



Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads

International Conference
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RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
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International Conference
Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and
the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads
8-9 July 2021, Bangkok

Day 1: 8 July 2021

Session 1: Opening Session

9:30 – 10:15 (Bangkok time)

Opening remarks by the three organizers: Prof. Suthiphand CHIRATHIVAT, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University; Assoc. Prof. Claire Thi Lien TRAN, IRASEC CNRS, and Prof. Prabir DE, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

- Ms. Usana BERANANDA, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
- H.E Dr Thierry MATHOU, Ambassador of France in Thailand, former Director of the Asia Direction at the French MOFA
- Dr. Mohan KUMAR, Former Ambassador of India in France and Chairman, RIS, New Delhi

Session 2: Southeast Asia between India and China: Reimagining Asia and Regional Indo-Pacific Order

10:30 – 12:15 (Bangkok time)

The Indo-Pacific area with important economic and cultural interactions between the two oceans go back millennia, long before the colonial era. Against tremendous changes in the post-colonial and –Cold War periods, the late 20th century's debate has been recentered on the Asia-Pacific. And again in the early 21st century, the Indo-Pacific has also added as a new framework for regional order. The increasing geographical connection of East and Southeast Asia to South Asia, the Middle East and Africa, has helped to advance the Indo-Pacific as a new world's economic and strategic concept. This session focusses on the two Asian giants, their expanding economic capabilities and strategic interests, and on the Indo-Pacific area for their interactions. Both have increased their influence in Southeast Asia through the “Maritime Silk Road” by President Xi Jinping since 2013 and the “Act East” agenda by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It also highlights the ASEAN's strategy to assert itself as a major actor of this new regional order.

Chair: Prof Surichai WUN'GAEO, Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

- Prof. Amitav ACHARYA, School of International Service, American University, Washington, D.C
ASEAN and Asian Security in the Age of Pandemics

- Dr. Rahul MISHRA, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Malaysia
Where 'Act East' meets Indo-Pacific: Mapping India's Southeast Asia engagement
- Assist. Prof. Surat HORACHAIKUL, Indian Studies Center and Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University
Explaining and Understanding ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific: A Neo-classical Realist Account

Session 3: The Indo-Pacific from Southeast Asian Perspectives: Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times

13:30 – 15:15 (Bangkok time)

The Indo-Pacific considered as a maritime “super-region” acknowledge the fact that the Indian Ocean has replaced the Atlantic as the globe’s busiest and most strategically significant trade corridor, whose geographical center in Southeast Asia. The “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” in 2019 asserted the “ASEAN Centrality” and its willingness to weigh as a significant player in the Indo-Pacific changing landscape, at the heart of new regional dynamics. These last years, ASEAN has defended an alternative position of “dialogue and cooperation, and not rivalry with China” in the context of Trump’s trade disputes and conflicts between US and China. This session questions the Southeast Asia countries and ASEAN multilateral strategy, in the recent changing context with the new Biden administration’s commitment in the Indo-Pacific. And to what extent will ASEAN countries and institutions be able to defend a stable multipolar world order in the Indo-Pacific region without isolating China, and avoid, as during the Cold War, being the center theatre of conflicts?

Chair: Dr Stéphane DOVERT, Founder of Irasec

- Assoc. Prof. TRAN Thi Anh Dao, University of Rouen and Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC CNRS), Bangkok
Asean's perspectives in Asia Africa Growth Corridor Partnership
- Indonesia: Prof. Dewi Fortuna ANWAR, Research Center for Politics-Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta
An Indonesian Perspective on the Indo-Pacific Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times
- Malaysia: Prof. LAU Sim Yee, Faculty of International Studies, Reitaku University, Tokyo
Strengthening Pluralism in the Indo-Pacific and the Role of the ASEAN
- Philippines: Prof. Joefe B. SANTARITA, Asian Center, University of the Philippines, Manila
ASEAN's Positioning in a multipolar Indo-Pacific

Session 3 (Continued): The Indo-Pacific from Southeast Asian Perspectives: Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times

15:30 – 17:15 (Bangkok time)

