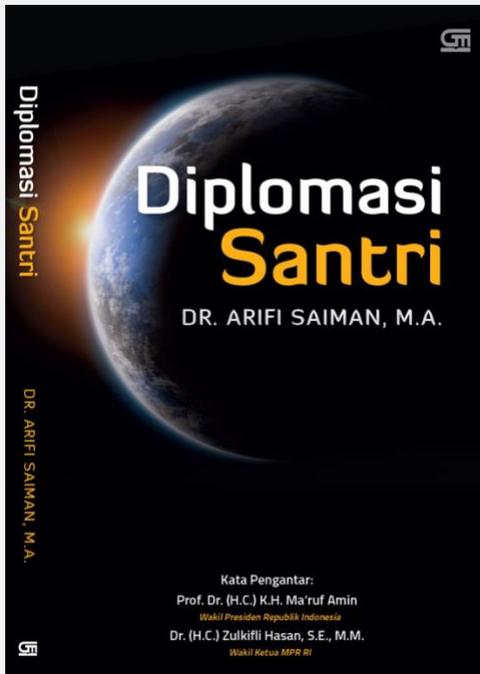


Brownbag Seminar Series  
Council on Southeast Asia Studies  
Yale University

# DIPLOMASI SANTRI (SANTRI DIPLOMACY)

**Arifi Saiman**

**Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in New York**



The Santri community, most commonly referred to the traditional Pesantren (boarding school) community who is affiliated with certain Muslim groups, among others Nahdlatul Ulama, and dresses up in traditional attire or style, is a collection of knowledgeable and intelligent human beings who remains humble (tawadhu') and moderate in their beliefs. Behind the noble character and behavior, the Santri community is well known for its extraordinary capability beyond the field of religious expertise, such as within the area of diplomacy. In the 1920s, the Santri community made a significant contribution to the course of the Islamic civilization through the Committee of Hejaz. The Committee of Hejaz was intended to address the development of the situation in the Hijaz land of Saudi Arabia during the reign of King Ibn Sa'ud. An additional achievement was crafted by the Santri community through a diplomatic mission in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Santri community, who was then represented by the Nahdlatul Ulama delegation, accomplished its noble mission to help resolve the long lasting conflict in Patani, South Thailand. The expertise of the Santri in diplomacy has increasingly

enriched the quality or value of the Santri's expertise in the field of religious knowledge which has been the typical icon of the figure of Santri in the realm of social life. As part of citizen diplomacy, the diplomacy that has so far been achieved by the Santri, the so-called Santri diplomacy, has made a profound positive breakthrough on the conflict settlement process and even led to the end or the mitigation of the conflict per se.

**Arifi Saiman** is the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in New York. He received his undergraduate degree (Drs.) from the Department of International Relations at Jember University, East Java, Indonesia, his MA from School of Politics at The Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia, and his Ph.D. from the Faculty of Communication at Padjadjaran University, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. He conducted extensive research on the role of Santri in diplomacy, among others, the citizen diplomacy which was played by Nahdlatul Ulama to mediate and resolve a prolonged conflict in Patani, South Thailand. He wrote several articles in national and international newspapers, such as The Jakarta Post (Indonesia), The Straits Times (Singapore), and Mainichi Shimbun (Japan).

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**  
**Luce Hall Room 203, 12.00 noon**

*\*Talk followed by Indonesian lunch in "RKZ tent"*

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