

# First ASEAN-Canada Forum and Public Symposium

20-21 August 2013



**S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL  
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**  
A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University



**ASEAN-Canada  
Research  
Partnership**



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# ASEAN-CANADA FORUM AND PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM 2013: REFLECTIONS ON AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ASEAN COMMUNITY IN 2015

20–21 AUGUST 2013  
HO CHI MINH CITY  
VIETNAM

## REPORT

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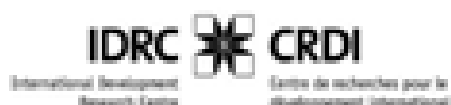
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## Executive Summary

The ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership Plan of Action (2010–2015) represents the latest effort in a relationship that dates back to 1977, the year that Canada became one of the first countries to be designated a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. According to the Plan of Action, ASEAN and Canada will ‘work and consult closely in responding to regional and international challenges, and in building an ASEAN-centred regional architecture which is open and inclusive’. They will also ‘promote the development of enhanced ASEAN connectivity which will help foster the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015’.

This clear move towards enhancing connectivity at the Track One (government-to-government on an official basis) will require more concrete legwork at the Track Two (unofficial interactions by non-governmental actors with access to decision-makers) and Track Three (people-to-people) level. As diplomatic and economic ties grow, there is also increasing interest among the Canadian and Southeast Asian research community to examine ASEAN’s role and share useful experiences in exploiting development opportunities and addressing social, economic and environmental problems.

### ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership

In light of this, the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership was launched in 2012 by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University and the Institute of Asian Research of the University of British Columbia (UBC) with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The Research Partnership aims to facilitate cooperation in research among Canadian and Southeast Asian scholars and institutions on regional development issues using a Track Two approach.

The programme awards Senior and Junior Fellowships to scholars based in Canada and Southeast Asia to pursue specific research themes. The first phase, conducted in 2012–2013, focused on ‘Towards Balanced Growth – Alternative Development Models and Redistribution Mechanisms’. The second and final phase (2014–2015) is on ‘Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Growth’.

### ASEAN-Canada Forum and Public Symposium 2013

The first ASEAN-Canada Forum and Public Symposium, themed ‘Reflections on an Inclusive and Equitable ASEAN Community in 2015’, was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in August 2013. The Forum and the accompanying Public Symposium served as the capstone to the work done by the Senior and Junior Fellows under the first phase of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership. The meeting focused on inequality, which can be an unintended result of greater regional integration and strong economic growth, and explored alternative means of enhancing regional economic development.

To foster rich discussions, the Forum and Public Symposium brought together representatives from think tanks, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Foundation, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Asia Foundation, the human rights community and civil society, members of the media as well as tertiary students in Ho Chi Minh City. Several major issues that emerged from the discussions are outlined below.

- **While income inequality across countries in ASEAN has decreased, income inequality between individuals within countries has in many cases increased.**

It is commendable that the income gap between less developed and more developed ASEAN member states has decreased. However, the statistics by and large reflect national averages, and thus provide scant information on income trends among the lower classes and marginalised groups. For instance, official poverty statistics often do not provide disaggregated data on chronic and transient poverty. Without such data, it is difficult to understand the livelihood concerns of the poor and devise appropriate policies and interventions.

Second, income inequality is exacerbated by dynamics such as urbanisation and unequal access to basic services like healthcare and education. Urbanisation for example has led to the development of new towns and gated communities targeted at the middle and upper classes. Not only do these wealthy



gated communities create distinct demarcations between the haves and have-nots, they also increase demand for relatively low-paid, informal-sector services such as domestic helpers, chauffeurs and security guards. While this creates jobs, many of those providing such services are likely to remain trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty if they are not also given sufficient access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Asian governments are likely to continue promoting the development of new towns as such projects bring in substantial foreign direct investment (FDI). Thus, it is vital to make sure that basic services are available to low-income informal workers serving such towns.

Inequality is also evident in resource and economic development projects. The concerns and livelihoods of local rural communities are often not given full consideration before such projects are carried out, as seen in the hydroelectric dam projects in Indochina and the cross-border economic cooperation initiatives such as the West Kalimantan-Sarawak Socioeconomic Forum (Sosek Malindo). While such projects see a degree of autonomy being given to local governments, transparency continues to be an issue. Thus, answers to questions such as which stakeholders benefit from the development activities and the extent to which large and small private-sector plays are involved remain opaque.

- **How (or whether) regional norms set at the ASEAN level filter down to the national and local levels remains a major challenge for ASEAN.**

ASEAN is generally appreciated for its role in setting norms that transcend national jurisdictions. This is significant for two reasons. First, given the immense socioeconomic, political and cultural diversity in Southeast Asia, ASEAN provides the space to cultivate a sense of regional community through consensus-building and embracing diversity as a strength. Despite conflicting views on issues, ASEAN countries are conscious of the significance of the ASEAN way of consensus and consultation.

Second, ASEAN norms on community building set the scene for supporting the long-term sustainable development of

the region. This is particularly significant for issues related to economic development, where some member countries may favour options that focus on short-term economic benefits over long-term sustainability. In addition to this, some policymakers in the region feel that their own national policy processes tend to be reactive, and thus value ASEAN's role in promoting an effective policy environment and giving immediacy to policy issues.

These two factors have been reflected in several instances where ASEAN has played a significant role in responding to region-wide crises. For example, following the 1997/1998 Asian Financial Crisis, ASEAN members agreed to establish financial institutions and mechanisms to support countries affected by future financial turmoil. Disaster relief and response is another area in which ASEAN members continue to work together on, as demonstrated during Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Following that disaster, ASEAN has also improved its modes of operation and collaboration, establishing the ASEAN Co-ordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in 2012.

Even so, ASEAN continues to face institutional weaknesses, particularly in its capacity to strengthen its various sub-institutions and mechanisms. Also, while much of ASEAN's work highlights the importance of learning from best practices, policymakers need to recognise the need to adapt to local cultural contexts and not rely overmuch on a menu of recommendations drawn from the experiences of other countries. The vast differences in demographics and sociopolitical systems across the ASEAN region may make it difficult to operationalise some best practices that are introduced from the top or from the outside. ASEAN's role in facilitating the interests of member countries may also matter less to countries with relatively sound national policies and governance systems. Moreover, given that the ASEAN Community is set to come into being in 2015, the lack of awareness of ASEAN among the peoples of the region – it is better known among policymakers and some business communities – has to be addressed.

- **Cooperation on people-centred development in ASEAN is needed to address rising inequality in the region.**

To address inequalities in the region, ASEAN member countries have to cooperate on efforts to transform growth-centred development into people-centred development. Within this context, there must be greater focus and commitment to nurturing the youth of ASEAN, and more resources and collaborative efforts must be channelled towards education.

There already exist several education hubs in Southeast Asia that in fact complement each other. Thailand targets students from the Mekong region, while Malaysia caters to students from the wider Muslim world. Singapore, too, is renowned for its education system and collaborative initiatives with established universities worldwide. Tapping on these resources and creating concrete collaborations would help increase educational standards in ASEAN countries, particularly the less developed ones.

The media could also play a more substantial part in highlighting ASEAN's centrality and community building efforts. More creative ideas are needed, and traditional and social media projects or programmes should be leveraged to promote ASEAN and its diverse cultures and demographics in an entertaining yet informative manner.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the challenges of rectifying the pervasive inequalities in ASEAN countries, there is still optimism on the process of effective regional community building. It must nevertheless be recognised that people-centred development implies a much longer process than growth-centred development. Generating and setting aside resources for people-centred development will thus require political will to resist short- to mid-term economic gains for the benefit of long-term equity and sustainability.



## The Forum

### Opening Plenary Session

#### Welcome Remarks

**Mdm Ton Nu Thi Ninh**

Director

Tri Viet Center for Social and Educational Research  
Vietnam

**Professor Dr Vo Van Sen**

President

Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Vietnam National University  
Vietnam

Mdm Ninh extended a warm welcome to all participants, and was enthusiastic in identifying the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership as a timely initiative. In today's multicultural world, Asia and the Pacific falls within the conceptual, cultural and economic landscape of Canada, and the Forum provides an avenue for Canada to gain a better understanding of Asian and Pacific perspectives. ASEAN, in line with its efforts to establish a multi-pillared Community by 2015, also welcomes Canada's interest in the region. On a personal note, Mdm Ninh was appreciative of this opportunity for those in Southeast Asia to examine the issues themselves, rather than look towards the West to take the lead.

Prof. Sen, in his remarks, expressed his appreciation to all leaders, scholars and guests present for coming together to advance research in the field. The Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities, with its long history of contributing to development and society, was honoured to host the meeting. Prof. Sen then provided an overview of the university's history, and its role, achievements and activities, highlighting its strengths in the area of international cooperation and collaboration. He concluded with the hope that the meeting will serve to advance the common goal of harmonious integration within the context of a globalised, multicultural world.

#### Opening Remarks

**Canadian Perspective**

**Professor Paul Evans**

Institute of Asian Research

University of British Columbia (UBC)  
Canada

**ASEAN Perspective**

**Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony**

Head

Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Nanyang Technological University; and

Secretary-General

Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)

Singapore

Prof. Evans thanked the hosts for the warm welcome, and expressed his thanks to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, for contributing to the initial vision, and for providing funding and assistance. He also acknowledged the support of a network of scholars and institutions across Canada, and thanked the team from the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore.

