



# 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Australia- New Zealand Dialogue

17-19 September 2025  
Crowne Plaza Kuala Lumpur



Asialink



Asia New Zealand  
Foundation  
Te Whaitau Tūhono





# Programme

## Day 1 (17 September 2025)

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1730-1800	<b>Dinner registration</b> <i>Foyer, Merbau 2, Level 12</i>
1800-1810	<b>Welcoming address by Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah</b> Chairman, ISIS Malaysia
1810-1830	<b>Dinner address by Dato' Seri Paduka Lim Jock Hoi</b> Former ASEAN Secretary-General
1830-1930	<b>Dinner</b>
1930	<b>End</b>

## Day 2 (18 September 2025)

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0900-0930	<b>Registration</b> <i>Foyer, Merbau 2, Level 12</i>
0930-0950	<b>Opening remarks</b>  <b>Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah</b> Chairman ISIS Malaysia  <b>Hon Dame Fran Wilde</b> Chair Asia New Zealand Foundation  <b>Martine Letts</b> Group CEO Asialink Group Australia

1000-1100

## **Session 1: Keynote address: Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship**

Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship comes at a time marked by both significant challenges and heightened expectations, given its track record and potential to address longstanding regional deadlocks. While Malaysia is attempting to steer the bloc through a critical phase, it must contend with ASEAN's institutional strengths and limitations. Malaysia's chairmanship has also coincided with broader questions about ASEAN's utility amid shifting geopolitical currents and the rise of other geostrategic configurations in the region. While Malaysia has stressed that ASEAN-led mechanisms like the ARF and EAS must be reinvigorated to sustain relevance, this is perhaps easier said than done. How is Malaysia fairing as ASEAN chair? What are its key achievements and persistent challenges? What foundations has this chair provided for the next and how do they impact on ASEAN's centrality, unity and cohesion?

### **Moderator:**

**HE Danielle Heinecke**

High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia

### **Speaker:**

**Dato' Zanariah Zainal Abidin**

Director-General

ASEAN Malaysia National Secretariat

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia

### **Discussant:**

**HE Maria Angela Abrera Ponce**

Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to Malaysia

1100-1130

### **Break**

1130-1245

## **Session 2: ASEAN, multilateralism and inter-regionalism**

The re-emergence of a Global South discourse has reignited conversations around the merit of multilateral, sub-regional and regional mechanisms to address global challenges. These could be specific to geographies, populations or needs, or shared across regions. In recent years, ASEAN has boosted inter-regional engagement, fostering institutional links and niche cooperation with IORA, BIMSTEC, AU, GCC and PIF. ASEAN's engagement with the G20 as a "guest country" during summits, while limited, has its own value in terms of bringing the



Southeast Asian “voice” to the table. The same can be said with growing Southeast Asian appetite for BRICS+ engagement. How can ASEAN facilitate sustainable inter-regional cooperation to address shared challenges? What is ASEAN’s current role and utility in its engagement with mechanisms like G20 – and what value can its dialogue partners bring to these equations?

**Moderator:**

**Dr Manjeet Pardesi**

Associate Professor  
School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and  
International Relations  
Victoria University of Wellington  
New Zealand

**Speakers:**

**Dr Abdul Rahman Yaacob**

Academic Adviser  
Australian National University

**Joanne Lin**

Senior Fellow  
ASEAN Studies Centre  
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute  
Singapore

**Dr Kitti Prasirtsuk**

Professor of International Relations  
Thammasat University  
Thailand

**Dr Shafiah Fifi Muhibat**

Deputy Executive Director for Research  
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)  
Indonesia

1245-1400

**Lunch**

*Merchants Restaurant, Level 13*

1400-1500

**Session 3: Leveraging on cultural diplomacy: perceptions, impacts and possibilities**

Cultural diplomacy has emerged as a valuable form of cooperation – facilitating mutual understanding through the exchange of ideas,

information, art and language. These initiatives, ranging from people-to-people programmes to academic and artistic collaborations, complement strategic and economic ties by building trust and fostering long-term strategic goodwill. Between ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand, cultural diplomacy has served as a bridge between states and societies. Indigenous and traditional cultures are also powerful tools to foster deeper regional understanding and connection. How is cultural diplomacy perceived by state and non-state actors in our region? Do they have the desired impacts and long-term value? How can we facilitate and enhance initiatives that tap on the cultural currency in our region?

