

16th ASEAN-Australia- New Zealand Dialogue

23 - 24 October 2024

Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur



Asialink



Asia New Zealand
Foundation
Te Whītau Tūhono



Programme

Day 1 (23 October 2024)

0830-0900

Registration

Foyer, Do@M Room, Level M

Dress: business / batik

0900-0915

Welcoming remarks

Do@M Room, Level M

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman

ISIS Malaysia

Prof Anthony Milner

Senior Adviser

Asialink

Australia

Hone McGregor

Trustee

Asia New Zealand Foundation

0915-1000

Session 1:

Keynote address: The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand (AANZ) relationship today

- From the first and only dialogue partners to one of many, where does the AANZ relationship stand today?
- What would ASEAN like to see from Australia and New Zealand? What role could they play?
- Where do Australia and New Zealand stand in comparison to other ASEAN partners?
- In the context of rising global pressures and uncertainties, what is the future of the AANZ relationship?

Moderator:

Dr James To

Manager, South Island and Track 2 Programme
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Speaker:

HE Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for
ASEAN Political-Security Community

1000-1110

Session 2:

Bolstering regional resilience

- How do Australia and New Zealand perceive ASEAN's (as a regional bloc and its individual member states') responses to intensifying geopolitical challenges?
- How can ASEAN unity be strengthened and what is the role of Australia and New Zealand in supporting regional resilience?
- Do ASEAN member states think Australia and New Zealand have the diplomatic ability to sufficiently contribute to this? What needs to change?

Moderator:

Thomas Daniel

Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Mohamad Azmi Hj Mohamed

Researcher
Brunei Darussalam Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Susannah Patton

Director, Southeast Asia Programme
Lowy Institute
Australia

Kenneth Leong
Director
ASEAN NZ Business Council

1110-1140

Break
Foyer, Do@M Room, Level M

1140-1300

Session 3:
The US elections and the Indo-Pacific

- With the US elections in a few weeks, we face the possibility of a very different American approach to foreign policy.
- Some experts say that a Trump administration's foreign policy will focus predominantly on China (moving away from Ukraine and Palestine). This will mean stronger US presence in the region. How would this impact on ASEAN member states? Could this act to further challenge ASEAN cohesion?
- What does ASEAN want to see from the new US president? How can Australia and New Zealand support ASEAN in these goals?
- What opportunities do ASEAN member states see emerging in the elections? What are the primary concerns?

Moderator:

Bianca Birdsall
Senior Adviser
National Security College
Australian National University

Speakers:

Kavi Chongkittavorn
Senior Fellow
Institute of Security and International Studies
Chulalongkorn University
Thailand

Dr Tran Thi Bich
Postdoctoral Fellow
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
Singapore

Interventions:

Dr Julia Macdonald

Director (Research and Engagement)
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Prof Anthony Milner

Senior Advisor
Asialink
Australia

1300-1400

Lunch

Essence, Level 1

1400-1440

Session 4:

Keynote address: The changing media landscape

- How are geopolitics being influenced by social media?
- What can we learn from the ways in which social media influenced governments and policy? Are these being addressed through our cybersecurity policies? If not, how could they be?

Moderator:

Harris Zainul

Deputy Director (Research)
ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Colin Peacock

Producer
Radio New Zealand

**Session 5:
Strengthening investment: ASEAN's developmental imperatives**

- What are New Zealand and Australia's priorities for investment? What is going wrong and how do we improve?
- What differences does ASEAN see in the approach to investment adopted by Northeast Asian, the US and European countries, compared with Australia and New Zealand?
- How do push-and-pull factors for investment in ASEAN compare with other regions? What steps can be taken to enhance ASEAN's attractiveness to investors to Australia and New Zealand?

