**ABSTRAK**

With the end of the Cold War, the attention of the States became more focused on their own national interests and development, so that regional organizations became a factor in the realization of development and national interests. The presence of ASEAN as a new regional forum becomes significant in the economic, regional and global political constellations. Since the conclusion of Bali Concord III at the 2011 ASEAN Summit, further strengthening the image of ASEAN as a strategic partner and actor in the structure and politics in the Asia Pacific region. In this context, ASEAN regionalism became a strategic tool for the newly emerging Timor-Leste as a new State in 2002.

As the purpose of this research is to find out what opportunities are in support of Timor-Leste to become a member of ASEAN, to find out what challenges Timor-Leste has in its membership process in ASEAN to know how to influence East Timorese members in ASEAN on East Timor's economy and to seek know how readiness Timor Leste to become a member of ASEAN.

The method used in this research is descriptive method of analysis, which is method which aim, analyze and classify symptoms or challenge of Timor Leste to become ASEAN member. the data processed in this study comes from literature studies, and official site. From the results of the research, it can be concluded that the opportunity for Timor Leste to become an ASEAN member is the location of active diplomacy, and which becomes a challenge for Timor Leste from external factors, where the internal factor is Timor-Leste's own political and economic conditions and its external factors of ASEAN policy. it is concluded that East Timor will become an ASEAN Member of the East Timorese economy will be more open.

**Key words: Nation, Regionalism and economy, politics**