**Moderator:**

**Izzah Ibrahim**

Analyst  
ISIS Malaysia

**Speakers:**

**Charlie Rahiri**

Hautū Māori (Divisional Manager), Houtina (Māori Division)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
New Zealand

**Dr Jilda Andrews**

Deputy Director  
First Nations National Museum of Australia

**Nguyen Ky-Anh**

Director of Sustainable Development Directorate  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department  
ASEAN Secretariat

**Dr Wannapa Leerasiri**

Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration  
Chiang Mai University  
Thailand

1500-1615

**Session 4: Regional governance of AI: ASEAN's challenges and priorities**

Since 2024, ASEAN has developed the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics and its supplementing document on generative AI. However, not all ASEAN member states have policies or regulations addressing AI safety issues. Meanwhile, geopolitical and economic realities have an impact

on AI ambitions in the region. Resource-strapped, most ASEAN countries would opt for lighter and efficient models relevant to economic and energy needs. This reality tries to balance safe deployment of AI while navigating through the effects of geopolitical and technological competition. What are the approaches in ASEAN for AI safety? What are the context and considerations driving ASEAN's decisions on AI governance? How could ASEAN deploy AI safely while safeguarding regional interests?

**Moderator:**

**Sami Mäkeläinen**

Senior Research Affiliate  
Institute for the Future  
Australia

**Speakers:**

**Benjamin Ang**

Chief Data Officer (Policy)  
AI Singapore (AISG)

**Calvin Woo**

Director  
Malaysia Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (MYCentre4IR)  
Malaysia

**Tran Vu Ha Minh**

Founder and CEO  
Humane-AI  
Vietnam

**Wahyudi Djafar**

Executive Director  
Catalyst Policy Works  
Indonesia

1615-1730

**Break**

1730

**Depart from hotel**

*Meeting point: Reception Lobby, Ground Floor*

1800-2000

**Dinner at Australian official residence**

2000

**Depart to hotel**

2030

**End**



## Day 3 (19 September 2025)

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0830-0900

### **Registration**

*Foyer, Merbau 2, Level 12*

0900-0945

### **Session 5: Keynote address: Commemorating 50 years of ASEAN-New Zealand relations**

Marking five decades of partnership, ASEAN-New Zealand relations have evolved from development-focused cooperation to a strategic relationship grounded in mutual respect, shared values and the desire for regional stability. Over the years, New Zealand has actively supported ASEAN's community-building efforts through education, capacity building, disaster resilience and people-to-people ties. As both partners navigate a rapidly shifting Indo-Pacific, this anniversary provides a moment to reflect on milestones, assess emerging challenges and identify pathways for future cooperation. What have been the key achievements that define the ASEAN-New Zealand partnership to date? How can both sides adapt to current geopolitical shifts? Are there niche areas of cooperation that ASEAN and New Zealand can explore?

#### **Moderator:**

##### **Dr Shafiah Fifi Muhibat**

Deputy Executive Director for Research  
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)  
Indonesia

#### **Speaker:**

##### **HE Joanna Anderson**

Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN

#### **Discussants:**

##### **Dr Hoang Oanh**

Research Fellow  
Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies  
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

##### **Vithaya Xayavong**

Director-General  
Institute of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Lao People's Democratic Republic



0945-1000

**Break**

1000-1115

**Session 6: Tackling transnational crime in Southeast Asia**

There is an urgent need to respond rapidly to growing transnational crime syndicates in the region, which include both scam centres and human-trafficking networks. Challenges in refining and integrating relevant ASEAN mechanisms and activities continue to hamper a holistic and effective regional response. How can ASEAN better align its regional objectives and mechanisms with existing capacities and cooperative frameworks? Could this be done while being mindful of existing apprehensions of non-intervention? How can dialogue partners assist in shaping the regulatory frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to enhance ASEAN's capacity in addressing transnational crime?

