



THAILAND-MALAYSIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

15 August 2025 | Auditorium, ISIS Malaysia

PROGRAMME | PARTICIPANT



Thailand-Malaysia Strategic Dialogue

In 2027, Malaysia and Thailand will celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations – a milestone that reflects a long-standing friendship and a shared vision for regional peace and prosperity.

In the lead-up to this anniversary, the Royal Thai Embassy and ISIS Malaysia are co-hosting this dialogue to exchange perspectives and formulate ideas that will shape the Thailand-Malaysia Strategic Vision 2027. This forum underscores our commitment to building a forward-looking bilateral relationship based on trust, as well as shared aspirations for regional stability by identifying opportunities to deepen understanding and collaboration across emerging and traditional domains.

Event guide

1. Venue

- Auditorium, Block B, Level 2, [Institute of Strategic & International Studies \(ISIS\) Malaysia](#)
- [Google maps](#)

2. Registration

- **0815-0900 hrs on 15 August 2025 (Friday)** at **Lobby, Block B, Ground Floor, ISIS Malaysia**. Kindly be seated before 0900 hrs.
- Only invited and registered individuals are eligible for entry. Unauthorised persons will be denied entry.

3. Sessions

- Please be punctual for all [sessions](#).
- Please switch off your mobile phone or place it in silent mode.
- During Q&A, please speak into the microphone to ensure audio clarity.

4. Attire

Business / business casual / traditional formal wear / batik. Individuals who are not dressed appropriately may be denied entry.

5. Getting here

- **Grab e-hailing:** Install the [Grab app](#) from Google Play or App Store. Set your pickup location. Enter "ISIS Malaysia" as your destination. Select the type of ride (e.g. GrabCar). Confirm your ride and payment method. Grab will assign a driver and you will be notified when driver arrives. Fares vary depending on traffic and ride type. Other e-hailing services, such as InDrive and Bolt, are also available.
- **Drive:** Parking is available but limited outside ISIS Malaysia's compound. You are encouraged to use e-hailing services instead.

6. Logistics enquiries

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7. Media enquiries

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Programme

0815-0900

Registration

0900-0915

Welcoming remarks

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

0915-0925

Keynote address

HE Lada Phumas

Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia

0925-0935

Video presentation

Past to present, side by side: Thailand and Malaysia's evolving strategic bond

0935-1045

Session 1: Reflections on the evolution of Thailand-Malaysia relations

This panel examines the historical, cultural and diplomatic foundations that have underpinned the enduring relationship between Thailand and Malaysia. Speakers will reflect on the evolution of bilateral ties, highlighting key milestones, shared experiences and turning points that have transformed the two nations from neighbours into strategic partners. The discussion will offer insights into the factors that have fostered trust, resilience and cooperation across various domains, ranging from people-to-people exchanges and border management to institutional dialogue mechanisms and ASEAN collaboration. Tracing this journey, the panel provides an understanding of the roots of the partnership and the values that continue to shape its trajectory today.

Moderator : Kavi Chongkittavorn

Senior Fellow

Institute of Security and International Studies

Chulalongkorn University

Thailand

Speakers :

Assoc Prof Dr Chaiwat Meesantan

Director of Institute of East Asian Studies

Thammasat University

Thailand

HE Damrong Kraikruan

Former Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia

HE Datuk Jojie Samuel

Adviser, ASEAN Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia

1045–1100

Break

1100–1210

Session 2: Advancing Thailand-Malaysia cooperation in a volatile region

This panel focuses on the future of Thailand-Malaysia relations in light of evolving regional and global dynamics. Building on the foundation of strategic trust and robust bilateral mechanisms, the discussion will explore forward-looking strategies to enhance cooperation under Vision 2027 and beyond. Panellists will examine key opportunities and challenges in areas, such as cross-border infrastructure, digital economy, sustainable development, regional security and ASEAN centrality. Against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties, economic transformation and technological disruption, the session will identify realistic pathways to ensure that the Thailand-Malaysia partnership remains adaptive, resilient and mutually beneficial, contributing meaningfully to regional peace, prosperity and integration.