Prof. Evans went on to review recent developments that bear on Canada-ASEAN relations. He noted that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which has been fundamental to many connections between Canada and ASEAN, has now been amalgamated with what used to be the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and it remains to be seen what effect this might have. Also interesting are recent signals from the Canadian leadership that the country is placing greater priority on its relations with ASEAN.

The ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership adds an extra layer to these connections between Canada and ASEAN. The programme is organised along broad themes, the first of which, the subject of the Forum, is the challenge of equitable growth. Prof. Evans expressed the hope that the efforts of the Fellows of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership could serve as a foundation for new ideas and lines of action. He was pleased to see the combination of experience and youth at the meeting, and urged the Fellows to use the Forum as a platform for developing connections that would endure into the future.

Assoc. Prof. Caballero-Anthony, in her remarks, expressed her appreciation to the energetic local facilitator as well as the host. She emphasised the significance of the theme of equitable growth, citing the findings of the *Surveys on ASEAN Community Building Effort 2012*. While many scholars have been focused on questions related to ASEAN's role in the regional security architecture and ASEAN's centrality, the surveys show that the common people and business communities are concerned over how to address development gaps in the region.

The Forum should not just be a showcase for the work produced by the Fellows of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership; the insights from their research should add to the conversations in the region. She is thus thankful to have the presence of policy analysts from organisations that have been heavily involved in pushing the ASEAN agenda as well as the participation of scholars, civil society and the media.

Prof. Caballero-Anthony noted the vital contribution of international foundations, thanking in particular the IDRC for their support. At the same time, ASEAN countries must themselves do more to take ownership and leadership of the region's community building process. She expressed the hope that the findings from the meeting will be fed into official processes, and so engender a deeper understanding of the development issues in ASEAN.

### Keynote Address

#### Ms Victoria Sutherland

Counsellor and Head  
Development Cooperation  
Embassy of Canada  
Hanoi  
Vietnam

Ms Sutherland began by emphasising Canada's long-standing relationship with ASEAN and its member states, and its commitment to maintaining that relationship. She noted that the focus of the Forum – equitable, inclusive growth – is of interest to Canada. The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada, in particular its development assistance arm, has in fact sharpened its focus on sustainable economic development as a driver of growth, building on areas where Canada has experience and can add value.

She observed that while the region has experienced remarkable economic growth, there are still problems. Some remain entrenched in poverty, inequality is rising and access to basic services remains lacking. Having been posted to five developing countries in Africa and Asia, she has seen first-hand the effects of poverty and inequality, and the political instability that can arise as a result.

There is a need then to examine how the opportunities and benefits of economic growth can be more evenly distributed, and to take into account the needs of poor and marginalised groups (women/youth). Another priority should be to pursue growth in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Ms Sutherland shared findings from a CIDA forum on sustainable growth held in 2012. The meeting came to the conclusion that social inclusion has to be based on both the structure of economic growth and protection programmes. A key lesson was that middle-income countries should avoid relying on a model of growth based on cheap labour. To remain competitive, they must invest in physical and human capital, so as to reach higher production and export value chains over time.

Governance is key. There is ample evidence of the link between good governance and sustainable, inclusive economic growth. The rule of law, transparency and accountability are important, as is the ability of target sectors to participate in identifying strategies for advancement. Giving citizens an active role in decision-making and expanding the involvement of civil society help ensure good governance, and prevents corruption.

The empowerment of women is also fundamental to a country's growth and economic performance and to poverty reduction and food security. When women participate in the economy, there is wealth creation, slower population growth and greater expenditure on children and family welfare, among other benefits. However, women face several constraints. They have less access to credit for their businesses and to information on regulations and opportunities. They also experience higher levels of harassment and corruption in the course of their work. These must be tackled, as they place limits on economic productivity.

Concluding, Ms Sutherland once again underlined the need to address imbalances within and between countries. With the challenges varying from country to country and from area to area, research such as those that will be shared at the Forum is valuable in kick-starting dialogue and debate, and for considering solutions and policy choices.

## Session 2: Towards an Inclusive ASEAN Community

*The research presentations focused on various dimensions of inequality in Southeast Asia and the challenges of growth and inequality that the region will have to tackle as it becomes an integrated community. The session was moderated by Dr Jacques Bertrand, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, Canada.*

### Narrowing the Development Gap in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

**Dr Chia Siow Yue**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Senior Fellow~  
Senior Research Fellow  
Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)  
Singapore

*Paper presented by*

**Professor Richard Barichello**

Director  
Centre for Southeast Asia Research  
Institute of Asian Research  
University of British Columbia (UBC)  
Canada

The first phase of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership programme examines the rise in inequality in ASEAN nations, with 'inequality' defined as a widening of the gap between low- and high-income groups. In examining inequality, it is important to consider whether the focus is on differences between countries, or on differences between individuals within countries. This is because very different patterns are seen in each case. While inequality across countries has decreased, inequality between individuals within countries has in many cases increased as incomes of high-earners outpace that of low-earners.

The paper being presented here focuses on across-country inequality. Specifically, it looks at the incomes of the CLMV countries (namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam) and options for improving incomes in this group. While income differences across the region are still wide, the gap is narrowing. In 1990, the income of the ASEAN6 countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand) was 10 times that of the CLMV countries. By 2010, that difference had narrowed to just four times as CLMV countries grew faster than ASEAN6 countries, an expansion underpinned by openness to trade, investment flows and market reforms.

Such gains are in part due to accession to ASEAN. Computable general equilibrium (CGE) models show that all ASEAN countries achieved income gains from regional integration, from 2.8 per cent in the case of Vietnam to 9.7 per cent in the case of Singapore, and trade saw even stronger gains. Trade openness in CLMV countries also increased from 1993 to 2011, with Vietnam having the greatest rise and Myanmar the lowest. Nevertheless, CLMV countries still lag behind ASEAN6 countries in foreign direct investment (FDI). They account for only 8 per cent of the FDI flowing into ASEAN in 2011; and the major part of the investments flowing into the CLMV countries go to the natural resource and tourism sectors.

There are currently several measures at the regional level to narrow the development gap between ASEAN6 and CLMV countries. The major channels are: (1) special and differential treatment and (2) technical cooperation and development assistance. Many ASEAN agreements contain references to these mechanisms. Other measures to narrow the gap include: ASEAN sponsorship to improve the CLMV group's negotiating leverage; support for infrastructure improvements and capacity building; development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and freer movement of labour between countries. Policy reforms and investments within CLMV countries also play a role in narrowing the gap.

Such measures have had some impact, but more can be done. Dr Chia in her paper suggested that the ASEAN-level measures are slow, and are more rhetoric than action. Prof. Barichello on his part highlighted the need to pay more attention to within-country measures. There is a need to focus on improving the incomes of those in the bottom earnings tier, which could involve paying more attention to rural areas. He also cautioned against the use of special and differential treatment, citing an example from Indonesia. When the steel industry there was opened up to competition, one company was allowed to retain its monopoly over certain areas of steelmaking. Ten years on, however, no productivity improvements have been seen in those product areas. Meanwhile, in other product areas, exports have grown in double-digit percentages.

### **Policy Laundering and Localisation: Perceptions of ASEAN Inequality and Diffusion of Norms**

**Mr Matthew J. Bock**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~  
Analyst and Technical Advisor  
Canada (based in Jakarta, Indonesia)

This research seeks to understand the processes by which norms and initiatives related to inequality are diffused from the regional (ASEAN) level to the national level. It explores this by examining perceptions of inequality and institutional effectiveness among the policymaking community. The study, conducted in early 2013, involved 27 respondents in Indonesia and the Philippines.

The results show that many in the policymaking community see the ASEAN community as a stable one, but not one that is equitable. Significantly, less than 20 per cent of the respondents feel that current levels of inequality are necessary to maintain growth. Most are optimistic that the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and regional integration will reduce income inequality, whether between countries (73%) or within countries (56%). A vast majority also believe that the AEC will increase national gross domestic product (GDP) and human development.

On the effectiveness of governmental institutions in Indonesia and the Philippines, the results suggest that those from Indonesia have less confidence in their own country's institutions and policies compared to those from the Philippines. At the same time, the statement 'more authority given to ASEAN will serve to improve the quality of [national] government institutions' resonated more with the respondents from Indonesia than those from the Philippines. Taken together, these findings suggest the less confident people are in their own government's ability to produce effective economic policy, the more they rely on and value ASEAN. Another significant finding is that half the respondents feel that within-country inequality is a regional issue, and that ASEAN has the right to deal with this topic because of the risk of regional instability.



Looking at processes of localisation of norms from the regional to the local level, there appears to be some ambivalence over ASEAN's role. For example, in Indonesia, policymakers perceive their national policy process to be reactive, and appreciate ASEAN's role in promoting an effective policy environment and giving immediacy to policy issues.

Legislators, however, tend to view ASEAN as an instrument of the national government, whose contributions do not benefit the people.