**Moderator:**

**Dr James To**

Manager

South Island and Track II Programme

Asia New Zealand Foundation

**Speakers:**

**Aizat Shamsuddin**

Founder and Director

Initiative to Promote Tolerance and Prevent Violence (INITIATE.MY)

Malaysia

**HE Dr Bhanubhatra Jittiang**

Thailand Representative to ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on

Human Rights (AICHR)

**Jason Tower**

Senior Expert

Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC)

Thailand

**Dr Marika McAdam**

Independent Consultant

Australia

1115-1130

**Break**

## **Session 7: Role-building in the Indo-Pacific: perspectives from ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand**

As the Indo-Pacific undergoes rapid transformation, it is crucial that regional actors, including ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand, work towards shaping their distinct roles in the region to ensure strategic relevance. For each actor, an intent focus on specific areas of cooperation based on strengths, values, strategic and normative positions will be a key enabler to role-building in the region. While ASEAN continues to enhance its position as a reliable convening power through sustained utility of ASEAN-led mechanisms, both Australia and New Zealand, as dialogue partners, could assume roles ranging from security provider to development partner, inter-regional connector and economic balancer – considering the recently upgraded AANZFTA. How do ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand define their roles in a contested Indo-Pacific? Where do their interests align or diverge, and how can strategic trust and complementarity guide future collaboration? Can deeper economic cooperation anchor regional stability?

### **Moderator:**

#### **HE Pou Sothirak**

Distinguished Senior Adviser  
Cambodian Centre for Regional Studies

### **Speakers:**

#### **Dr Joel Ng**

Senior Fellow and Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies  
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)  
Singapore

#### **HE Laura Quiambao-Del Rosario**

Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Philippines

#### **Martine Letts**

Group CEO  
Asialink Group  
Australia

#### **Dr Manjeet Pardesi**

Associate Professor  
School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and  
International Relations  
Victoria University of Wellington  
New Zealand