The Indo-Pacific considered as a maritime “super-region” acknowledge the fact that the Indian Ocean has replaced the Atlantic as the globe’s busiest and most strategically

significant trade corridor, whose geographical center in Southeast Asia. The “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” in 2019 asserted the “ASEAN Centrality” and its willingness to weigh as a significant player in the Indo-Pacific changing landscape, at the heart of new regional dynamics. These last years, ASEAN has defended an alternative position of “dialogue and cooperation, and not rivalry with China” in the context of Trump’s trade disputes and conflicts between US and China. This session questions the Southeast Asia countries and ASEAN multilateral strategy, in the recent changing context with the new Biden administration’s commitment in the Indo-Pacific. And to what extent will ASEAN countries and institutions be able to defend a stable multipolar world order in the Indo-Pacific region without isolating China, and avoid, as during the Cold War, being the center theatre of conflicts?

Chair: Dr. TEH Lip Li, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

- Cambodia: Dr. VANNARITH Chheang, Asian Vision Institute and Invest in Cambodia
How Can ASEAN Navigate Through Geopolitical Rivalries
- Myanmar: Prof. Chaw Chaw SEIN, International Relations Department, University of Yangon
Myanmar in the Indo-Pacific: Engaging with Regional Powers
- Thailand: Assoc. Prof. Panitan WATTANAYAGORN, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Thai policy face to US/China competition and possible confrontation
- Vietnam: Assoc. Prof. Claire TRAN, Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC), Bangkok
The Indo-Pacific, An Opportunity for Vietnam. An historical perspective
- ASEAN: Dr. Shafiah MUHIBAT, Department of International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta
Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific: some general observations

Day 2: 9 July 2021

Session 4: Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: The Intersecting Interests of Other Major Powers

09:30 – 11:15 (Bangkok time)

These last 15 years, other great powers have redefined their strategy in the region, replacing the concept of Asia-Pacific to the one of Indo-Pacific. Indeed, the region involves the intersecting interests of two other major powers - Japan and the United States - and significant middle players – Australia and South Korea as well as Western players – the European Union and Russia. The session intends to highlight their perspectives on the Indo-Pacific definition, with the aim to manage the China’s rise in the regional order. How did these great powers, which have dominated the Asia-Pacific era, reposition themselves in this new Indo-Pacific architecture. How do they manage their influencing diplomacy and partnership building, as well as their strategical and security priorities? Will the region’s future be dominated by competition or develop in a more cooperative way in this growing economic and strategic super-region connecting two oceans?

Chair: Dr. Claire TRAN, Irasec/Univ de Paris

- China: Assist. Prof. HOO Tiang Boon, RSIS, Singapore
Chinese Perspectives of the Indo-Pacific Concept and Major Power Relations
- Europe: Dr. David CAMROUX, SciencesPo, Honorary Research Fellow, Center for International Studies (CERI), Paris
Europe Rediscovered the Indo-Pacific... Xi Jinping and Joe Biden
- India: Prof. Sankari SUNDARARAMAN, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies (CIPS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
India's Approach to the Indo-Pacific: Assessing the Critical Shifts in the Post Covid-19 Period
- Japan: Assoc. Prof. Maiko ICHIHARA, Graduate School of Law, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and visiting scholar at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Japan's Approach to Free and Open Indo-Pacific
- USA: Dr. Thomas PARKS, Asia Foundation, Bangkok
Prospects for a multi-polarity in ASEAN

Session 5 Asia's Post-Pandemic Integration: What the Indo-Pacific Should Stand for?

11:15 – 13:00 (Bangkok time)

The session will present and discuss challenging times of Asian integration caused by erosion of global economic order, lingering pandemic crisis and possible recovery, unpredictable trade frictions of major powers, and upcoming regionwide trade agreements of RCEP and CPTPP. The Indo-Pacific has added another dimensions to regional integration, with possible alliances and new ways/models for reimagining trade, investment, technology, and regional value chains. This session will deal with what this changing environment is meant for Asia, Asian integration and, in particular, ASEAN, in terms of policy preparedness and adjustment to be implemented.

