



**Highlighting Malaysia's leadership
of ASEAN 2025:**

Elevating Malaysia-South Korea ties

A Malaysia Scholars on Korea programme

29 Oct 2024 | 0830hrs-1400hrs MYT
Intercontinental Kuala Lumpur





Elevating Malaysia-South Korea ties

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Malaysia-South Korea relations have deepened in recent years, especially in areas, such as security and energy transition. However, there is much to explore for elevated ties between Malaysia and South Korea, such as in cultural diplomacy, small-medium enterprise development and the digital economy. Furthermore, there are goals under South Korea's Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI), which could be tapped into, especially in maritime security and maritime engagements for regional peace and prosperity.

The year 2025 is significant for Malaysia because of its ASEAN chairmanship. Expected on the agenda are discussions on ASEAN Community Vision 2045. Also to be noted are maturity of plans and documents, such as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Political-Security Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025. Amid geostrategic flux and geopolitical power competition, Malaysia and South Korea could catalyse a partnership that strengthens ASEAN and its approaches towards security, economy and socio-cultural prosperity.

The public half-day programme seeks to discuss means and methods of elevating Malaysia-ROK relations to the next level, especially in economic areas. Additionally, the programme aims to explore Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship while investigating meaningful engagements for ASEAN beyond 2025. The Malaysia Scholars on Korea Network is pleased to put together a programme that brings together government representatives, members of academia and the interested public for conversations on Malaysia-South Korea relations in the nation, region and global stage.

The Malaysia Scholars on Korea (MASK) Network

The Malaysia Scholars on Korea (MASK) Network links Malaysian scholars, policymakers and think-tankers in conversations on Malaysia-South Korea relations. Through the years, MASK events have explored the intricacies of a Malaysia-South Korea Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, a special meeting following president Moon Jae-in's visit to Malaysia, possibilities for Asean engagement in the Korean Peninsula and South Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy in Southeast Asia.



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Programme

- 0830 **Registration**
Foyer, Junior Ballroom, Level 2
- 0915 **Welcoming and opening remarks**
Junior Ballroom, Level 2
- HE Yeo Seung-bae**
Ambassador
ROK Embassy
- Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah**
Chairman
ISIS Malaysia
- 0935 **MoU signing**
Junior Ballroom, Level 2
- 0950 **Break**
Foyer, Junior Ballroom, Level 2
- 1015 **Special address by ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- Fairuz Adli Mohd Rozali**
Deputy Director-General
ASEAN External Affairs Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1020 **Panel 1:**
**An ASEAN-South Korea Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
in an interregnum**

Great-power competition has shaped trade alliances, definitions of national security and regional architectures. In the mid of rivalries, are strategic powers aiming to realise ambitions, whether for security and regime survival, such as Russia and North Korea, or for development purposes, such as India? The ASEAN-South Korea partnership, expected to be elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by year-end, would have to consider geostrategic developments, South



Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy, ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The goals aim to advance peace and security for all, build a smarter, greener and connected future, and create a socio-cultural platform for young and future generations.

- What are South Korea's expectations for Malaysia's 2025 chairmanship?
- Will ASEAN's economic community address present and future geoeconomic tensions for both ASEAN and South Korea?
- How could ASEAN improve ASEAN-led mechanisms, especially in an environment fraught with mini-lateral arrangements, internal turmoil and domestic priorities?
- What are the means of collaboration between Malaysia and South Korea to strengthen ASEAN's ability for peace and prosperity in Southeast and Northeast Asia?

Moderator:

Yanitha Meena Louis

Analyst

ISIS Malaysia

**A MASK Network member*

Speakers:

Dr Lee Jaehyon

Principal Fellow

Asan Institute for Policy Studies

South Korea

Dr Geetha Govindasamy

Senior Lecturer

Department of East Asian Studies

Universiti Malaya

**A MASK Network member*

Jukhee Hong

Executive Director

ASEAN-BAC Malaysia



1145

Panel 2:

The economic route to stronger Malaysia-South Korea ties

Malaysia's international relations have always centred on economic engagements. Announced at the 2019 ASEAN Commemorative Summit was the elevation of Malaysia-South Korea relations in principle. On the back of policies, such as South Korea's New Southern Policy, Indo-Pacific Strategy and Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative, Malaysia-South Korea relations have deepened, especially in areas like energy transition and defence industries. However, there are areas to be explored further, such as digital economy and high-tech industries. As a bilateral FTA crawls to completion, could an elevated strategic partnership strengthen Malaysia-South Korea relations?

- What are the achievements and milestones of Malaysia-South Korea relations?
- How could Malaysia and South Korea strengthen economic relations?
- What are the programmes to inculcate cooperation and collaboration in South Korea and Malaysia's digital value chain? Are there avenues of cooperation in AI industries, for instance?
- Could South Korea and Malaysia elevate relations on technical assistance and capacity building or supply chain resilience?