Moderator:

Arividya Arimuthu

Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Fithra Faisal Hastiadi

Lecturer, Department of Economics
University of Indonesia

Penny Burt

President, Southeast Asia
Boeing
Australia

Hone McGregor

Trustee
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Day 2 (24 October 2024)

0830-0900

Registration

Foyer, Do@M Room, Level M

Dress: business / batik

0900-0955

Session 6:

Keynote address: 50th anniversary of dialogue partnership

- What does 'good diplomacy' look like in this context?
- What is the role of dialogues and summits in strengthening the ASEAN-Australia-NZ partnership? How do these kinds of formal conversation help build this relationship?
- What were the key outcomes of the ASEAN-Australian Special Summit earlier this year? Did the summit achieve its intended outcomes?
- What is the relevance of the Melbourne Declaration from the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit? How does a document like this promote norms of inclusivity and sustainability?
- Empowering young leaders is noted as an opportunity for the relationship in the report. What does this actually mean? What is or should be the role of young people in strengthening this relationship? How can we practically elevate young leaders or are they already doing it?

Moderator:

Jean Clarisse Carlos

Head of Project Development

Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Speakers:

Prof Nicholas Farrelly

Pro Vice-Chancellor

University of Tasmania

Australia

HE Tiffany McDonald

Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN

Session 7:

Demography is destiny: ageing populations, intra/inter-regional migration and the future of work as foreign policy issues

- ASEAN countries and states in the Asia-Pacific more broadly are facing a diverse range of demographic challenges and opportunities. Some must contend with the prospect of a shrinking workforce, while others will see their working-age populations grow significantly. All will need to pay for the care of growing numbers of retirees. These trends will have profound impacts on many policy areas, including immigration, both within and outside of the region; productivity; economic growth; and demands on social/infrastructural spending.
- What efforts are countries with growing workforces making to prevent an exodus of their educated youth to wealthier countries with shrinking workforces?
- How would large-scale migration of workers within Southeast Asia and efforts to stem such flows impact on regional relationships?
- What are the expected impacts of demographic changes in the region on the future of work?
- What adjustments will ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand need to make to accommodate the economic, social and foreign policy impacts of these demographic trends?

Moderator:

Calvin Cheng

Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Jean Clarisse Carlos

Head of Project Development
Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Prof Dr Hoang Lan Anh

Professor in Development Studies
University of Melbourne
Australia

Brad Olsen
CEO
Infometrics
New Zealand

1110-1135

Break
Foyer, Do@M Room, Level M

1135-1245

Session 8:
ASEAN: 2025 and beyond

- How is the crisis in Myanmar and tension in the South China Sea impacting on ASEAN's unity?
- What strategies can Malaysia, as the incoming 2025 ASEAN chair, adopt to foster greater cohesion, consensus and cooperation among member states in advancing the regional agenda beyond 2025, keeping in mind the potential pitfalls and challenges?
- How can dialogue partners support ASEAN and ASEAN-led architecture in these contexts?

Moderator:

Colin Peacock
Producer
Radio New Zealand

Speakers:

Hoang Thi Ha
Senior Fellow, Regional Strategic and Political Studies Programme
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
Singapore

Dr Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc
Assistant Director-General
Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies
Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam

HE Stuart Calman
Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN

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Intervention:

HE Tiffany McDonald

Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN

1245-1300

Closing remarks

Harris Zainul

Deputy Director (Research)
ISIS Malaysia

Prof Anthony Milner

Senior Adviser
Asialink
Australia

Hone McGregor

Trustee
Asia New Zealand Foundation

1300

Lunch

Essence, Level 1

Profiles



Prof Anthony Milner

Senior Adviser
Asialink
Australia

Tony is International Director at Asialink, Visiting Professor at Universiti Malaya and Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University. He was formerly dean of Asian Studies at ANU. He has written widely on Southeast Asian history – particularly the history of the Malay world – and on Australia-Asia relations. He is co-chair of the Australian Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific.



Arividya Arimuthu

Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Arividya specialises in WTO and EU laws and has more than 20 years' experience in trade negotiations. She is a former senior director for strategic negotiations at MITI and chief negotiator for numerous high-stakes free trade agreement negotiations, including the CPTPP, for which she led the ratification and implementation for Malaysia.