Moderator : **Thomas Daniel**
Director (Foreign Policy & Security Studies)
ISIS Malaysia

Speakers : **Arividya Arimuthu**
Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Bunn Sri na Nagara
Head
Renaissance Strategic Research Institute
Malaysia

Dr Pongphisoot Busbarat
Director
Institute of Security & International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

1210

End

Profiles



Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman
ISIS Malaysia

Prof Faiz leads the institute's policy development and Track 2 diplomacy, including through the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) and Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). He is also the Malaysian representative to the ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF EEP) meeting, co-chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Good Governance.



HE Lada Phumas

Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia

HE Lada assumed her post in April 2023 with the goal of strengthening and advancing Thailand-Malaysia relations in the bilateral, regional and international sphere. She is the former consul-general in Shanghai. Her diplomatic career began in January 1994 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has had stints in the Department of East Asian Affairs; Department of Economic Affairs (APEC); Department of ASEAN Affairs; and Department of Consular Affairs. She also served at the Royal Thai Embassy in Beijing; Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva; and ASEAN-China Centre.



Arividya Arimuthu

Senior Fellow
ISIS Malaysia

Arividya is a senior fellow in the chairman's office. She 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 CPTPP, for which she led the ratification and implementation for Malaysia.



Bunn Sri na Nagara

Head
Renaissance Strategic Research Institute
Malaysia

Bunn is a geostrategic consultant and the BRI Caucus for Asia-Pacific, Perak Academy honorary fellow and convenor of an expert study group on Sabah. He is a former senior fellow and visiting fellow at ISIS Malaysia. He is also a former associate of Universiti Malaya's Thai studies programme and member of the Malaysia-Thailand Think-Tank Network. His research covers East Asian integration, contemporary grand strategies and Global South transitions.



Assoc Prof Dr Chaiwat Meesantan

Director of Institute of East Asian Studies
Thammasat University
Thailand

Dr Chaiwat is a faculty member at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, and sits on the board of SEASREP Foundation. His research interest lies in Malaysia, Brunei and the broader Malay diaspora throughout Southeast Asia, including Thailand. His expertise spans language, socio-cultural, economic and political issues, such as Muslims in Thailand, ethnic minorities, Malay studies, Malay language and culture, ethno-sociology, the Siamese issue in Malaysia, East Asian soft power in Southeast Asia and international relations in ASEAN.



HE Damrong Kraikruan

Former Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia

HE Damrong is a former career diplomat with more than 35 years of service. He is a former deputy permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and director-general of East Asia. His overseas stints include ambassador to Lao PDR; consul-general in Los Angeles; and deputy chief of mission in Washington. In his long diplomatic career, he served in Southeast Asia, particularly Myanmar, Malaysia and Laos. He served as deputy secretary-general of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council.



Kavi Chongkittavorn

Senior Fellow
Institute of Security and International Studies
Chulalongkorn University
Thailand

Kavi is a former executive editor of the Bangkok-based *The Nation* and editor-in-chief and executive director of the Yangon-based *Myanmar Times*. He is former journalist with more than four decades' experience covering Thai and regional politics. He is a senior fellow at Chulalongkorn University's Institute of Security and International Studies and a columnist of *Bangkok Post*. He is a former president of the Thai Journalists' Association and served as a member of jury and chair of the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.



HE Datuk Jojie Samuel

Adviser, ASEAN Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

Datuk Jojie has more than three decades' experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. He is the former ambassador to Thailand, during which he also held the position of dean of the diplomatic corps. His postings include Ottawa, Baghdad, Ankara, Vienna and Havana, with concurrent accreditation to five Caribbean nations. As former director-general of the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, he played a pivotal role in advancing Malaysia's regional diplomacy. He has facilitated numerous prime ministerial visits, chaired key bilateral committees, and promoted economic, cultural and people-to-people ties.



Dr Pongphisoot Busbarat

Director
ISIS Thailand

Dr Pongphisoot is assistant professor of international relations and assistant dean at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. His research examines the role of norms and identity in shaping international relations by exploring its influence on Thailand's relations with major powers in East Asia, the US and China. His current projects focus on Thailand's strategic choices between the US and China, the domestic determinants of Thailand's foreign policy and geopolitical dynamics of great-power competition in the Indo-Pacific.



Thomas Daniel

Director
ISIS Malaysia

Thomas heads the Foreign Policy and Security Studies team, with a decade's experience in foreign policy and security analysis. His work focuses on how major-power dynamics impact on the strategic-security considerations of Southeast Asia. Within this scope, he mainly looks 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 and ASEAN's response to the Myanmar crisis.

Notes

Scan for more information



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