

## **ABSTRACT**

The experiences from the history of European cooperation and integration could serve more as lessons learned on regionalism in other regions of the world particularly in East Asia rather than a ready-made solution.

There are differences in regional grouping processes in Europe and in East Asia. In term of space and time, from the Second World War to the Cold War and after 9/11 incidents, the European regional groupings evolve in her own historical contexts, so does the Asian regional cooperation's ideas and projects. A preliminary comparative study on this matter aims mainly at elaborating a framework for analysis and also putting the topic into a context of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to find out the similarities and differences in the processes of regionalism in those two regions.

The case of East Asian Community (EAC) initiatives and processes at its first stage of cooperation seems to have some similarities to those of the early step of the Council of Europe (COE). Having started from an international conference and general ideas of purposes, like COE, EAC has gradually developed as the center of international cooperation in East Asia. Unlike the success of European Union (EU) integration process with the principles of supranationalism and intergovernmentalism, intergovernmental cooperation tends to go well among East Asian countries. Though, some attempts to strengthen regional organizations envisioned in ASEAN Charter could give a result that might have positive effects on certain activities in the courses of the development in East Asian cooperation frameworks.

In light of European experiences, in order to sustain regionalism the EAC project needs to move forward in the process of institutionalization so as to become a kind of "Community" (in the sense of European Communities) rather than a forum among others and lose its strategic position in the regional order and world affairs.