Open-ended discussions conducted as part of the research study reveal that incentives for adopting ASEAN norms or ideas can come in part from their utility to governments and legislators, or whether ASEAN programmes can be cited to demonstrate to their constituents that they have made efforts to manage inequality. Alternatively, in the face of public criticisms, they may use ASEAN as a scapegoat by pointing to ASEAN's institutional weaknesses.

The study highlights that where sensitive issues such as the principle of non-interference are implicated, norm localisation processes may involve policy laundering. The narratives surrounding regional initiatives are aligned with local normative frameworks and shorn of sensitive rhetoric, thus facilitating their localisation.

Overall, ASEAN is perceived as an institution that could mediate the tendency of national political and economic institutions to be dominated by the interests of a few, and the respondents appreciated ASEAN's efforts to promote inclusiveness among national economic institutions.

### **Chronic Poverty, Transient Poverty and Inequality in ASEAN**

**Dr Celia Reyes**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Senior Fellow~  
Senior Fellow  
Philippine Institute for Development Studies  
Philippines

While poverty has reduced significantly over time in Southeast Asia, significant variations from country to country remain. Thailand and Malaysia have practically eradicated poverty while others still have significant numbers of poor people. Inequality also persists. Even where the overall data shows a decline in inequality, disaggregated data may present a different picture. For example, in the Philippines, inequality in rural areas is increasing.

Such observations suggest that poverty reduction efforts could be more effective if there is a better understanding of the dynamics of poverty in the region. There is a need to move away from treating the poor as a homogenous group. Looking at the Philippines, for example, the numbers of poor have remained relatively stable over time, but this masks the considerable movement in and out of poverty. There is a need to differentiate between chronic poverty and transient poverty, particularly with the greater frequency and severity of natural disasters and economic or market shocks pushing more into poverty.

Yet, official poverty statistics still do not include measures of chronic and transient poverty. Very few studies have been done on the chronic poor, and what data are available tend to be based on small sample sizes and to come from different time periods. The data suggest that transient poverty is already a significant problem. The proportion ranges from a low of 19 per cent (Vietnam) to a high of 40 per cent (Cambodia). By comparison, chronic poverty ranges from 4–6 per cent (Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam) to 11 per cent (the Philippines). While lack of information has hindered government response to the phenomenon, it is important to address it. Without effective safety nets, those who fall into transient poverty could stay there a long time and become chronically poor.

The region needs to look at appropriate strategies and interventions to prevent people from falling into poverty, or to help them escape the poverty trap. Doing this effectively requires better data. Thus, measurement and monitoring of chronic and transient poverty across all countries in the region must be improved.



The researcher suggested several ways to help those falling into poverty because of natural or economic disasters. Safety nets are important. Governments could also introduce programmes to reduce inequality in opportunities. In particular, there is a need to address inequalities in access to education, an important measure since knowledge and skills are a form of capital that cannot be taken away from people in times of crises. Access to healthcare and basic services must also be provided. Regional cooperation, particularly in the areas of knowledge sharing and financing, could boost these efforts.

### Comments

#### Professor Supachai Yavaprabhas

Dean

Faculty of Political Science

Chulalongkorn University

Thailand

Prof. Yavaprabhas focused his comments on the data and the recommendations that were made. He observed that the researchers mentioned data issues, for example, unavailability of data from certain countries. Such data limitations necessarily also constrain interpretations, and he suggested that more data would be needed to verify the interpretations and conclusions from the research studies.

He also cautioned against an over-reliance on a menu of recommendations based on the experiences of other countries or regions. Cultural and other contextual differences between countries mean that policies often need to be localised. Also, in formulating policy recommendations, there is a need to be mindful of the importance of looking at more dimensions. For example, beyond proposing more opportunities for education, the way education is provided and quality of service may be pertinent.

### Discussion

A key area of discussion was the need for more data on inequality within countries. Following on from Dr Reyes' presentation which raised the need for disaggregated data on chronic and transient poverty, participants noted the need for

data on the social, demographic and geographic characteristics associated with inequality and poverty. Vietnam, for example, has done quite well at reducing poverty but not as well at addressing income inequality between different ethnic groups or the lack of development in remote areas. Women are also often disproportionately affected by poverty. Disaggregated data could provide policymakers with greater awareness of such trends, which would be helpful in devising more targeted responses.

The informal sector was also the subject of robust discussion. Although the informal sector is a significant segment of many Asian economies, there is not much research on the nature of informal enterprises and their impacts. There was a call to look at the informal sector in a more nuanced fashion, as this sector can cushion the impacts of financial and other shocks. The sector is able to adapt very fast to crises, often much faster than governments or the formal sector. Nevertheless, in relation to poverty reduction, it should be noted that the formal sector offers higher returns for labour and also access to social protection measures.

The process of translating policies from the regional to the local level also elicited interest. In Europe, policies from the European government often attract serious attention and debate at the national level. This is not as true of Southeast Asia. In the context of Southeast Asia, then, there is a need to look at what becomes localised. Related to this is the question of moving from policy to implementation. On this front, there is a need to further examine the realistic points of intervention and the instruments available to facilitate the process of localisation. Some countries have decentralised governance arrangements, where action really depends on local governments. In such cases, it is important to look into how regional discussions can filter down to the local level. Going down to the community, there is the question of whether proposed interventions in fact meet the needs of those they are targeting. For example, in Thailand, those who are less secure (who form a large part of the population) may require more than safety nets to improve their situation in a meaningful manner.

## Session 3: Towards an Economically Integrated ASEAN

*Building on the presentations in the second session, this part of the Forum examined mechanisms to promote regional and subregional economic development and growth. The moderator was Dr Makarim Wibisono, Executive Director of The ASEAN Foundation in Jakarta, Indonesia.*

### Towards an East Asian Financial Community: An Institutional Perspective

**Dr Supanai Sookmark**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~  
Instructor  
Carleton University  
Canada

The study looks at changes in the regional financial infrastructure and the early impact of two new institutions on regional integration. The institutions covered are: (1) the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), established to provide the region with a financial safety net in times of crisis; and (2) the ASEAN Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), particularly the ABMI's Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF).

The CMIM's role is to set out the financial arrangements for member countries to withdraw funds in times of crisis. Such a mechanism is not entirely new since countries have bilaterally launched such arrangements. What is different is the expansion to multilateral arrangements to enhance macroeconomic cooperation. In terms of the ABMI, it has laid down some ground rules for regional bond markets. To operationalise the ABMI, the CGIF was launched in 2010 to stimulate the growth of the regional bond market by providing guarantees for corporate bond issuance in local-denominated currencies.

Four factors could be said to have contributed to the development and evolution of the CMIM and ABMI (and CGIF). The first is the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997/1998, and the mishandling of the rescue programmes during that period by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This experience made countries in the

region more keenly aware of the need for a viable regional financial safety net that would serve the interests of member countries. The need to balance power relationships among member states is another factor. For example, the power rivalry between China and Japan has influenced the way in which seats on the CGIF's executive board are allocated. A third factor is dissatisfaction with existing practices in global finance, where decision-making is dominated by a few powerful states. Taking lessons from that, the voting structure of the CMIM reflects a more consensus-oriented approach. Finally, regional norms and values have influenced the pace and nature of growth of the institutions.

These institutions could potentially have several impacts. First, they could contribute to regional integration by providing new or enhanced infrastructures that would allow more financial transactions among states. Second, depending on the context, they could facilitate mechanisms that are complementary or competitive to the existing global structure. Third, they could enhance the ability to achieve regional development goals by facilitating equitable economic development and financial inclusion.

Several challenges would however have to be addressed. First is credibility. In order to make the CMIM a serious alternative for crisis prevention and resolution for all members, there has to be, among others, a significant increase in its financial capacity and/or an arrangement with the IMF for the pooling of resources based on acceptable conditions. Second, variability in the level of development of different countries' bond markets could eventually lead to inequalities in distribution of benefits. To address this, institutions such as the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), which was set up to monitor the health of member economies and assist the CMIM in the decision-making process, would have to go beyond focusing on technical requirements, and adopt ideas such as equitable economic development and financial inclusion.

### **Local-Central Dynamics and the Limits of Micro-Regionalism: Understanding West Kalimantan and Sarawak Cross-Border Cooperation**

**Mr Mochammad Faisal Karim**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~

Expert Staff to Member of Parliament

Committee on Finance, National Development, Banking and Non-Banking Institutions

Indonesia

This presentation discussed micro-regionalism in Southeast Asia, using cross-border cooperation between West Kalimantan and Sarawak as a case study. Micro-regionalism is defined here as an integration process that occurs through cross-border cooperation in adjacent border areas and which is driven by subnational authorities, such as certain ministries or government agencies within states. The research examines why, despite the existence of several factors that support greater cross-border cooperation, the development of micro-regionalism remains largely limited.

Several factors underpin cross-border cooperation between the Malaysian state of Sarawak and the relatively less developed Indonesian province of West Kalimantan. The development potential in the two areas given the availability of natural resources (for example, palm oil and energy sources) and consumer products for trade is one factor. This economic driver is complemented by social factors such as easy movement of people across the border (for example, for leisure and medical tourism) and the similar socio-cultural backgrounds of the people in the two regions. There are also existing institutional mechanisms at the central and local level that facilitate cross-border cooperation, particularly with the decentralisation process in Indonesia giving local governments more say in policy implementation.

