

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background

Singapore has performed sustainable development goals (SDG) number 16 with a great outcome. As a part of Southeast Asia countries, Singapore has dominated the neighboring countries with predicate of number 1 as the most peaceful countries. In Asia Pacific, Singapore has become the second most peaceful countries and compare to the whole world,<sup>1</sup> Singapore hold the ranks of number 7.<sup>2</sup> This result shows how Singapore able to maintain its nation become a peaceful nation that uphold justice with the cooperation of the government, the people and the strong institution that hand in hand brings Singapore become better each day.<sup>3</sup>

The presence of SDG is replacing MDG (Millennium Development Goals) that start in 2000 that have an objective to prioritize management towards extreme poverty, hunger, deadly diseases, and education towards children. In the last 15 years MDG has produced a good progress on fulfilling their objective. Since 1990, more than 1 billion people has been uncategorized from extreme

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<sup>1</sup> “Global Peace Index 2019.” *Institute for Economic & Peace*, 2019. <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/06/GPI-2019web003.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> This ranking was made by vision of humanity a product of collaboration from institute of economic and peace that developing a tool and standardize to analyze economic and peace. This institution research is also used by government, academic institution, NGO, INGO. Another example is this research is used by OECD, commonwealth, world bank and also UN, these institutions is show the credibility of the research that makes it trusted.

“About.” *Institute for Economics and Peace*. <http://economicsandpeace.org/about/> (accessed 31 March 2020)

<sup>3</sup> “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” *United Nations*, 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

poverty and more than half of children has gained their life from death. Several movements for future generations, providing free primary education also lead to more than half of children stay in school since 1990 and huge movement in fighting HIV/AIDS also lead to 40% less infections since 2000.<sup>4</sup>

The era of MDG has become a good lessons and experience to take a new step on the new goals. MDG has not been fulfilled but the new SDG will take over the remaining task. SDG was made to squeeze the challenge from MDG and to the new SDG. With 17 separated goals that interconnected with each other to make a chance to create a better life for the sake of our future generations regarding nature and social life. This international commitment are ambitious in making sure no one is left behind to build a more sustainable, safer, more prosperous planet for all humanity.<sup>5</sup>

SDG number 16 is about peace, justice, and strong institution. It is important to understand deeper about SDG number 16 whereas it is going to be discussed across this thesis. In order to have sustainable development, international homicide threat, child violence, human trafficking and sexual violence are highlights to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. They make ready for the arrangement of access to justice for all and for building effective and responsible institution at all levels.

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<sup>4</sup>“Background of the Sustainable Development Goals.” *UNDP*. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

While homicide and trafficking have seen significant improvement over the previous decade, but the fact that within the region around Asia, there are still thousands of people at greater risk of intentional murder. Children's rights violations through aggression and sexual violence continue to spread to many countries around the world, especially as under-reporting and lack of data aggravate the problem. Efficiency and transparency towards the regulations with comprehensive and realistic government budgets will tackle these challenges and build a more peaceful, inclusive societies.<sup>6</sup> Singapore becomes an example role in achieving SDG number 16 with a rapid progress.

The progress that is pursued by Singapore currently is the result of the cooperation between Government of Singapore, National contribution and International Contribution. Each actor has their own contribution that are contributed to the development of Singapore as a peaceful country. Programs and policy that make Singapore able to lead and advancing will be discussed furthermore in this thesis.

## **2. Research Question**

Based on the conditions explained above, this research suggests the following research question: How does Singapore perform progress in achieving SDG number 16 better than its neighbor countries?

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<sup>6</sup> "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - United Nations Sustainable Development." *United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

### **3. Research Objective**

The objective of this research is to identify the result of Singapore implementing Sustainable Development Goals Number 16 and the process of Singapore achieving a better result compare to its neighbor countries in the Southeast Asia Region. Specifically, this research will compare Singapore with Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei Darussalam.

### **4. Research Contribution**

This thesis attempts to provide a comparative data and analysis on how Singapore albeit their limited resources able to perform well in achieving SDG number 16. Singapore have their tools and strategy to develop their countries by maximize their capabilities and incorporate every possibility from their citizen and international resources. Through SDG, government provides all necessary tools to implement its goals with the help of non-state actor or strong institution that have an indirect and direct involvement to the society and to the government. The benefit of this research is to make people aware that peace and justice is not easy to gain but needs effort to fight over it. I believe that this research will be beneficial for academic purposes and general knowledge.

### **5. Structure of Writing**

The first chapter, which is the introduction is introducing the history of SDG and how Singapore able to perform well in this category of SDG number 16. International recognition of how Singapore perform is also presented.

The second chapter, which is the theoretical framework, elaborates the concept and theory of international relations which in this thesis is using Neo-

Liberalism theory, with a several concept of International Relation such as development, peace, justice, and strong institution. This concept and theory are used to analyze the performance of Singapore realizing SDG number 16. This chapter also compile and summarize peer-reviewed research that relate to the SDG number 16, especially in Southeast Asia region.

The third chapter, which is the methodology, provides an explanation on the research approach, research method, data collection that is used in gathering the crucial and essential data for the research. This chapter also provide data analysis method that used to analysis Singapore with the provide data and the writer will be able to take a conclusion from the data and able to produce a new perspective to understand Singapore as a country that presenting SDG number 16.

The fourth chapter, which is the analysis, provides an analysis of the topic of which the government of Singapore performing their SDG number 16 with comparison to neighboring countries. This chapter provide a practical example in Singapore that are analysis to give an understanding towards the data and example given. This chapter will give a correspondent integration of Singapore government and other actors that create a sustainable cooperation brings Singapore more develop in terms of SDG number 16 which are peace, justice and strong institution. The result of the analysis is used to answer the research question of this thesis.

The fifth chapter, which is the conclusion, summarize the work of Singapore government and their partner has dine in order to make Singapore more develop in achieving SDG umber 16. At the end give a recommendation to other actors or

institution on what they can learn from Singapore as a country that presenting SDG number 16 as a higher rank in south east Asia.