1245-1300

**Closing remarks**

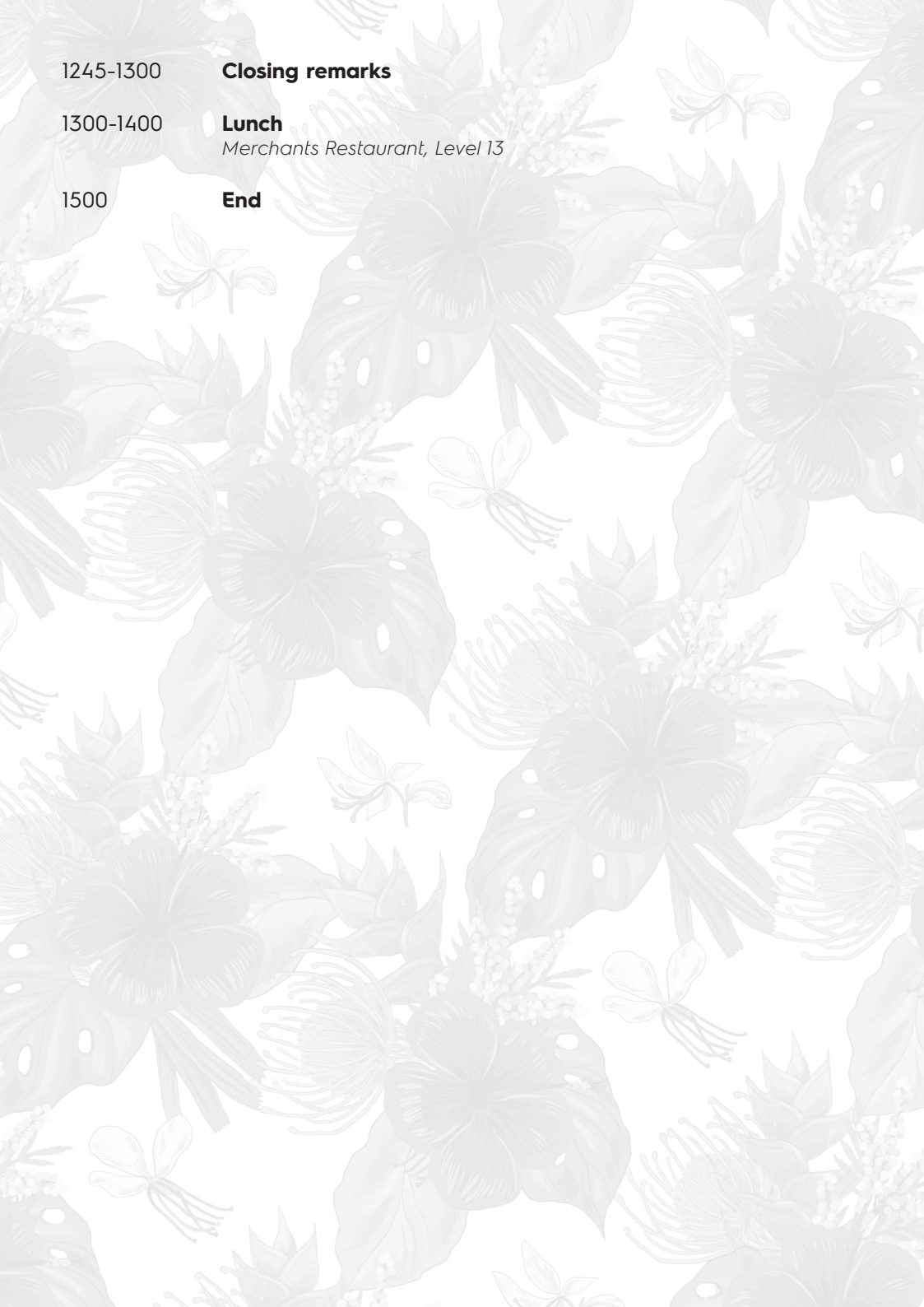
1300-1400

**Lunch**

*Merchants Restaurant, Level 13*

1500

**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.



## **Hon Dame Fran Wilde**

Chair  
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Hon Dame Fran is a former cabinet member, Wellington mayor, chair of the Greater Wellington Regional Council and New Zealand representative on the APEC Business Advisory Council. She is currently board chair of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Royal NZ Plunket Board (Whanau Awhina Plunket). She has decades of experience in the New Zealand private and public sectors and has a deep knowledge of NZ foreign policy. She has also acted in other capacities, including negotiator for Treaty of Waitangi claims and various governance roles in the arts, education and philanthropy.



## **Martine Letts**

Group CEO  
Asialink Group  
Australia

Letts is an experienced executive within the government, non-profit and international policy sectors with expertise in public policy development, formulation and promotion in Australia and internationally. She is the former CEO of the Australia China Business Council (ACBC), where she led its national strategy development. Prior to her role at ACBC, she was deputy director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, where she led its business and organisational development.





### **Dr Abdul Rahman Yaacob**

Academic Adviser  
Australian National University

Dr Abdul Rahman is an adviser for the ASEAN-Australia Defence Postgraduate Scholarship Programme. Concurrently, he is a non-resident fellow at the Korea Institute for Maritime Strategy. He is a former research fellow at the Lowy Institute, where he focused on Southeast Asia's defence policy and relations with major powers. His research and publications include Southeast Asia's defence cooperations with external partners and Cambodia's Ream Naval Base. He also lectures at the Australian Command & Staff Course and Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian War College.



### **Aizat Shamsuddin**

Founder and Director  
Initiative to Promote Tolerance and Prevent Violence (INITIATE.MY)  
Malaysia

Aizat is a dedicated analyst and practitioner in traditional and non-traditional security, focusing on crime and ideology. His expertise spans hate and violent extremism in both real and digital spaces, inter-group conflicts – primarily through INITIATE.MY – and transnational organised crime in Southeast Asia with the United States Institute of Peace. He has played a key role in organising Track 1.5 dialogues between regional law enforcement agencies and civil societies, developing niche online courses and databases, writing policy reports and contributing to policy discussions.



### **Benjamin Ang**

Chief Data Officer (Policy)  
AI Singapore (AISG)

Ang oversees governance and cybersecurity for AISG's data assets. He is also senior fellow and head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security and Future Issues & Technology at S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), leading research on cyber conflict, disinformation, hybrid threats and emerging technologies, including AI, quantum, space, biotech and nuclear energy. He represents RSIS on the Artificial Intelligence Technical Committee under the Singapore Standards Council, contributing to SS ISO/IEC 42001 and TR 99 extensions for AI security.



