

Table of Contents

Approval Sheet	i
Statement of Originality	ii
Acknowledgment	iii
Abstract	v
Abstrak	vi
Table of Contents	vii
Chapter I	1
Introduction	1
1.1 Research Background	1
1.2 Literature Review	3
1.3 Research Question	5
1.4 Research Limitation	5
1.5 Theoretical Framework	6
1.5.1 Regionalism	6
1.5.2 Constructivism	7
1.6 Research Method	7
1.7 Hypothesis	8
Chapter II	10
Timor-Leste's Geopolitical Position in Southeast Asia and Its Strategic Aspirations to Join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	10
2.1 Geographical and Historical Background of Timor-Leste	10
2.2 Timor-Leste's National Identity	13
2.3 ASEAN's Significance for Southeast Asia and Timor-Leste	14
2.3.1 Political Significance and Regional Stability	14
2.3.2 Economic Integration and Development	15
2.3.3 Cooperation in Security and Unexpected Threats	17
2.4 Reasons for Timor-Leste Joining ASEAN	19
2.4.1 Political Ramifications and Diplomatic Effects	20
2.4.2 Economic Prospects and Developmental Challenges	22

2.4.3	Security Considerations and Capacity Building.....	23
Chapter III	.....	25
Timor-Leste's Strategic Endeavors and Regional Engagement: A Critical Analysis of Membership Readiness for ASEAN	.....	25
3.1	Reciprocal Perspectives: Timor-Leste's Perception of ASEAN and ASEAN's View on Timor-Leste.....	26
3.1.1	Timor-Leste's Perception of ASEAN.....	26
3.1.2	ASEAN's Perception of Timor-Leste's Accession Bid	33
3.2	The Spectrum of Support: Why Some ASEAN Members Advocate for Accession While Others Express Reservations	36
3.2.1	ASEAN's Point of Views	36
3.2.2	Timor-Leste's Point of Views.....	39
3.3	Navigating the Membership Pathway: Timor-Leste's Strategies and ASEAN's Criteria	42
3.3.1	Timor-Leste's Strategies to Fulfil the Criteria	42
3.3.2	The ASEAN Criteria	45
3.4	Dynamic Engagement: The Reactions of ASEAN Member States and the Counter-Reactions of Timor-Leste.....	46
3.4.1	The Reactions of ASEAN Member States.....	46
3.4.2	The Counter-Reactions of Timor-Leste	48
Chapter IV	.....	52
Conclusion and Recommendations	.....	52
4.1	Conclusion.....	52
4.2	Recommendations	53
References	.....	55