HE Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for
ASEAN Political-Security Community

Dato' Astanah supports the Secretary-General of ASEAN in developing and maintaining cooperation in political and security matters with member states, external partners, as well as international and regional organisations. She leads the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Department and provides leadership in the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025. She was a former Ambassador of Malaysia to Morocco and had served at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations. During her stint there, she was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Third Committee of the General Assembly; Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Working Group on Human Rights; and ASEAN Coordinator in the Third Committee.



Bianca Birdsall

Senior Adviser
National Security College
Australian National University

Bianca is on secondment at the college from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Prior to this, she was deputy chief of staff to the Defence Industry Minister and Minister for International Development and the Pacific. This followed more than a decade's experience in senior APS roles, including key bilateral and multilateral goods trade issues and negotiations in the Office of Trade Negotiations; Indo-Pacific critical infrastructure investment in the Office of the Pacific; and strategic policy and coordination roles in national security, cabinet, governance, and indigenous affairs.



Brad Olsen

CEO
Infometrics
New Zealand

With extensive networks across business, media and community sectors, Brad integrates diverse perspectives and emerging trends to advise key decision-makers nationwide. A member of the Asia New Zealand Foundation Leadership Network and recognised as one of the 25 to Watch, he actively participates in domestic and international forums, discussing international trade, security and economic dynamics. Recognised for his community leadership, he is among New Zealand's youngest justices of the peace and has been honoured as New Zealand's Queen's Young Leader in 2016 and Young Wellingtonian of the Year 2020.



Calvin Cheng

Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Calvin is a fellow in the Economics, Trade and Regional Integration programme. His research interests span issues in applied economics, centring on jobs, social protection, economic development and the design of social transfer programmes.



Colin Peacock

Producer
Radio New Zealand

After his postgraduate diploma in journalism from Canterbury University, Colin moved to London and joined BBC World TV. He then moved to the BBC's 24-hour news network 5 Live just in time for Princess Diana's fatal accident on his first night shift in the studio. He produced BBC 5 Live's international programme Global in 1999, then moved to BBC World Service the following year to work on news programmes, such as Newshour and World Update, a co-production with Public Radio International in the US. He returned to New Zealand in 2002.



Fithra Faisal Hastiadi

Lecturer
Department of Economics
University of Indonesia

Fithra is an economic adviser at PT Samuel Sekuritas Indonesia, a leading securities and investment company, where he provides analyses and insights to support its strategic decisions and client services. He is also a commissioner at InfraDigital, a fintech start-up that enables digital payments for education in Indonesia, where he oversees its economic and social impact. At Universitas Indonesia, he specialises in international economics, trade policy and economic development.



Harris Zainul

Deputy Director (Research)
ISIS Malaysia

Harris directs the institute's research to advance Malaysia's strategic interests. He works on the interplay between technology, human rights and democracy, with a focus on policy responses to mis- and disinformation and social media platform governance.



Prof Dr Hoang Lan Anh

Professor in Development Studies
University of Melbourne
Australia

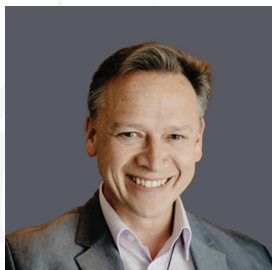
Lan Anh is the author of *Vietnamese migrants in Russia: mobility in times of uncertainty*, winner of the Association of Mainland Southeast Asia Scholars Book Prize in 2022, and co-editor of *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances, and the Changing Family in Asia and Money and Moralities in Contemporary Asia*. Her research on migration and gender has been published in prestigious journals, including *Gender and Society*; *Gender, Place and Culture*; *Global Networks*; *Population, Space and Place*; *Geoforum*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Mobilities*; *Asian Studies Review* and *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. She is regional editor of *Asian Studies Review* and associate editor of Springer's *Global Vietnam* book series.