Micro-regional integration is supported by several mechanisms. One is the West Kalimantan-Sarawak Socioeconomic Forum (Sosek Malindo), first held in 1986. The Forum agreed to work towards encouraging cross-border movements of people and harmonising development in border areas via road networks,

checkpoints and a border growth centre. The Sosek Malindo Business Council was then established, with both the West Kalimantan and Sarawak Chambers of Commerce playing active roles in it. There is also the East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) framework, which seeks to facilitate cross-border development via other existing mechanisms. An example is the proposed ASEAN power grid, which includes a 120km high voltage interconnection from Bengkayang Substation in West Kalimantan to Mambong Substation in Sarawak. There is also the potential to improve transportation connectivity via bus and air flights.

However, micro-regionalism also faces several challenges. Decentralisation, while allowing for greater local government participation, could also impede effective cross-border cooperation. For example, local elites could make strategic use of sovereignty to further their own interests rather than for national or subnational development. Another challenge is the lack of a comprehensive legal foundation for subnational governments to conduct cross-border cooperation due to the absence of political will from the central government. The central government still dictates the extent of cross-border cooperation and there is a lack of coordination among the institutions responsible for managing border areas.

To boost micro-regionalism, several measures could be considered. First, the decentralisation process needs to be accompanied by mechanisms that support regional integration. Indonesia's central government needs to be proactive in building the capacity of local governments to provide services that could accelerate economic growth in the border region and strengthen cross-border cooperation with Sarawak. Second, there is a need for coherent institutional arrangements that harmonise bilateral and regional integration mechanisms. Closer links should be established between Sosek Malindo, BIMP-EAGA and the ASEAN Secretariat in order to manage the mutual relationship between micro-regional, subregional and regional integration and cooperation processes. ASEAN could also consider initiating a forum similar to that of the Association of European Border Regions, which is an institutional arrangement for local and regional authorities to promote common interests and cooperate for the common good of border populations.

## Comments

### Dr Josef Yap

Former President

Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Philippines

Dr Yap discussed the significance of regional production networks (RPNs) as the anchor of regional economic integration in the region. He noted the importance of foreign direct investments (FDIs) in establishing these networks. He also suggested that while regional financial institutions have the potential to support FDI flows and facilitate greater intra-regional investment, global trade factors are ultimately more important as regional trade is relatively limited.

To address the limited intra-regional trade, it would be necessary to look at the role of subregional growth centres in providing cross-border infrastructure to support FDI and RPNs, such as that highlighted by Mr Karim's presentation. To overcome the obstacles to greater subregional growth or micro-regionalism, there is a need for clearer guidance on the role of the private sector, and the extent to which the sector can operate seamlessly to improve cross-border cooperation.

## Discussion

Several participants commented on issues relating to equity and fairness among stakeholders. Given Indonesia's vast territory and the diverse groups there, some may be left out of decision-making processes. The question then is how greater space can be accorded to players at the local and provincial level. More importantly, given the concerns of potential socioeconomic inequalities, it would be important to further examine which stakeholders would likely benefit from the current economic integration plans.

Other cases of micro-regionalism were discussed, including the Singapore-Johor-Riau (SIJORI) and the Iskandar Malaysia economic zones. SIJORI was set up as a support system for Singapore-based multinational corporations that were interested in establishing factories in Batam, Indonesia. Iskandar Malaysia

was set up to attract FDI, particularly from Singapore. Some of these cross-border cooperation initiatives have however not seen as much private-sector engagement as expected. Mr Karim suggested that Indonesia could consider developing inland ports to facilitate trade in high-potential areas such as Batam.

There was also lively discussion on the interaction between central and subregional authorities. While there are benefits to pursuing policies at the national level, subregional initiatives can be more effective, particularly in addressing region-specific issues. The Singapore government for example prefers to deal directly with subregional authorities rather than going through the central governments in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. In relation to ASEAN, the point was made that bureaucratic challenges make it difficult to implement policies nationally, what more locally.

The mechanisms for advancing regional integration also elicited interest. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) supports RPN studies, which are seen as significant to regional integration discussions, and it was felt that more work should be done in this area. Dr Sookmark noted the significant role played by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in advancing regional integration in Southeast Asia, such as via its CGIF. She added that it is necessary to further promote bond markets as a means of reducing financial dependency and increasing diversification in the region's economies.

## Session 4: Towards an Equitable and Caring ASEAN Community

*Presentations in this session highlighted social factors that can potentially increase or impede conventional trends of economic development. In particular, they explored the role of the education sector and urbanisation. The moderator was Mr Danny Lee, Director for Community Affairs Development with the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.*



### **Towards Integration and Balanced Growth: Assessing the Impact of Cross-Border Education and Scholarly Exchange within ASEAN**

**Ms Diane Lek**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~

PhD Candidate in Political Science

London School of Economics and Political Science

UK

This presentation advanced the view that cross-border tertiary education policies could facilitate balanced growth and integration in Southeast Asia provided that there is careful management to mitigate brain drain and negative perceptions among the peoples of Southeast Asia.

Regional efforts to cooperate on education have been ongoing in ASEAN. Notably, the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration (2009–2015) set several directions. It encouraged the development of a university curriculum on the legal systems of member states. It also suggested reviewing ASEAN's scholarship programmes, enhancing cooperation within the ASEAN University Network (AUN), promoting staff and student exchange, encouraging greater proficiency in the English language and creating regional research clusters. To further advance cooperation and integration, Ms Lek suggested that a one-stop scholarship information base and a common platform listing research projects would be useful. Efforts to merge existing student exchange networks should also be supported.

Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore have relatively well-developed educational systems with the capacity to serve students from other countries. Thailand's national research universities do well in providing their students with several options through a common credit transfer system, scholarships and loan schemes; and the country is seen as an educational hub for the Mekong subregion. Thailand's universities also offer courses in English to attract international students. Malaysia has become a hub for students from Muslim countries as it has carved out a niche for itself in the Islamic banking and finance sector. There are also an increasing number of private international universities in the country. In Singapore, the education sector has been active in

promoting partnerships with leading foreign institutions, and receives substantial funding from the government. Singapore has two public universities that are well recognised at the global level.

The sector faces several challenges. Lack of financing has been cited as a limiting factor in enhancing the quality of education and research in Thailand and Malaysia. Private universities in Malaysia have also been criticised for being profit-oriented and relatively less concerned about the quality of their students' learning experience. Educational opportunities in more developed countries could also lead to brain drain for less developed countries. For example, many international students remain in Malaysia and Singapore after graduation to seek employment. In fact, in the case of Singapore, many of the scholarships for international students come with a bond of several years. This has in turn caused unhappiness among some Singaporeans who fret about competition from foreign workers who may be willing to work for lower pay. A consequence of this is that some Malaysians and Singaporeans have sought better opportunities overseas. In Thailand, however, brain drain is not a problem. Instead, the concern there is the language barrier, particularly in the case of students from Indochina.

Several recommendations were put forward to address the issues that were identified. Thailand could promote its ASEAN-related degree programmes and introduce more language immersion programmes and informal conversation groups. Malaysia could look at incentives to encourage students to return to their home countries, so that cross-border education results in transfer of knowledge to less developed countries. This could be done by reviewing and enhancing existing exchange agreements with various countries. In the case of Singapore, it can do more to maintain contact with its citizens studying abroad. It can also provide Singaporeans studying overseas with opportunities for short stints back home to transfer their knowledge and experience.



## New Towns, Peri-Urban Villages and Urban Dualism in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions

**Dr Danielle Labbe**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~

Assistant Professor of Urban Planning

University of Montreal

Canada

This presentation focused on the significance of the relationship between peri-urban developments and populations for the planning and governance of adaptation measures. Given the fast pace of urbanisation in Asia, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish urban from rural. While the development of new towns is not new – some would suggest that they have existed since the colonial period – a new generation of new towns has emerged since the late 1980s. These have been developed mostly by private actors rather than national governments. The benefits of these new towns are not shared evenly, as they largely cater to the middle and upper classes.

The research literature of the past 20 years highlights four destabilising processes associated with such developments. First is land acquisition and population displacement; second, loss of income-earning activities; third, environmental and bio-physical degradation such as floods; and finally, penetration of urban market forces and way of life.

However, the literature lacks examples of good practices in reducing urban inequity. Instead, there is extensive critique of the lack of good practices due to socio-dualism or the phenomenon of a divided city. Such socioeconomic inequity has in several cases resulted in conflicts. The 1997 riots in Jakarta, when the Chinese community was attacked, are one example. The attacks stemmed from the perception that the Chinese were from the wealthier classes residing in new towns.

Despite these inequities, Asian governments continue to promote the development of new towns as they bring in substantial FDI. Since the trend of new town development is not going to shift radically, the research study will seek to examine how such developments can proceed with less damage, and

this would include exploring success stories in equitable urban developments.

## Comments

**Professor Amara Pongsapich**

Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand;

Professor

Department of Anthropology of Sociology; and

Former Dean

Faculty of Political Science

International Development Studies

Chulalongkorn University

Thailand

Prof. Pongsapich noted that Dr Labbe's presentation was a good example of growth-centred development versus people-centred development, and recalled the work of Terry McGee from the University of British Columbia (UBC), who examined the role of street food in supporting the informal sector. The resolution of the debate became much clearer after the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, where the tendency to ignore people-centred development concerns had triggered socio-political instability.

It is thus important to move from a needs-based to a rights-based approach to development. It is envisioned that such a shift will be realised through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which build on the needs-based Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, many developing countries still struggle to meet their MDGs. Shifting to a rights-based approach presents challenges. Prof. Pongsapich, drawing on her own experience as the only woman on a 10-member council, noted that it could for example be difficult to voice alternative gendered perspectives.

Despite the challenges, there is still room for optimism. There are efforts to further engage the business sector in issues related to development, such as the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) initiatives to engage businesses in advancing human rights.

In her comments on Ms Lek's paper, Prof. Pongsapich noted that promotion of tertiary education should be based on cooperation rather than competition. However, as the presentation showed, different states view tertiary education differently, and this could set the stage for competition. Also, while scholarships and loans to study overseas are commendable, it would be better for countries to develop their own programmes. Prof. Pongsapich suggested that they can best do so individually but cooperatively. This would allow diversity and specialisation to develop among ASEAN tertiary institutions. These unique tertiary programmes will complement each other and attract a wider range of students. Beyond curriculum development, there should be more focus on research development. Doing so would help to narrow the inequality gaps that exist among tertiary institutions in ASEAN and thus improve their quality.

### Discussion

There are approximately 24–25 million students and 5,000–6,000 institutions in the higher education sector in ASEAN. The large numbers suggest high potential for cooperation. However, there are few organisations doing this. Differences in the political regimes/systems across ASEAN could also hinder efforts to promote cooperation. Such variations influence the way education is conducted and managed, and it is also important to be sensitive to the operational differences between higher education agencies in the various countries.

Educational institutions in the ASEAN region lack capacity in several areas, including research. In Malaysia, for instance, there is a lack of area studies. Collaboration on cross-border education could potentially resuscitate area studies in Malaysia. There has been some effort to promote research collaborations through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). However, many MOUs have largely become 'trophies' and are not active. Thus, it would be better to start small and generate buy-in first. A starting point could be to use political socialisation systems, which several Southeast Asian countries are strong in. It could be helpful to start with high school students, before moving on to the tertiary level. In addition, there is also evidence of subregional cooperation in the higher education sector, which seems to be relatively effective without national intervention.

Questions were raised on the methodology of the research papers. For Dr Labbe, there were queries as to how she would give a more balanced view, given that her research seeks to highlight evidence of best practices in community-based efforts in urban spaces. In terms of Ms Lek's paper, possible angles to consider are the impacts of reductions in research funding such as the lack of capacity to conduct research on gender aspects. In terms of promoting cultural understanding, a point to consider is a framework similar to the European Union's Erasmus programme.

The nature of existing developments in ASEAN cities was another focus of discussion. One participant suggested that there is a need to re-examine the literature on urban poverty by Terry McGee, as the distinction is not only between urban and peri-urban areas but rather the functions within those spaces. Also, while efforts can be made to address inequalities as a result of market forces, it is difficult to stop market demand. For example, in Indonesia, inefficiencies in public transport contribute to people wanting their own motorcycles, or informal transport via motorcycles.

Comments were also made on the issue of land grabbing, which is said to be evident when building economic zones (the location of some of the new towns in the region). It is also necessary to address the issue of corruption, particularly in land acquisitions. This would entail looking at the circumstances faced by displaced people whose future is dependent on the existing power relations in their society.

## Session 5: Towards a Secure and Peaceful ASEAN Community

*This session discussed maritime and water security issues as a source of conflict in Asia. The moderator for this session was Professor Carolina Hernandez, Professor Emeritus in Political Science, University of the Philippines (Diliman); and Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, Inc. (ISDS Philippines).*

## **The Optional Policy of Hydropower Development in the Mekong River for Economic Growth in the Region without Increasing Inequality**

**Mr Kesa Ly**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~

Research and Development Advisor

Life With Dignity

Cambodia

The objective of the research was to understand the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of hydropower development projects and highlight measures to improve hydropower development so that it facilitates regional economic growth and integration without increasing inequalities. The research, conducted in the provinces of Ratanakiri, Champasak and Kon Tum, focused on the impacts of hydropower dams on communities. Impacts include greater occurrences of floods, which contributed to loss of crops, livestock and property, reduced fish catches and increased difficulty in adapting to new areas.

To address such challenges, the ability of communities to participate in discussions on local issues should be improved. Communities should also be given access to information on dam developments. Greater transparency in environmental impact assessments is important and civil society should be allowed to provide inputs during the assessment process. More effective support mechanisms for local communities in terms of better early warning systems, resettlement programmes and compensation schemes should also be considered. What is also required is integrated planning incorporating multi-use of a reservoir to meet the needs of various stakeholders. These improvements can be facilitated through greater efforts in advocacy, research and dissemination and through increasing the capacity and accountability of the stakeholders involved.

## **Cooperation and Development in the South China Sea: Coping with the Potential Hindrance of East Asian Integration**

**Mr Meidi Kosandi**

~ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow~

PhD Candidate in International Relations

Ritsumeikan University

Japan; and

Researcher

Universitas Indonesia

Indonesia

While there is increasing economic interdependence between ASEAN and China, strategic links are deteriorating as seen from the ongoing dispute in the South China Sea. A liberalist framework may potentially be used to address the issue.

The current state of relations leans toward power politics and assumes that multilateralism is a superficial and artificial mechanism in dispute settlement. Given that multilateral arrangements for dispute settlement are separate from those for economic integration, this would invite the involvement of outside powers to maintain the regional balance of power. These trends are supported by existing regional power structures, diverging geopolitical interests and strategies, and weak regional coherence and institutional design.

In terms of the South China Sea dispute, there is a need to shift the paradigm from conflict to cooperation. This transformation would have to take place on several dimensions, including policy paradigms, multilateral and bilateral cooperation, and confidence-building measures. An analysis of the cognitive process of the South China Sea dispute demonstrates that perceptions, confidence and policy paradigms significantly affect the extent to which disputes are prolonged; and the paradigm shift from contention to cooperation is just as important as confidence building among the claimants.

ASEAN should also take the lead in building confidence in multilateral and bilateral cooperative arrangements and in preventing states from resorting to unilateralism. ASEAN can









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capitalise on its image of having a tolerant institutional culture and its experience to play a mediating role in the South China Sea dispute. ASEAN's role can also be extended to promoting bilateral cooperation through mediation, assistance and monitoring. ASEAN and China can work together on long-term, confidence-building exercises that are practical, feasible and measurable.

Finally, tangible incentives should be included to ensure states' interest in cooperation. As such, the relevance of the idea of separating the ongoing economic integration from the South China Sea dispute may need to be reviewed, as benefits from regional integration may potentially become a factor, creating incentives for cooperation and costs for defection.

### Comments

#### Dr Tran Viet Thai

Director

Center for Regional and Foreign Policy Studies  
Vietnam

Commenting on Mr Ly's presentation, Dr Thai wanted to know the implications for the ASEAN community building process, and whether more specific recommendations for different stakeholders could be provided. He also wondered if there is a role for Canada to play, given that water security is a critical issue in the ASEAN region.

In his comments to Mr Kosandi, Dr Thai noted that there is a need to better define the term 'cooperation'. Who is the cooperation between, what is the extent of cooperation, and in what field? He was of the opinion that there are limitations to the liberalist approach in addressing the South China Sea dispute. He gave the analogy of ASEAN-China relations being like a patient with a weak cancer. The South China Sea dispute can be seen as a cancer-affected cell, and ASEAN-China economic relations as a healthy cell. These seem to be separate, and what is needed is a dose of medication from the outside. In this regard, economic cooperation would have to be considered. The liberalist approach would nevertheless be useful in building regional cooperation in terms of water security.

### Discussion

Building on Dr Thai's comments on the South China Sea issue, the importance of factors other than economic cooperation was discussed. While it is true that the issue is at heart an economic conflict – a race over energy resources – the conflict also encompasses multiple security issues. A participant noted that trade already does play a part. If there is no trade, there would be nothing to stop China from acting more aggressively. As such, economic interdependency does not stop conflict but does play a role in moderating it. The rise of China is also a concern as it does not play by the rules of multilateralism even when it actually should if it wants to gain international credibility. It would perhaps be more useful to discuss cooperation in terms of joint exploration and exploitation, and ASEAN scholars are already discussing measures beyond dispute resolution. Yet another participant suggested that foreign intervention through arbitration is needed to resolve the South China Sea dispute.

Comments were made on the links between economic growth through hydropower development, human security and climate change in neighbouring Vietnam. Intrusion of saline water as a result of rising sea levels tests the degree of subregional cooperation for the two upper riparian and two lower riparian ASEAN countries in Indochina. The Mekong River Commission (MRC) is also a test of ASEAN relations with China, as there is a need to look at the technical aspects of it.

The human security implications of hydropower dam construction also drew attention. It was observed that dam investments have largely come from outside the ASEAN region, and that the production of electricity is not for domestic consumption but for export. What then can be done to create a more even playing field for Lao PDR to utilise the hydropower energy for itself? Also of concern are the challenges in the resettlement of people. For example, those who were part of the resettlement programme in Vietnam were ethnically Thai, and there was a lack of cultural sensitivity in addressing their needs and concerns.