## **HE Dr Bhanubhatra Jittiang**

Thailand Representative to ASEAN  
Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

HE Dr Bhanubhatra is an assistant professor of international relations at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, where he serves as deputy dean and founding director of the Nelson Mandela Centre for Conflict Resolution, Atrocity Prevention and Human Security. His expertise encompasses forced migration and refugee studies, atrocity prevention, transnational security, transnational human rights, international development, and international conflicts in the Global South.



## **Calvin Woo**

Director  
Malaysia Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (MYCentre4IR)  
Malaysia

Woo leads MYCentre4IR, a multi-stakeholder platform established in partnership with the World Economic Forum and hosted at MyDIGITAL Corporation. He oversees strategic workstreams on digital transformation and energy transition, driving national and regional policy development process, multi-sectoral initiatives and thought leadership in emerging technologies. Prior to MyDIGITAL, he held leadership roles across digital innovation, partnerships and trade. He worked at Hong Leong Bank, where he advanced fintech collaboration, digital innovation and change management.



## **Charlie Rahiri**

Hautū Māori (Divisional Manager), Houtina (Māori Division)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
New Zealand

Rahiri is a respected Māori leader and public servant with a diverse background in government, iwi governance and community advocacy. He is widely recognised for his leadership, cultural grounding and commitment to Māori development and representation across local and national platforms. He is a registered minister of the Ratana Church of New Zealand and is currently the chair of his tribe's Ngati Ranginui, leading their economic, social, educational and indigenous revitalisation and growth.





## **HE Danielle Heinecke**

High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia

HE Heinecke was appointed high commissioner-designate of the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur in December 2023. She is a senior career officer with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and among her previous posts is first assistant secretary, Pacific Melanesia Division. She has previously served overseas in Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.



## **Dr Hoang Oanh**

Research Fellow  
Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies  
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Dr Oanh's research mainly focuses on regional security issues and regional security architecture. She is a former first secretary at the Embassy of Vietnam in Rome.



## **Izzah Ibrahim**

Analyst  
ISIS Malaysia

Izzah is part of the Foreign Policy and Security Studies (FPSS) team. Her research areas cover Southeast Asian security, nuclear non-proliferation and peacebuilding and conflict resolution. She is also interested in Malaysia's foreign and defence policies and ASEAN's political-security community. In 2021, she contributed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publication *Focus in Continuity: A Framework for Malaysia's Foreign Policy for a Post-Pandemic World*.



### **Dr James To**

Manager  
South Island and Track II Programme  
Asia New Zealand Foundation

To has an academic background in Asian languages, 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.



### **Jason Tower**

Senior Expert  
Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC)  
Thailand

Tower works on organised crime, security and illicit economies in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on Myanmar and China. Since 2019, he has been at the forefront of cutting-edge research on the rise of criminal enclaves hosting industrial-scale scam operations across the region and has published a series of reports highlighting the involvement of armed actors and China origin transnational crime groups in these activities. His work on online scams, casino crimes, illicit economies and conflict in Myanmar has been featured in more than 100 media outlets, and he has testified before the US Congress on these issues.



### **Dr Jilda Andrews**

Deputy Director  
First Nations  
National Museum of Australia

Dr Andrews is a Yuwaalaraay cultural practitioner with more than 25 years' experience as a leading scholar of museums, anthropology and cultural futures. She has worked extensively in the galleries, libraries, archives and museums sector in public-facing audience, learning and exhibition roles as well as exhibition design and gallery development - including the museum's Great Southern Land gallery and the Australia Pavilion for Expo 2025 in Osaka.





## **HE Joanna Anderson**

Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN

HE Anderson assumed her current role in February 2025. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in 2016 and has held leadership roles, including as manager of Strategic Policy, and Pacific Ocean and Fisheries. She has extensive experience in marine and climate-related issues, international negotiations, development and international policy. She was recently seconded to New Zealand's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet as chief adviser to the chief executive. She is a former commissioner to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.