Hoang Thi Ha

Senior Fellow, Regional Strategic and Political Studies Programme
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
Singapore

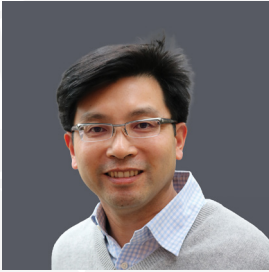
Thi Ha is the co-coordinator of the regional strategic and political studies programme at ISEAS. Prior to this, she was lead researcher (political security) at the ASEAN Studies Centre. Her research interests include Vietnam's foreign policy, major powers in Southeast Asia and political security issues in ASEAN, especially the South China Sea disputes, ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific discourse and ASEAN's institutional building. She joined the ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam in 2004 where she was seconded to the ASEAN Secretariat with her last post being assistant director.



Hone McGregor

Trustee
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Hone chairs the Wakatū and, as Kono director, sits on the audit and risk committee and chairs the human resource committee. He has extensive experience in senior leadership roles across Aotearoa. He serves on several boards and expert advisory groups and is an executive member on the Federation of Māori Authorities. He lives in Wellington and is of Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua descent.



Dr James To

Manager, South Island and Track II Programme
Asia New Zealand Foundation

James has an academic background in Asian languages (Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese), political science and commerce. He has lectured in Northeast Asian foreign policy and is an active researcher of the overseas Chinese diaspora. His expertise in this field led to a secondment at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, where he led the design of a resilience-building programme for ethnic communities vulnerable to transnational repression. He is currently national secretary of the New Zealand Chinese Association.



Jean Clarisse Carlos

Head of Project Development
Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Jean is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Global Affairs and Diplomacy, Miriam College. Her work focuses on international relations, geopolitics, digital economy, regional cooperation and women's financial inclusion. Her recent research includes gendering the informal tourism sector and analysing cross-border e-commerce environments for women-led MSMEs. Her publications appear in various policy notes, discussion papers, peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, contributing to critical discourses on gender migration, women-led MSMEs, digital trade and inclusive growth.



Dr Julia Macdonald

Director (Research and Engagement)
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Julia has served in senior roles in government and academia, having worked at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, where she led work on New Zealand's first National Security Strategy. She was an assistant professor at University of Denver's Korbel School of International Studies where she taught and published on a range of international security issues. She has held fellowships at Harvard University, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania.



Kavi Chongkittavorn

Senior Fellow
Institute of Security and International Studies
Chulalongkorn University
Thailand

Kavi was a former executive editor of the Bangkok-based newspaper The Nation and editor-in-chief and executive director of MyanmarTimes, Yangon. He has been a journalist for four decades, covering Thai and regional politics. He began his career as a reporter at The Nation in 1983 and became its foreign news editor in 1986. Currently, he is a columnist with Bangkok Post.



Kenneth Leong

Director
ASEAN NZ Business Council

Kenneth arrived in New Zealand from Malaysia as an international student in the mid-1990s. Upon graduation, he worked at Deloitte and Macquarie on mergers and acquisitions, corporate advisory and capital-raising projects. With more than two decades' experience in international business and corporate finance, he is now director-shareholder in several private businesses across multiple sectors, including education, retail, investments, health technology and transportation. He is the co-founder/director of the award-winning mask business MEO.



Dr Mohamad Azmi Hj Mohamed

Researcher
Brunei Darussalam Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

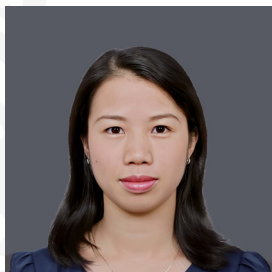
Azmi is a former academic and current diplomat with a strong interest in foreign policy, geopolitics and international relations. He joined the ministry in 2020, where he has held a wide range of portfolios, including ASEAN, Europe and Americas. He has also been actively involved in Track II diplomacy, fostering dialogue and cooperation with think-tanks and research institutions in the region through his role in the ministry's think-tank arm: BDIPSS. As both a diplomat and a researcher, Azmi leverages his academic training and experience in the foreign service in his research on geopolitics and its implications for the region.



Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman
ISIS Malaysia

Datuk Prof Faiz leads the institute's policy development and Track-Two diplomacy, including through the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). He is also the Malaysian representative to the ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF EEP) meeting and Co-Chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). His diverse career spans media, law enforcement, education, corporate law and public interest litigation, as well as strategic and international affairs advisory to federal and state governments. He is the founding dean of Selangor Business School (UNISEL) and the author of books on jurisprudence, public policy and strategic management.



Dr Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc

Assistant Director-General
Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies
Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam

Bich Ngoc joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam in 2011. She has vast experience in conducting research projects, Track 2 diplomacy and delivering courses for BA and MA students. Her expertise lies in Southeast Asia, ASEAN and non-traditional security issues, particularly climate change. For many years she worked closely with the Embassies of Australia and New Zealand in Hanoi and the think-tanks of both countries, organising various Track 2 and Track 1.5 events, including the ASEAN Future Forum 2024. She has also published widely on Vietnam's foreign policy and ASEAN.



Prof Nicholas Farrelly

Pro Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Australia

Nicholas was head of Social Sciences from 2020-2023 where he focused on political, economic and cultural issues in Southeast Asia. He previously held leadership positions in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. From 2020-2024 he was on the board of the Australia-ASEAN Council and appointed to the board of the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters in 2023. He is also a member of the external advisory group for the Australian government's New Colombo Plan.



Penny Burt

President, Southeast Asia
Boeing
Australia

Penny is responsible for strengthening Boeing's operations, strategy and presence across Southeast Asia as well as supporting the company's growth opportunities across the region. She brings to the role more than 25 years' experience in diplomacy, trade, international business and consulting across four continents. She has a deep understanding of the region, having served as a senior Australian diplomat across Southeast Asia and as former group CEO of Asialink, Australia's leading centre for Asia engagement.



HE Stuart Calman

New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN

Stuart is based in Jakarta and was most recently the Deputy Head of Mission at the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing. His previous stints at the New Zealand High Commission in Canberra and Australia Division of MFAT where he served as special adviser to the Deputy Secretary's Office, Pacific and Development Group. Stuart has also held several management positions in the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry for the Environment and MFAT.



Susannah Patton

Director, Southeast Asia Programme
Lowy Institute
Australia

Susannah is the project lead for the Asia Power Index, the institute's annual data-driven assessment that maps the changing distribution of power in the region. Prior to Lowy Institute, she was a researcher at the United States Studies Centre and worked in various Southeast Asia-related roles in the Australian government, including as a senior analyst in the Southeast Asia branch of the Office of National Intelligence.



Thomas Daniel

Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Thomas' interests lie in the strategic-security challenges of Southeast Asia, including the impacts of major-power dynamics on ASEAN. He looks mainly at the South China Sea dispute, political-security cohesion within ASEAN and Malaysia's security and foreign policies. He also focuses on policies towards refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia, as well as the impacts of the crisis in Myanmar on the region. He is a member of the Malaysia Study Group on Myanmar, convened by Universiti Malaya.



Dr Tran Thi Bich

Postdoctoral Fellow
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
Singapore

Thi Bich is an adjunct fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and a fellow at the 2024 International Strategy Forum. Her research interests include issues at the intersection between geopolitics and technology, Southeast Asian states' relations with major powers and Vietnam's grand strategy. She is the author of "Vietnam's Strategic Adjustments and US Policy" (*Survival* 64, no. 6, 77-90).



HE Tiffany McDonald

Australian Ambassador to ASEAN

Tiffany served as high commissioner to Brunei during its ASEAN chair year in 2021. As a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, she has served in diplomatic roles in Jakarta, Seoul, London and Paris. In Canberra, she has held various foreign policy, trade, multilateral and legal roles. She has delivered diplomatic training across government agencies and international diplomatic academies.

Notes



Notes





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