Moderator:

Arividya Arimuthu

Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Ko Young Kyung

Research Professor
Graduate School of International Studies
Yonsei University
South Korea



Dr Pieter Stek

Senior Lecturer
Asia School of Business
**A MASK Network member*

YB Liew Chin Tong

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

1315

Lunch

Serena Brasserie, Lobby



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Profiles

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.



HE Yeo Seung-bae

Ambassador
ROK Embassy in Malaysia

Yeo was appointed as ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia in October 2022. Prior to the appointment, he served as deputy minister for political affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which he joined in 1990. Yeo has held postings in China, Norway, Afghanistan and New Zealand. He had also served as foreign policy adviser to the prime minister.



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.



Fairuz Adli Mohd Rozali

Deputy Director-General
ASEAN External Affairs Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fairuz Adli assumed the current position in January, following his tenure as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Malaysia in Washington, DC. He joined the administrative and diplomatic service in 2002. His previous stints include assistant director at the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat and principal assistant director at the Coordination and Implementation Department. He has also served as second secretary at the Embassy of Malaysia in Kuwait, counsellor and minister-counsellor at the Embassy of Malaysia in the Republic of Korea.





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Dr Geetha Govindasamy

Senior Lecturer
Department of East Asian Studies
Universiti Malaya

Geetha is an expert on East Asian international relations, teaching courses related to East Asian regional affairs. She teaches, researches and publishes on inter-Korean issues and East Asian international relations. She was a participant in the Study of the United States Institute exchange programme and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, academic exchange.



Dr Ko Young Kyung

Dr Ko Young Kyung
Research Professor
Graduate School of International Studies
Yonsei University
South Korea

Young Kyung is currently a research professor at the Digital Trade Research Centre at Yonsei University. She was a former Sunway University senior research fellow, assistant professor at UNITAR International University and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and research professor at Korea University. She is the author of 7UPs in Asia, ASEAN Super App War and Future Growth Market ASEAN. She has published in the Journal of Banking & Finance and other prestigious international journals, covering topics like corporate governance, financial behaviours, family business succession and start-up policies.



Jukhee Hong

Executive Director
ASEAN-BAC Malaysia

Jukhee has been an active policy advocate for ASEAN economic integration and wears different hats in different ASEAN organisations. She is deeply involved in cross-sectoral ASEAN policy advocacy and consultations with government leaders and ministers in official business-to-government policy channels, representing the voices of the private sector. Between 2010 and 2022, she headed CARI ASEAN Research & Advocacy and its predecessor, CIMB ASEAN Research Institute, an independent think-tank dedicated to supporting ASEAN economic integration. She was the former executive director for the APEC Business Advisory Council and also led the secretariat tasked with organising the APEC CEO Summit 2020.



Dr Lee Jaehyon

Principal Fellow
Asan Institute for Policy Studies
South Korea

Jaehyon is a member of the advisory group for the Korean Coast Guard and was a member of advisory groups for the Presidential Committee for New Southern Policy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His research focuses on ASEAN, Southeast Asian politics and regionalism. He is also interested in the superpower competition in the Indo-Pacific region. His publications include "South Korea and the South China Sea: A Domestic and International Balancing Act" (2016), "What Asia Wants from the US: Voices from the Region" (2018), and "Southeast Asian Perspectives of the United States and China: A SWOT Analysis" (2022).





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YB Liew Chin Tong

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

Chin Tong is the Iskandar Puteri MP and a former senator and deputy defence minister. Since 1999, he has served DAP in various capacities and is now a member of its central executive committee, serving as the deputy secretary-general. He is also the chairman of Johor DAP. He has been the chairman of Research for Social Advancement (REFSA) since 2012 and was the executive director of Penang Institute (previously Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute, SERI). He was also a former visiting senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. He is passionate about policies related to the economy, defence and security, institutional reform, political Islam, security and international relations, and urban studies.



Dr Pieter Stek

Senior Lecturer
Asia School of Business

Pieter's research interests include science, technology and innovation studies, sustainability issues (including ESG and carbon markets), and economic geography, with a focus on Southeast Asia. Before becoming a senior lecturer at ASB, he was a postdoctoral scholar at ASB's Centre for Technology, Strategy and Sustainability (CTSS) and the ASEAN Research Centre (ARC). He was also an adjunct faculty member at Chonbuk National University, Myongji University, Yeungnam University, and the Universiti Malaya.





Yanitha Meena Louis

Analyst
ISIS Malaysia

Meena's research focuses on Indian foreign policy, the geopolitics of South Asia and Malaysia and ASEAN's relations with the region. She also looks at the various Indo-Pacific strategies in the region, focusing on the approaches of ASEAN, the European Union, Australia and the Republic of Korea. She is also interested in understanding how inter/intra-regionalism, mini-lateralism and multilateralism function in the Global South and the larger Indo-Pacific. Her writings have appeared in *The Diplomat*, *The Interpreter*, *Asia Times* and *Financial Express*.



Notes

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