## **Joanne Lin**

Senior Fellow  
ASEAN Studies Centre  
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute  
Singapore

Lin is the coordinator of the ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. She has more than 20 years' experience in the Singapore public sector, regional and international organisations, think-tanks and civil society. She served at the ASEAN Secretariat from 2015 to 2021 and headed the External Relations Division under the ASEAN Political-Security Community Department. At ISEAS, she is an author of the institute's flagship *State of Southeast Asia Survey Report* and regularly publishes on ASEAN affairs.



## **Dr Joel Ng**

Senior Fellow and Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies  
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)  
Singapore

Dr Ng's research focuses on regionalism, integration, security and intervention norms, focusing on ASEAN and its dialogue partners as well as the African Union and United Nations. He began his career in international affairs working in Uganda on peace, conflict and refugee issues. He has also worked in the private sector in public and investor relations. He is presently in the Singapore committee for the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP). He is the author of *Contesting Sovereignty: Power and Practice in Africa and Southeast Asia*.



### **Dr Kitti Prasirtsuk**

Professor of International Relations  
Thammasat University  
Thailand

Prof Kitti sits on the advisory committee for the International Studies Centre at the Thai Foreign Ministry. He has held positions as vice-rector, director at the Institute of East Studies and strategic committee at the Thai Defence Ministry. His research spans Japan-Southeast Asia relations, US-Thai security alliance, ASEAN, maritime security and Thai politics. His recent writings include a chapter in *Blue Security in the Indo-Pacific*. He is a former Southeast Asia fellow at Centre on Public Diplomacy, USC and held a Japan Foundation fellowship researching 'local revitalisation' in Japan.



### **HE Laura Quiambao-Del Rosario**

Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Philippines

HE Quiambao-Del Rosario served as undersecretary of foreign affairs from 2011-2016 where she oversaw international economic relations at the Department of Foreign Affairs. She acted as chair of senior officials' meetings when the Philippines chaired and hosted Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in 2015. She is a former director of the Foreign Service Institute, the training and research arm of the Department of Foreign Affairs. She was a career diplomat for 37 years during which she served in various capacities in Vienna, Singapore, Washington, India, Nepal and Vietnam. She recently completed her term as the ninth president of Miriam College.



### **Dato' Seri Paduka Lim Jock Hoi**

Former ASEAN Secretary-General

Dato' Seri Paduka Lim is a former permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam. As the 14th secretary-general, he strengthened the role and capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat to deliver its mandate in supporting member states. His contributions were instrumental in the successful entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) in 2022 and navigating throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. He is currently a member of the judging committee of the ASEAN Prize, which recognises individuals and organisations for their significant contributions that aid in ASEAN community building.





### **Dr Manjeet Pardesi**

Associate Professor  
Victoria University of Wellington  
New Zealand

Dr Manjeet teaches international relations and is the Asia Research Fellow at Centre for Strategic Studies. His research interests include world orders and world/global history, great power politics, Asian security and the Sino-Indian rivalry. His most recent book, *Divergent Worlds: What the Ancient Mediterranean and Indian Ocean Can Tell Us About the Future of International Order*, was published this year. He is the co-author of *The Sino-Indian Rivalry: Implications for Global Order*.



### **HE Maria Angela Abrera Ponce**

Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to Malaysia

HE Ponce is the first woman ambassador of the Philippines to Malaysia. She is a career diplomat with more than two decades' experience, having been assigned to the Philippine Embassy and Permanent Delegation to UNESCO in Paris and Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. She is a former assistant secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs.



### **Dr Marika McAdam**

Independent Consultant  
Australia

Dr McAdam is an international law and policy adviser who works globally to strengthen human rights-based criminal justice approaches. In Southeast Asia, she has served as an adviser to the Bali Process Regional Support Office, UNODC's Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Programme. Having trained and advised law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, parliamentarians and policymakers, her work spans legislative reform, policy development and capacity building. She has contributed to UN and state-led processes and carried out qualitative research across the ASEAN region.