Some comments questioned the assertions made by Mr Ly, such as the lack of governmental efforts in meeting the needs of communities. For instance, while the Xayaburi dam was still

under construction, efforts were made to address community concerns. These included meetings, study tours, resettlement and compensation schemes as well as consultation with local communities on their preferences for homes. Moreover, there may be instances where rural Laotians have adapted to the environmental changes and are perhaps contented with their current situation.

## Closing Remarks

### Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony

Head

Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Nanyang Technological University; and

Secretary-General

Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)

Singapore

### Professor Paul Evans

Director

Institute of Asian Research

University of British Columbia (UBC)

Canada

Assoc. Prof. Caballero-Anthony noted that a key question raised by the day's discussions is the extent to which ASEAN is able to provide the solutions needed to address the concerns stemming from regional economic development. Many of the presentations pointed out that while ASEAN serves an important role in facilitating common mechanisms and frameworks for its member states, it is ultimately national and subnational efforts that are significant in implementing the actions.

That said, ASEAN's normative significance should not be underestimated. ASEAN's guidelines highlight issues – such as good governance and gender participation – that may have been forgotten by member states in their pursuit of economic growth and development. Thus, while national governments work towards implementing transnational economic and trade arrangements, it is vital that overarching shared norms are made

visible to further enhance community building in ASEAN.

Prof. Evans closed the Forum by echoing the points made by Assoc. Prof. Caballero-Anthony. He also gave specific attention to the role of the Senior and Junior Fellows of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership in enriching the discussions. He advised those also presenting at the next day's Public Symposium to reflect on the comments and suggestions raised during the discussions, and to review their presentations accordingly.

## The Symposium

### Opening Session

#### Welcome Remarks

**Professor Dr Vo Van Sen**

President

Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Vietnam National University  
Vietnam

**Mdm Ton Nu Thi Ninh**

Director

Tri Viet Center for Social and Educational Research  
Vietnam

Prof. Sen began with a warm welcome to all. He noted that the partnership between ASEAN and Canada could be traced as far back as 1977, when the first formal meeting between the two was held. The relationship was strengthened with the signing of the ASEAN-Canada Economic Cooperation Agreement in 1981. Since then, the ASEAN-Canada relationship has spanned education, technology, commerce and economy. They cooperate to promote equitable development and governance, encourage greater awareness of ASEAN, enhance research capacity and joint research between ASEAN and Canada, and increase people-to-people connectivity, among others. He noted that the Public Symposium plays a meaningful role in bringing together scholars to share experiences and research, as well as to promote better understanding of each other's culture and customs. He concluded with best wishes for the strengthening of the ASEAN-Canada relationship.

Mdm Ninh expressed her appreciation to the Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities for hosting and participating in the Public Symposium. She also thanked Canada for its initiative in engaging ASEAN in a more thoughtful, insightful and meaningful way through the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership. The research theme of equitable growth, that is, achieving economic growth and integration while addressing an unintended consequence, rising inequality, is one that is critical to the region. By opening the conversation to

the broader community in Vietnam – to academics, the media, and particularly students – it is hoped that those in Vietnam will begin to gain a deeper understanding of ASEAN and the ASEAN community.

#### Keynote address

**Dr Vo Tri Thanh**

Deputy Director

Central Institute of Economic Management (CIEM)  
Vietnam

Dr Thanh began by noting that ASEAN has ambitious aims, from developing a single market, enhancing prosperity in the region and narrowing the development gap, to integrating more deeply into the global economy. To achieve these, three dimensions are important: community, connectivity and centrality

On the 'community' front, challenges remain in the implementation of measures as the region moves towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. The *Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of AEC Blueprint* by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) noted that much still needs to be done in reducing non-tariff measures (NTMs) and expanding the adoption of single window approaches, among others. Dr Thanh strongly suggested the need for more decisive action to develop a sense of community.

'Connectivity' is another important dimension. ASEAN has the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and also an ASEAN Development Fund, but capacity remains limited. There is a need to look to East Asia for resources to implement connectivity. Ultimately, however, integration is not merely about resources or institutions, but about political trust and this would need to be developed.

ASEAN's 'centrality', its role as a hub for the various powers in the region, is also critical. Some have pointed out that mechanisms like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) with China, Japan and Korea could undermine its centrality. Efforts by ASEAN itself,

both to strengthen integration and to address political issues, would be key to sustaining its centrality.

Thinking beyond 2015, the liberalisation process has to continue. ASEAN could look to the TPP, with its high standards, to guide this process, without necessarily copying the TPP. The region would also have to pay attention to resilience, and questions of how to mitigate the impacts of a crisis on the ASEAN economy and how to sustain economic development. Other emerging concerns are inclusiveness, the idea of everyone benefiting from ASEAN integration, and non-traditional security issues. Finally, ASEAN has to move towards more bottom-up participation, and listen to the voices of the people and the business community.

Dr Thanh also provided his take on reform in Vietnam. In the early stages, the focus had been on economic reforms. However, recently, the Politburo approved a new integration policy that encompasses not just economic dimensions, but also military, diplomatic, cultural and defence aspects, among others. This reflects its recognition of the importance of ASEAN and East Asian integration; and its awareness of ASEAN's significance as a source of resources, investment, and importantly, bargaining power. Today, Vietnam views regional integration coupled with domestic reform as the way forward for the country.

## Part I: ASEAN Economic Integration – Equitable Development and Governance

*As the region proceeds on the path to integration, questions of equitable development gain greater significance. The presentations provided insights into various areas of inequality and the challenges of equitable growth facing the region. This session was moderated by Dr Josef Yap, former President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.*

### Presentations

This session saw the following presentations by the Fellows of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership:

- **Narrowing the Development Gap in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)**

Dr Chia Siow Yue (paper presented by Professor Richard Barichello)

- **Towards an East Asian Financial Community: An Institutional Perspective**

Dr Supanai Sookmark

- **Local-Central Dynamics and the Limits of Micro-Regionalism: Understanding West Kalimantan and Sarawak Cross-Border Cooperation**

Mr Mochammad Faisal Karim

Please see pages 9, 13 and 14 for reports of these studies.

### Discussion

The Public Symposium saw strong participation by university students, and this is reflected in the issues that were raised. The students were keen to find out how they can contribute to ASEAN community building. One suggestion was that they could start by gaining a better understanding of ASEAN's history. ASEAN was not born in an environment of security and stability. Indeed, the original members had their share of disputes and differences. Yet, ASEAN managed to achieve some good results over the years. However, its unity remains fragile, as shown by the border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. The process of community building would thus require recognising ASEAN's role through the years, both its promise and the challenges it faces.

The role of education in ASEAN community building was also discussed. Cross-border educational experiences can promote mutual understanding, which could in turn pay dividends in terms of cooperation in the geopolitical and economic arenas. Academic and educational exchanges are another avenue, and this could facilitate transfer of ideas from developed countries to developing countries. Many universities already have such programmes, often through bilateral arrangements. Apart from that, there are programmes such as the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership, which offers fellowships to those from ASEAN countries to pursue research in countries and institutions within ASEAN.

In lauding the benefits of connecting through education, associated problems must not be ignored. One is brain drain, as students from developing countries may stay on in more developed countries rather than go home to help build their country. The other is the danger that contact could result in the formation of negative perceptions, threatening the prospects of greater social integration.

The discussion also focused on the balance of power in multilateral mechanisms that include China, Japan and South Korea. This was explored using the case of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM). ASEAN plays a moderating role through the ASEAN Plus Three framework. ASEAN has indicated its preference for inclusiveness, that is, for the concerns of all countries, even the smaller ones, to be taken into account. With the CMIM, the contributions are balanced such that no single member can have the kind of overwhelming power that the US enjoys at the International Monetary Fund. China and Japan contribute the same amount, South Korea a little less, and ASEAN also contributes a significant amount. The use of a consensus approach (instead of voting) also dilutes the possibility of a power hierarchy in the system.

In response to the research findings that countries in the CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) group are experiencing rapid economic growth, it was highlighted that income disparity is actually widening within many of these countries. There was general support for the need for more research on this. In the case of Vietnam, the data situation is complicated by the fact that incomes are measured using expenditure, which likely understates the income gap. Also, in Vietnam, the asset gap may be a more serious problem than the income gap.

## Part II: ASEAN Community Building – Strengthening ASEAN Awareness and People-to-People Connectivity

*The year 2014 marks the first time Myanmar takes on chairmanship of ASEAN. In 2015, the ASEAN Economic Community will be established. In 2017, ASEAN will celebrate*

*its Golden Jubilee. Through these and past milestones, one constant in ASEAN's work is its focus on the peoples of ASEAN. The presentations in this session highlighted existing and emerging issues that have an impact on efforts to build connectivity among Southeast Asian societies and strengthen awareness of ASEAN. The session was moderated by Mr Danny Lee, Director for Community Affairs Development with the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.*

### Presentations

This session saw the following presentations by the Fellows of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership:

- **Chronic Poverty, Transient Poverty and Inequality in ASEAN**  
Dr Celia Reyes
- **New Towns, Peri-Urban Villages, and Urban Dualism in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions**  
Dr Danielle Labbe
- **Policy Laundering and Localisation: Perceptions of ASEAN Inequality and Diffusion of Norms**  
Mr Matthew J. Bock

Please see pages 10, 11 and 17 for reports of these studies. To cap off the session, **Mr Sujadi Siswo**, Senior Correspondent (Southeast Asia) with Channel NewsAsia spoke on **The Media's Role and Experience in ASEAN Community Building**.

Mr Siswo emphasised the need to 'act locally and think regionally'. While neither a researcher nor an analyst, his role in the media industry requires him to research and analyse issues and make them easy to understand for the general public. The media helps to connect ideas and issues for public viewers. This is vital given the lack of awareness that the public has on ASEAN and its activities beyond official state events.

Channel NewsAsia was established in Singapore in 1999 with a bureau in Jakarta as well as correspondents in various Asian capitals. By serving as a platform for Asian perspectives that are sometimes not considered by other media outlets, the channel plays a role in advancing the process of ASEAN community



building. For example, Channel NewsAsia was the first media organisation to interview Myanmar's General Thein Sein, at a time when most Western media were more interested in Aung San Suu Kyi. Channel NewsAsia also produced several award-winning documentaries related to Southeast Asia, such as 'The Bicycle Diaries' and 'Inside Myanmar'. The channel's consistency in promoting Asian perspectives has allowed it to incrementally build trust with states (Myanmar and Korea for example) and officials that have previously been a challenge to gain access to.

## Discussion

A central point of discussion was the importance of enhancing people-to-people connectivity. Youths can play a significant role in the process, and more could be done to increase intra-regional student exchanges. People-to-people exchanges within specific economic sectors are also important. Such interactions could provide insights into the challenges that are driven by or dependent on the manual labour of communities.

Countries with large agricultural sectors such as Vietnam and Thailand have often sought to defend their agricultural interests at the global level, which may have an impact on agricultural imports for neighbouring ASEAN countries. Such issues suggest that exchanges at the societal level must be promoted, as they allow relevant actors such as businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide inputs on the challenges of inequity and the potential solutions.

The media can play a role in strengthening ties and understanding among the peoples of ASEAN countries. Media attention to intra-regional tourism can be helpful not just in promoting economic growth but also in enhancing intra-cultural understanding among the peoples of ASEAN. The media could also produce programmes on ASEAN, packaging them in a way that engages viewer interest. Incorporating elements of fun and competition could be one option. An example is an ongoing debate series, where university students from non-Chinese backgrounds engage with each other in Mandarin. This concept could be extended to other languages in Southeast Asia.

Financing was identified as a key issue. For example, media is part of ASEAN's communications master plan, but there is a lack of funding for an ASEAN-wide network/programme. However, funding issues are not insurmountable, as there is money to be made, not just from traditional media sources but also social media. For instance, a television show such as Asian Idol gets viewers to vote through chargeable mobile text messages. What is needed then is greater creativity in communicating the critical importance of the ASEAN market to potential companies and investors, particularly those companies that consider themselves regional in scope.

There was also considerable interest in how to facilitate a people-centred or bottom-up approach, given the notion that inclusiveness does not come naturally, but by design. Community-based organisations could be one avenue. They could for example serve as the starting point for youths keen to contribute their ideas on various aspects of ASEAN community building, including how to tackle transient poverty, an issue which cuts across many ASEAN member states. ASEAN universities could also learn from the examples of innovation seen at the community level.

Poverty in the region also attracted interest. The case of Singapore was discussed. While Singapore's small size certainly made it easier for the country to implement policies, it faced the formidable challenge of achieving growth and reducing poverty while having few natural resources and having to import most of its basic needs, including food and water. Sound and comprehensive policies as well as effective management were key to its success in doing so, and Singapore continues to work on ensuring its competitiveness as an attractive place for investments. The creation of an ASEAN economic community will provide more opportunities, not only for Singapore's economy, but also for other ASEAN states to tap on best practices from Singapore.

The discussion also turned to which should be addressed first: poverty or inequality. One participant argued that these need to happen simultaneously through, for example, implementing measures targeting economic growth for specific groups. Care must be taken that strategies to address poverty should not

exacerbate inequality. Another participant emphasised the importance of managing inequality. The 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and global financial crisis, and the ensuing socio-political instability, showed the high stakes involved. In managing inequality, particular attention has to be given to corruption and taxation.

## **Concluding Remarks**

### **Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony**

Head

Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Nanyang Technological University; and

Secretary-General

Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)

Singapore

### **Professor Paul Evans**

Director

Institute of Asian Research

University of British Columbia (UBC)

Canada

In her closing remarks, Assoc. Prof. Caballero-Anthony thanked all participants, noting that the discussion had been much enriched by their insightful reflections. While the conversations at the previous day's Forum seemed to suggest a lesser role for ASEAN, opinions from the Symposium reflected a much more positive take on the centrality of ASEAN and the potential for youths to contribute to balancing economic growth with equity.

Prof. Evans noted that the input of students during the Symposium had been highly valuable. There is a need to further engage tertiary students, and they must be provided with opportunities to not only air their views but also to lead discussions. He concluded by highlighting that Canada's interest in Southeast Asia is influenced by its own concern over equitable growth within Canada. On this, Canada looks at Southeast Asia, with its ability to forge ahead in the face of immense challenges, with envy and admiration.

## Programme

### Day 1: Forum

**20 August 2013 (Tuesday)**

Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Vietnam

#### 09:00 Opening Plenary Session

##### **Welcome Remarks**

Mdm Ton Nu Thi Ninh  
Director  
Tri Viet Center for Social and Educational Research  
Vietnam

##### **Welcome and Short Introduction to USSH**

Professor Dr Vo Van Sen  
President  
Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Vietnam National University  
Vietnam

##### **Opening Remarks**

*Canadian Perspective*  
Professor Paul Evans  
Institute of Asian Research  
University of British Columbia  
Canada

*ASEAN Perspective*  
Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony  
Head  
Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)  
Nanyang Technological University; and  
Secretary-General  
Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)  
Singapore

### **Keynote Address**

Ms Victoria Sutherland  
Counsellor and Head  
Development Cooperation  
Embassy of Canada  
Vietnam

#### 10:45 **Session 2: Towards an Inclusive ASEAN Community**

##### *Moderator*

Associate Professor Jacques Bertrand  
Department of Political Science; and  
Centre for Southeast Asian Studies  
Asian Institute  
Munk School of Global Affairs  
University of Toronto  
Canada

##### *Presentations*

##### **Policy Laundering and Localization: Perceptions of ASEAN Inequality and the Diffusion of Norms**

Mr Matthew J. Bock  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow  
Analyst and Technical Advisor  
Canada (based in Jakarta, Indonesia)

##### **Chronic and Transient Poverty in the ASEAN Region**

Dr Celia Reyes  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Senior Fellow  
Senior Fellow  
Philippine Institute for Development Studies  
Philippines

### **Narrowing the Development Gap in the AEC**

Dr Chia Siow Yue\*

ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Senior Fellow

Senior Research Fellow

Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

Singapore

*\*Paper presented by*

Professor Richard Barichello

Director

Center for Southeast Asia Research

Institute of Asian Research

University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada

*Commentator*

Professor Supachai Yavaprabhas

Dean

Faculty of Political Science

Chulalongkorn University

Thailand

11:40 **Discussion**

13:45 **Session 3: Towards an Economically Integrated ASEAN**

*Moderator*

Dr Makarim Wibisono

Executive Director

The ASEAN Foundation

Indonesia

*Presentations*

### **Towards an East Asian Financial Community: An Institutional Perspective**

Dr Supanai Sookmark

ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow

Instructor

Carleton University

Canada

### **Local-Central Dynamics and the Limits of Micro-Regionalism: Evidence from West Kalimantan and Sarawak Cross-Border Cooperation**

Mochammad Faisal Karim

ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow

Expert Staff to Member of Parliament

Committee on Finance, National

Development, Banking and Non-Banking Institutions

Indonesia

*Commentator*

Dr Josef Yap

Former President

Philippine Institute for Development Studies  
Philippines

14:30 **Discussion**

15:30 **Session 4: Towards an Equitable and Caring ASEAN Community**

*Moderator*

Mr Danny Lee

Director for Community Affairs Development

The ASEAN Secretariat

Indonesia

*Presentations*

**Cross-Border Tertiary Education within ASEAN: Bridging Growth, Bridging Cultures**

Ms Diane Lek  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow  
PhD Candidate in Political Science  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
UK

**New Towns, Peri-Urban Villages, and Urban Dualism in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions: Reflections from Hanoi**

Dr Danielle Labbe  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow  
Assistant Professor of Urban Planning  
University of Montreal  
Canada

*Commentator*

Professor Amara Pongsapich  
Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand; and  
Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology; and  
Former Dean  
Faculty of Political Science  
International Development Studies  
Chulalongkorn University  
Thailand

16:10 **Discussion**

16:30 **Session 5: Towards a Secure and Peaceful ASEAN Community**

*Moderator*

Professor Carolina Hernandez  
Professor Emeritus in Political Science  
University of the Philippines (Diliman); and  
Founding President and Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, Inc. (ISDS Philippines)  
Philippines

*Presentations*

**The Optional Policy of Hydropower Development in the Mekong River for Economic Growth in the Region without Increasing Inequality**

Mr Kesa Ly  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow  
Research and Development Advisor  
Life with Dignity  
Cambodia

**Conflicts in the South China Sea and China-ASEAN Economic Interdependence: A Challenge to Cooperation**

Mr Meidi Kosandi  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior Fellow  
PhD Candidate in International Relations  
Ritsumeikan University; and  
Researcher  
Universitas Indonesia  
Indonesia

*Commentator*

Dr Tran Viet Thai  
Director  
Center for Regional and Foreign Policy Studies  
Vietnam



17:10 **Discussion**

17:30 **Closing Remarks**

Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony  
Head  
Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS)  
Studies  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies  
(RSIS)  
Nanyang Technological University; and  
Secretary-General  
Consortium of Non-Traditional Security  
Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)  
Singapore

Professor Paul Evans  
Institute of Asian Research  
University of British Columbia  
Canada

– End of Forum –

## Day 2: Public Symposium

**21 August 2013 (Wednesday)**

Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and  
Humanities  
Vietnam

08:30 **Welcome Remarks**

Professor Dr Vo Van Sen  
President  
Ho Chi Minh City University of Social  
Sciences and Humanities  
Vietnam National University  
Vietnam

Mdm Ton Nu Thi Ninh  
Director  
Tri Viet Center for Social and Educational  
Research  
Vietnam

08:40 **Keynote Address**

Dr Vo Tri Thanh  
Deputy Director  
Central Institute for Economic Management  
(CIEM)  
Vietnam

09:10 **Symposium Part I**

**ASEAN Economic Integration: Promoting  
Equitable Development and Governance**

*Moderator*

Dr Josef Yap  
Former President  
Philippine Institute for Development Studies  
Philippines

*Presentations*

**Narrowing the Development Gap in the AEC**

Dr Chia Siow Yue\*  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Senior  
Fellow  
Senior Research Fellow  
Singapore Institute of International Affairs  
(SIIA)  
Singapore

*\*Paper presented by*

Professor Richard Barichello  
Director  
Center for Southeast Asia Research  
Institute of Asian Research  
University of British Columbia (UBC),  
Canada

**Towards an East Asian Financial Community:  
An Institutionalist Perspective**

Dr Supanai Sookmark  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior  
Fellow  
Instructor  
Carleton University  
Canada

**Local-Central Dynamics and the Limits of  
Micro-Regionalism: Evidence from West  
Kalimantan and Sarawak Cross-Border  
Cooperation**

Mochammad Faisal Karim  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior  
Fellow  
Expert Staff to Member of Parliament  
Committee on Finance, National  
Development, Banking and Non-Banking  
Institutions  
Indonesia

09:40 **Q & A**

10:50 **Symposium Part II  
ASEAN Community Building: Strengthening  
ASEAN Awareness and People-to-People  
Connectivity**

*Moderator*

Mr Danny Lee  
Director for Community Affairs Development  
The ASEAN Secretariat  
Indonesia

*Presentations*

**Chronic and Transient Poverty in the ASEAN  
Region**

Dr Celia Reyes  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Senior  
Fellow  
Philippine Institute for Development Studies  
Philippines

**New Towns, Peri-Urban Villages, and Urban  
Dualism in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions:  
Reflections from Hanoi**

Dr Danielle Labbe  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior  
Fellow  
Assistant Professor of Urban Planning  
University of Montreal  
Canada

**Policy Laundering and Localization:  
Perceptions of ASEAN Inequality and the  
Diffusion of Norms**

Mr Matthew J. Bock  
ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Junior  
Fellow  
Analyst and Technical Advisor  
Canada (based in Jakarta, Indonesia)

**The Media's Role and Experience in ASEAN  
Community Building**

Mr Sujadi Siswo  
Senior Correspondent – Southeast Asia  
Channel NewsAsia  
Singapore

11:30 **Q & A**

12:20 **Concluding Remarks**

Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony  
Head  
Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS)  
Studies  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies  
(RSIS); and  
Secretary-General  
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Singapore

Professor Paul Evans  
Institute of Asian Research  
University of British Columbia  
Canada

**– End of Symposium –**

## List of Participants

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**2. Professor Amara Pongsapich**

Chairperson of the National Human Rights  
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Professor, Department of Anthropology and  
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Former Dean  
Faculty of Political Science  
International Development Studies  
Chulalongkorn University  
Thailand

**3. Professor Carolina Hernandez**

Professor Emeritus in Political Science  
University of the Philippines (Diliman); and  
Founding President and Chief Executive Officer  
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**4. Dr Caroline Brassard**

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Senior Lecturer  
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**5. Dr Celia Reyes**

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**8. Dr Danielle Labbe**

Assistant Professor of Urban Planning  
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**9. Mr Danny Lee**

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**10. Ms Diane Lek**

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**12. Ms Hana Satriyo**

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**14. Dr Josef Yap**

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**15.Mr Kesa Ly**

Research and Development Adviser  
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**16.Mrs Khamphao Ernthavanh**

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**17.Mr Kyee Myint**

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**20.Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony**

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**21.Mr Matthew J. Bock**

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**22.Mr Meidi Kosandi**

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**23.Ms Mirelle Thai**

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**24.Mr Mochammad Faisal Karim**

Expert Staff to Member of Parliament  
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**35. Professor Supachai Yavaprabhas**

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**36. Dr Supanai Sookmark**

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**40. Mr Zaw Oo**

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Loka Ahlinn – Social Development Network  
Myanmar

**41. Ms Victoria Sutherland**

Counsellor and Head  
Development Cooperation  
Embassy of Canada  
Vietnam

**42. Dr Vo Tri Thanh**

Deputy Director  
Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM)  
Vietnam

**43. Dr Yeo Lay Hwee**

Director  
EU Centre  
Singapore



## About the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies

The **RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies** conducts research and produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

To fulfil this mission, the Centre aims to:

- Advance the understanding of NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific by highlighting gaps in knowledge and policy, and identifying best practices among state and non-state actors in responding to these challenges.
- Provide a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.
- Network with institutions and organisations worldwide to exchange information, insights and experiences in the area of NTS.
- Engage policymakers on the importance of NTS in guiding political responses to NTS emergencies and develop strategies to mitigate the risks to state and human security.
- Contribute to building the institutional capacity of governments, and regional and international organisations to respond to NTS challenges.

### Our Research

The key programmes at the **RSIS Centre for NTS Studies** include:

- 1) Internal and Cross-Border Conflict Programme
- 2) Climate Change, Environmental Security and Natural Disasters Programme
- 3) Energy and Human Security Programme
- 4) Food Security Programme
- 5) Health and Human Security Programme

### Our Output

#### *Policy-relevant Publications*

The **RSIS Centre for NTS Studies** produces a range of output such as research reports, books, monographs, policy briefs and conference proceedings.

#### *Training*

Based in RSIS, which has an excellent record of post-graduate teaching, an international faculty, and an extensive network of policy institutes worldwide, the Centre is well-placed to develop robust research capabilities, conduct training courses and facilitate advanced education on NTS. These are aimed at, but not limited to, academics, analysts, policymakers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

#### *Networking and Outreach*

The Centre serves as a networking hub for researchers, policy analysts, policymakers, NGOs and media from across Asia and farther afield interested in NTS issues and challenges.

The Centre is the Coordinator of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership (2012–2015) supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. It also serves as the Secretariat of the initiative.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for its three-year Asia Security Initiative (2009–2012), to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

It is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia).

More information on our Centre is available at [www.rsis.edu.sg/nts](http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts)

## About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies Nanyang Technological University

The **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)** was established in January 2007 as an autonomous School within the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). **RSIS'** mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific. To accomplish this mission, **RSIS** will:

- Provide a rigorous professional graduate education in international affairs with a strong practical and area emphasis
- Conduct policy-relevant research in national security, defence and strategic studies, diplomacy and international relations
- Collaborate with like-minded schools of international affairs to form a global network of excellence

### Graduate Training in International Affairs

**RSIS** offers an exacting graduate education in international affairs, taught by an international faculty of leading thinkers and practitioners. The teaching programme consists of the Master of Science (MSc) degrees in Strategic Studies, International Relations, International Political Economy and Asian Studies. Through partnerships with the University of Warwick and NTU's Nanyang Business School, **RSIS** also offers the NTU-Warwick Double Masters Programme as well as The Nanyang MBA (International Studies). The graduate teaching is distinguished by their focus on the Asia-Pacific region, the professional practice of international affairs and the cultivation of academic depth. Over 200 students, the majority from abroad, are enrolled with the School. A small and select Ph.D. programme caters to students whose interests match those of specific faculty members.

### Research

Research at **RSIS** is conducted by five constituent Institutes and Centres: the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, and the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations (TFCTN). The focus of research is on issues relating to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and their implications for Singapore and other countries in the region. The School has three professorships that bring distinguished scholars and practitioners to teach and do research at the School. They are the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations, and the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations.

### International Collaboration

Collaboration with other Professional Schools of international affairs to form a global network of excellence is a **RSIS** priority. **RSIS** will initiate links with other like-minded schools so as to enrich its research and teaching activities as well as adopt the best practices of successful schools.

For more information on the School, visit [www.rsis.edu.sg](http://www.rsis.edu.sg)