Chair: Prof. Suthiphand CHIRATHIVAT, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

- Prof. Fukunari KIMURA, Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta
Can India and South Asia Take Part in Factory Asia?
- Dr. Mia MIKIC, Advisor at Large, ARTNeT and Visiting Fellow, Institute for Euro-Asian Studies, Zagreb University
Asian integration: Post-pandemic realities
- Dr. Jayant MENON, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
Asia's Post-Pandemic DisIntegration? Dealing with Disruptive Technologies and Divergent Demographics Amid Pandemic Fallout
- Prof. Amita BATRA, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
India, ASEAN and the Quad
- Assoc. Prof. Piti SRISANGNAM, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
ASEAN Community Amidst Post-COVID Indo-Pacific Conflict

Session 6: ASEAN amidst Competing Connectivity Strategies and Integration Challenges

14:15 – 16:15 (Bangkok time)

ASEAN is still far from clear that new geopolitical changing landscape and implications from major power rivalries will turn out to be positive for the future of region building. The prime objective of the Indo-Pacific is often seen as focused on the security issue, and not yet well defined on its economic and connectivity potential. Without downplaying the significance of the Indo-Pacific, the issue is, however, about how ASEAN connectivity will be forging with a broader region of the Indo-Pacific, in addition to the already-existed initiatives like ASEAN Master Plan of Connectivity, and ASEAN Plus's Connectivities, the region has built up over years. What about the acceptance of the Indo-Pacific construct meant for AOIP and ASEAN Connectivity in particular? Session will review the progress in implementing the above initiatives and the tasks ahead.

Chair: Prof. Prabir DE, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

- Prof. Suthiphand CHIRATHIVAT, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Assist. Prof. Charit TINGSABADH, Centre for European Studies and Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Between the Two Seas of Indo-Pacific: From Kra Isthmus to Thai Canal and Landbridge in Southern Thailand
- Assoc. Prof. Sineenat SERMCHEEP, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Digital Connectivity in ASEAN: Opportunities and Challenges
- Dr. Venkatachalam ANBUMOZHI, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta
Cross-Border Electricity Trade and Climate Stabilization: Key Policy, Regulatory and Market Challenges in South and Southeast Asia
- Dr. Anupama DEVENDRAKUMAR, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, VinUniversity, Vietnam
Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Regional Integration: ASEAN Perspectives

Session 7: Security Issues and Strategic Challenges in the Indo-Pacific

16:30 – 18:00 (Bangkok time)

Since its creation, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has contributed to the maintenance of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. As Asia is becoming the global center of economic gravity, any conflict in the Indo-Pacific region involving a major power would have a global impact. Does a shared Indo-Pacific geographical understanding can contribute to security partnerships and stability and how can regional powers manage the strategic tensions arising across this wide area? This session deals with maritime security, but also cybersecurity, as well the sensitive management of water security issues in the Mekong by six countries. At least, the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar

since 2015 and the recent Coup constitute a major challenge to take up. Could the Indo-pacific cooperation play a significant role to manage present and future crisis?

Chair: Ms. Gwen ROBINSON (Chulalongkorn University/Nikkei)

- Prof. Jean-Pierre CABESTAN, Department of Government and International Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
Divide and Rule: China's Responses to the various Indo-Pacific Initiatives
- Vice Admiral Pradeep CHAUHAN, Director-General of the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi
Security issues and strategic challenges in the Indo-Pacific
- Dr. Éric FRÉCON, visiting academic, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC CNRS)
The South China Sea disputes in a Covid and Indo-Pacific context
- Prof. Arabinda ACHARYA, Rabdan Academy in Abu Dhabi
From Covid-19 Pandemic to Cyber Pandemic: What do we have now and how do we cope?
- Mr. Kavi CHONGKITTAVORN, veteran journalist on regional affairs, Bangkok Post, Bangkok
Mekong Subregion: Great powers' new strategic competition.
- Mr. Min ZIN, University of California, Berkeley, and former director of the Institute of Strategy and Policy, Myanmar
Myanmar Crisis: The Unprecedented Test for ASEAN Centrality and its Indo-Pacific Imagination

Concluding session: Prof. Suthiphand CHIRATHIVAT, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University; Assoc. Prof. Claire Thi Lien TRAN (IRASEC CNRS), and Prof. Prabir DE, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS