

# UNDERSTANDING SOUTHEAST ASIA



# MISSION STATEMENT

ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute (formerly Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) was established as an autonomous organisation by an Act of Parliament in 1968. Its primary objectives are:

- 1 To be a leading research centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security, and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment.
- 2 To stimulate research and debate within scholarly circles, enhance public awareness of the region, and facilitate the search for viable solutions to the varied problems confronting the region.
- 3 To nurture a community of scholars interested in the region and to engage in research on the multi-faceted dimensions and issues of stability and security, economic development, and political, social and cultural change.



*Mr Choi Shing Kwok delivering the Welcome Remarks of the 27th Regional Outlook Forum.*

The Institute conducts a range of research programmes; holds conferences, workshops, lectures and seminars; publishes briefs, research journals and books; and generally provides a range of research support facilities, including a large library collection.

At the beginning of each year, the Institute organises its annual flagship event, the Regional Outlook Forum to discuss the macro trends and developments in the region.



*Dr Norshahril Saat delivering a talk at Raffles Institution about political system, religion and ethnicity issues in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.*

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# RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

## RES

REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC STUDIES

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The REGIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES Programme focuses on a range of economic issues in Southeast Asia. The emphasis is on timely, policy-related research that is relevant to decision-makers and academics. Its key research areas are: macroeconomic developments in Southeast Asia; international trade and finance; country-level studies relating to socio-economic development; sub-national economic dynamics; ASEAN regionalism and its linkages with Asian neighbours. The Programme organises workshops, conferences and seminars; produces books, articles and working papers; and is responsible for the tri-annual Journal of Southeast Asian Economies (JSEAE) – formerly the ASEAN Economic Bulletin (AEB) – a leading journal on the region's economies.

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## RSCS

REGIONAL SOCIAL  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES

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The REGIONAL SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES Programme is oriented towards the historical, sociological and anthropological examination of national and transnational processes within Southeast Asia. Specifically, RSCS is concerned with ethnographic practices and theory-building in the areas of contemporary histories, nation-building, ethnicity, religion, class and popular culture in the region. Key research areas are the processes of nation-building, civil society and religion, cultural globalisation and identity-making, contemporary politics, and democratisation and multiculturalism. The Programme publishes the internationally refereed SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia thrice a year, which covers topics such as urbanisation, migration, ethnicity, religion, popular culture, nation-building, civil society, family and gender.

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## RSPS

REGIONAL STRATEGIC  
AND POLITICAL STUDIES

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The REGIONAL STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES Programme focuses on the politics, security and foreign relations of Southeast Asian states. It studies political developments within states, including elections, political parties, leadership changes, relations between central governments and regional and local governments, regime legitimacy, ethnic and religious tensions or rebellions; and inter-state relations including territorial and other disputes. The Programme also covers Southeast Asia's interactions with the broader Asia-Pacific and South Asian regions, with special attention accorded to the political and strategic relations of Southeast Asia and its individual states with major external powers, including perceptions of their roles in the region; and the evolving regional security architecture. For these purposes, it produces the journal Contemporary Southeast Asia every four months. RSPS also produces the annual review of Southeast Asian Affairs.

# COUNTRY STUDIES

## THAILAND

The THAILAND STUDIES PROGRAMME promotes analysis of contemporary political dynamics, social change, and cultural trends in the country. Areas of interest include party and electoral politics, regionalism and decentralisation, economic competitiveness and the investment climate, as well as demographic shifts, religion, and the middle classes.

## VIETNAM

The VIETNAM STUDIES PROGRAMME studies the political economy, domestic politics and foreign relations of Vietnam, especially its relations with the major powers and ASEAN.

## MYANMAR

The MYANMAR STUDIES PROGRAMME studies current trends in Myanmar to gain a deeper understanding of the country's challenges. It works closely with renowned Myanmar scholars and intellectuals in the country.

## MALAYSIA

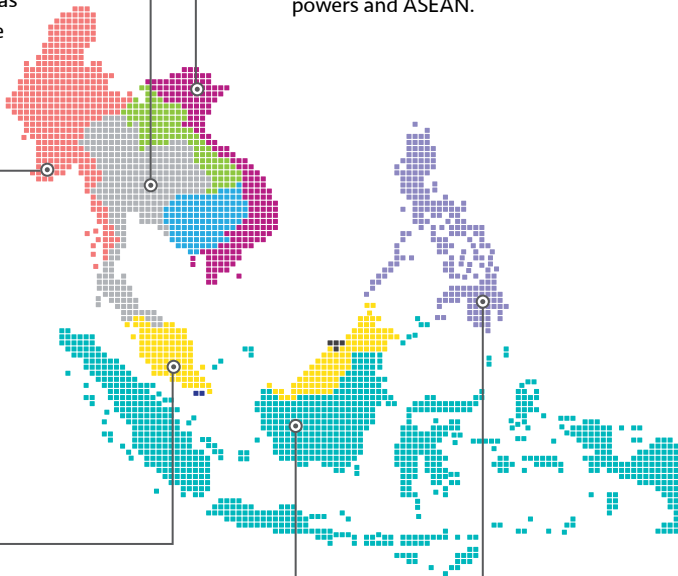
The MALAYSIA STUDIES PROGRAMME has been studying political, economic and cultural trends in Malaysia for over a decade, and has produced noted publications on a broad variety of subjects. Collaboration with research institutes and researchers in Malaysia is a key part of the Programme's approach.

## INDONESIA

The INDONESIA STUDIES PROGRAMME seeks to understand Indonesia's political economy, domestic politics, sociological trends and global connections. Focus is put on contemporary developments, especially decentralisation and its impact on Indonesian society.

## PHILIPPINES

The PHILIPPINE STUDIES PROGRAMME aims to support the research capabilities and coverage of Philippine studies at ISEAS through publications and events. It also offers opportunities for both established and young scholars and experts from the Philippines to share their views and perspectives on multifaceted developments in the country.



The CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAMME (CCSEAP) was established to examine the phenomenon of climate change, its impact, and policy responses across the region and in key Southeast Asian countries. The Programme aims to build on ISEAS' thought leadership to advance climate discourse and knowledge in Southeast Asia through a series of publications and seminars.

The ASEAN STUDIES CENTRE (ASC) works on issues pertaining to ASEAN as an institution and a process, as distinct from the broader academic concerns of ISEAS with respect to Southeast Asia. It has a policy-oriented focus, and contributes ideas and inputs to ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat in matters relating to regional cooperation, integration, and community-building.

The TEMASEK HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE (THRC) focuses on Singapore's premodern history and its political, economic, and social links to the immediate region. Its research scope spans the period from the 13th century to the early 19th century.

The ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT supports and complements THRC. It also houses archaeological artefacts excavated from our island state in recent years.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES Programme also hosts the Singapore APEC STUDY CENTRE, which analyses developments in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process. Besides regular publications, the Centre manages seminars and symposia on issues related to APEC.



# CENTRES



# ISEAS PUBLICATIONS

Scan the QR codes for more information



**ISEAS Perspective** provides analysis of specific current events and their significance for the Southeast Asian region. This is aimed at keeping decision-makers in both the public and private sectors informed; as well as scholars, laymen and the interested public. This series undergoes a peer-review process.



**ISEAS Economics Working Paper series** are work-in-progress papers and are disseminated to generate feedback for subsequent publication in peer-reviewed outlets. Oriented at both researchers and policy-makers, the ISEAS Economics Working Paper Series seeks to share ongoing research that is relevant and rigorous.



**Fulcrum** showcases ISEAS' excellent research in socio-political, economic trends and geostrategic trends in Southeast Asia and the wider region. It publishes commentary and analyses which are independent, non-partisan and aimed at informing and educating interested readers – policymakers, scholars, the media and corporates – on issues related to Southeast Asia and its wider environment.



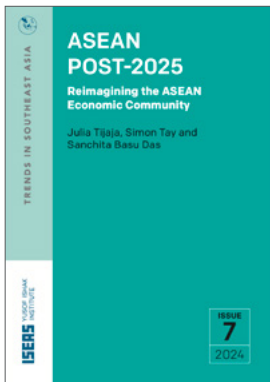
ASEANFocus



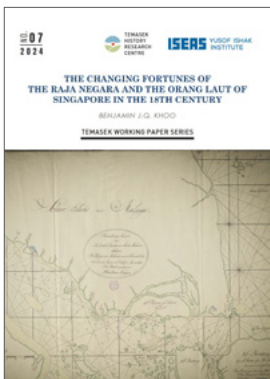
ASEANFocus+

**ASEANFocus** provides concise analyses and perspectives on ASEAN matters.

**ASEANFocus+** are timely critical insight pieces on ASEAN available on Fulcrum.sg



The **Trends in Southeast Asia series** serves as in-depth analysis of contemporary geopolitical and socio-economic forces in the region. The series is written for policymakers, diplomats, scholars and students of the region with emphasis on empirical and observable trends and less on theory-building or historical accounts of events.



