built upon annual ministerial meetings, the "triple breakthrough" principle (decarbonization, inclusive growth, energy security), and supporting institutions such as the Asia Zero Emission Center under ERIA (ERIA Asia Zero Emission Center, 2024). Indonesia co-chaired the 2024 ministerial meeting in Jakarta alongside Japan, while also signing several significant MoUs, including one with Japan's NEDO for feasibility studies on clean energy projects (Kementerian Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral Republik Indonesia, 2024). This institutional framework strengthens the legitimacy of collective interaction and facilitates concrete technical, financial, and research cooperation for the region's energy transition.

Dominant leadership in AZEC is held by Japan as the initiator and primary financier, while Indonesia serves as a strategic partner and host of high-level meetings. Leadership synergy is evident in 175 MoUs between Indonesian and Japanese entities covering geothermal, power grid, and bioenergy projects (Antara News, 2025). Japan's financial support, such as through JBIC, enables Indonesia to translate AZEC initiatives into concrete projects, thus combining Japan's dominant role with Indonesia's implementative role in achieving regional decarbonization.

AZEC emerged from collective awareness of the cross-border threat of climate change, with Asia contributing more than half of global emissions. Member states, including Indonesia, recognize the urgency of reducing emissions in line with the 1.5°C target agreed at COP28 (Asia Zero Emission Community, 2024). The Indonesian government, through the Coordinating Minister for the Economic, emphasized the need for flagship climate projects such as the Muara Laboh geothermal plant to support a just energy transition. The "triple breakthrough" principle reflects a regional consensus that economic growth, energy security, and emission reduction must be pursued simultaneously in addressing the climate threat.

Sufficiently shared interests are another key factor for AZEC's success, namely achieving carbon neutrality in line with green economic development. Indonesia and other member states see the clean energy transition as an opportunity for investment and growth, demonstrated through funding support for geothermal, biofuel, and cross-border power grid projects. Hundreds of MoUs under the AZEC framework reflect the shared objective of accelerating low-emission energy adoption, strengthening energy security, and attracting green investment, making AZEC a relevant collective instrument for both regional and national interests of Indonesia.

Through the lens of regionalism, Fawcett argues that since the end of the Cold War, regionalism has become increasingly diverse and complex, extending beyond narrow geographic boundaries. Established in 2022, AZEC is part of this third wave of regionalism, or new regionalism, in which members are spread across subregions of Asia and focus on global issues, particularly climate and energy. Initiatives like AZEC emphasize regional identity and shared experiences within cross-border cooperation frameworks. Fawcett notes that globalization and the weakening of multilateral institutions after the Cold War encouraged the formation of new regional economic cooperation mechanisms, for example free trade agreements.

In the third wave, regionalism involves a variety of actors. AZEC includes states as well as non-state actors (such as financial institutions, NGOs, and corporations) in formal partnerships for decarbonization (Syahdani, 2021). AZEC also opens opportunities for "new" economic integration among Asian countries through clean energy projects without requiring full harmonization of national policies. For instance, the establishment of the Asia Zero Emission Center in Jakarta in 2024 demonstrates a joint effort in research and policymaking for regional energy transition (Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Republic of Indonesia, 2024). Indonesia leverages this regional framework to reinforce its national commitments. By leading strategic projects within AZEC and integrating them into domestic policies, such as decarbonization and energy

transition targets, Indonesia shows that third-wave regional collaboration can serve as a starting point for broader global collective action.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia's participation in the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) demonstrates how national emission reduction strategies can be situated within broader regional frameworks to confront global climate challenges. By applying the concepts of Global Collective Action and new regionalism, this study highlights AZEC's dual role as both a practical platform for advancing decarbonization projects and a symbolic step toward collective environmental governance in Asia. The analysis indicates that leadership, institutional design, and shared interests are crucial to ensuring the effectiveness of such regional initiatives. At the same time, the sustainability of AZEC depends on the ability of member states, including Indonesia, to reconcile domestic limitations with collective commitments. Further research is needed to assess AZEC's long-term effectiveness in achieving measurable emission reductions and to explore how regional platforms can complement global mechanisms under the Paris Agreement in supporting a just and inclusive energy transition.

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