### **Nguyen Ky-Anh**

Director of Sustainable Development Directorate  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department  
ASEAN Secretariat

Ky-Anh leads three divisions covering the environment (including climate change and plastics); disaster management and humanitarian assistance; and culture and information. Among others, he focuses on coordination and implementation of sectoral work plans, especially cross-sectoral initiatives to realise the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, as well as ASCC-related matters in the ASEAN Vision 2025.



### **HE Pou Sothirak**

Distinguished Senior Adviser  
Cambodian Centre for Regional Studies

HE Pou is a former executive director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace. He served as secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia between 2008 and 2014. He is also a visiting senior research fellow at the Institute of the Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore, Cambodian ambassador to Japan and MP. He was appointed as minister of industry mines and energy in the 1990s. He has written extensively on various issues concerning the development of Cambodia and the region.



### **Sami Mäkeläinen**

Senior Research Affiliate  
Institute for the Future  
Australia

Mäkeläinen is a strategic foresight professional specialising in the mindful adoption of AI and emerging technologies. As the founder of Transition Level and senior research affiliate at the Institute for the Future, he guides organisations and governments through the complexities of AI governance, balancing innovation with ethical considerations and societal impact.





### **Dr Shafiah Fifi Muhibat**

Deputy Executive Director for Research  
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)  
Indonesia

Dr Shafiah joined CSIS in December 2000 and was appointed to the present post in January 2022. Her research interests include issues of regional security in the Indo-Pacific, ASEAN, maritime security, Indonesia's foreign policy and development cooperation. In 2017, she joined the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Singapore as a senior fellow at the Maritime Security Programme. She is the former chief editor of the *Indonesian Quarterly*, published by CSIS. She served in the jury panel for the Adam Malik Award between 2021-2023.



### **Tran Vu Ha Minh**

Founder and CEO  
Humane-AI  
Vietnam

Ha Minh runs Humane-AI Asia, Vietnam's first boutique consulting firm dedicated to responsible and ethical AI. She also serves as responsible AI lead adviser at FPT Software's AI and Innovation Centre, and research and policy fellow at the Centre for AI and Digital Policy, contributing to global AI governance and ethics initiatives. Her expertise includes implementing ISO 42001 AI management system and as a trainer delivering courses on AI governance, risk management and ethics.



### **Vithaya Xayavong**

Director-General  
Institute of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Vithaya has been a civil servant since 1999 and held several foreign affairs positions as deputy director of the International Relations and Training Division; second secretary at the Embassy of the Lao PDR to Japan; director of ASEAN Economic Community Division; director of International Economic Cooperation Division; and minister counsellor at the Embassy of the Lao PDR to South Korea.



### **Dr Wannapa Leerasiri**

Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration  
Chiang Mai University  
Thailand

Dr Wannapa heads the School of International Affairs, where she focuses on gender politics and the intersections of gender in global affairs. Her research and professional work also engages community-based, governmental and international organisations. She is committed to bridging academic research with practical initiatives that address inequality and strengthen rights-based approaches in international contexts. At Chiang Mai University, she teaches courses on US foreign policy and international law.



### **Wahyudi Djafar**

Executive Director  
Catalyst Policy Works  
Indonesia

Wahyudi is one of the authors of the National AI Roadmap, initiated by the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs, Indonesia. Over the past 15 years, he has conducted various studies and policy advocacy related to data protection, internet governance, digital rights, cybersecurity and digital identity. Between 2021 and 2025, he served as executive director of the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy where he initiated the birth of Raksha Initiatives, a non-profit foundation engaged in digital governance, strategic security and human rights. He is a former fellow at Global Network Initiatives.

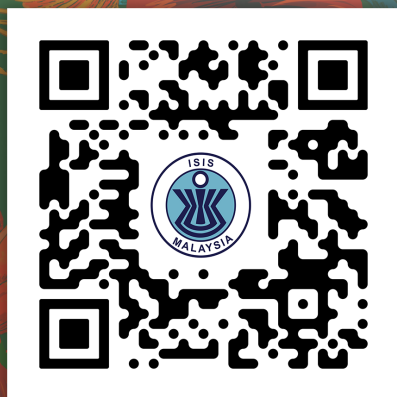


### **Dato' Zanariah Zainal Abidin**

Director-General  
ASEAN Malaysia National Secretariat  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Malaysia







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