The **Temasek Working Paper series** is an online publication series that provides an avenue for swift publication and wide dissemination of research conducted or presented within the Centre, and of studies engaging fields of enquiry of relevance to the Centre. The overall intent is to benefit communities of interest and augment ongoing and future research.

Scan the QR codes for more information



The **Journal of Southeast Asian Economies (JSEAE)** is a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary journal focusing on economic issues in Southeast Asia.



**Contemporary Southeast Asia (CSEA)** is an internationally peer-reviewed academic journal published three times a year.



**SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia** is an interdisciplinary journal devoted to the study of social and cultural issues in Southeast Asia. Fields most often represented in the journal are anthropology, sociology and history.

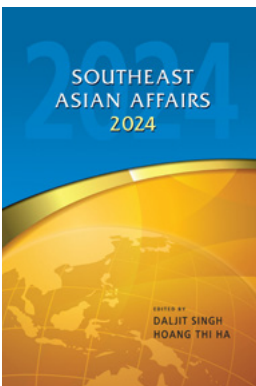




The **Southeast Asia Climate Outlook Survey Report** provides insights on climate change perspectives among Southeast Asian citizens. The annual online survey covers topics such as climate change impacts, mitigation, adaptation, the transition to low-carbon economies and partnership on climate action. Its findings serve as a barometer of general views and attitudes of Southeast Asian citizens towards climate change issues.



The **State of Southeast Asia Survey Report** seeks to understand the perceptions of Southeast Asians on regional affairs, ASEAN's engagements with its Dialogue Partners, and ASEAN member states' positions on regional political, economic, and social issues.



**Southeast Asian Affairs** is an annual review of significant trends and developments in the region. The emphasis is on ASEAN countries but important developments in the broader Asia-Pacific region are not ignored. The publication provides readable and easily understood analyses of major political, strategic, economic and social developments within the region.

# ISEAS PUBLISHING



ISEAS is a major publisher of scholarly books and journals on Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its publishing unit has produced more than 2,000 titles since the early 1970s and, in recent years, has published an average of 50 new publications a year.

In addition to books, ISEAS Publishing issues the Institute's three tri-annual academic journals — Journal of Southeast Asian Economies; SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia; and Contemporary Southeast Asia — as well as the annual Southeast Asian Affairs. These are available in both electronic and print versions. ISEAS books and journals are distributed to over 100 countries worldwide.

The ISEAS Bookshop at the Institute is open to the public.

Since its establishment, ISEAS Library has continuously endeavoured to build up one of the most comprehensive and robust collections specialising in the region of Southeast Asia. The Library houses an extensive and unique range of over half a million items related to Southeast Asia in the areas of economics, politics, international relations, culture, and social studies. The collections are both historical and contemporary and one of the notable features is a diverse range of multimedia titles – beyond just printed words and they serve the information needs of ISEAS researchers and scholars from the region and beyond. While the majority of ISEAS Library's print collections consist of English titles, it also carries a vast collection in different languages, mainly from the regions of Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Europe.



# ISEAS LIBRARY



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# CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Division, comprising Human Resource, Finance and Administration sections, supports the various Units in the Institute, including Research, Library, IT, Publishing, Corporate Communications, and Development. The Finance section primarily oversees the finance functions of the Institute and, in particular, ensures the allocation of the Institute's financial resources for operating grants and other project funds; proper accounting of all receipts and expenditures; liaison with internal and external auditors; and monitoring investment of funds. Corporate Services Division provides human resource, administrative, procurement and logistics services to support the Institute's research and research dissemination events such as public lectures, forums and seminars.

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The IT Division provides effective and timely IT support and services; manages and maintains IT systems, infrastructure, security and policies; as well as reviews new technologies and initiatives.

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## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Corporate Communications Department coordinates communication initiatives at the Institute, liaises with the media, and organises and participates in briefings for local and foreign dignitaries, diplomats, students and academics.



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## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Development Office oversees strategic initiatives for ISEAS outreach and stewardship activities, engagement of ISEAS stakeholders and coordination of partnerships with global research institutes and think tanks. ISEAS donors and institutional partners enjoy exclusive access to influential speakers on the latest developments and challenges facing Southeast Asia.

ISEAS is an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), under ISEAS RESEARCH FUNDS, whereby Singapore-resident individuals and corporate taxpayers enjoy tax relief of 250% for qualified donations. We invite you to support ISEAS as we continue to create a positive impact in Southeast Asia and the world.

To learn more about how you can be involved, please email [development@iseas.edu.sg](mailto:development@iseas.edu.sg)

