



MYANMAR FORUM 2016

Friday, 20 May 2016
Marina Mandarin
Capricorn & Leo Rooms
6 Raffles Boulevard, Marina Square
Singapore 039594

08.30 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 09.15 Opening Address
Tan Chin Tiong
Director, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Linda Lim
Professor of Strategy
Stephen M Ross School of Business and
former CSEAS Director, University of Michigan, USA

09.15 - 10.15 **Panel 1: History & Culture —
The Past Informing the Present**

MODERATOR Moe Thuzar
Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Maitrii Aung-Thwin
Associate Professor, Department of History
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

Paul Cheung
Professor of Social Policy and Analytics
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore

Kyaw Yin Hlaing
Director
Center for Diversity and National Harmony, Myanmar

May Thway Ko
Donor/External Relations Officer
Yangon Heritage Trust, Myanmar

10.15 - 10.45 Coffee

10.45 - 12.00

**Panel 2: Political Evolution —
Democracy Dilemmas**

MODERATOR Allen Hicken

*Associate Professor, Political Science and former CSEAS Director
University of Michigan, USA*

Lin Htet Aung

Assistant Lecturer of International Relations, East Yangon University, Myanmar

Min Zin

PhD Candidate, Political Science Department, University of California-Berkeley, USA

Chaw Chaw Sein

Professor and Head, International Relations Dept, University of Yangon, Myanmar

Tin Maung Maung Than

Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 **Panel 3: Economic and Social Development**

MODERATOR Michael Montesano

Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Zaw Oo

*Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development
Myanmar Development Resources Institute*

San Thein

Leading Professional, Financial Sector Development — Myanmar, GIZ

Mary Callahan

*Associate Professor of International Studies
Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies
University of Washington – Seattle, USA*

Michael McGovern

Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan, USA

14.00 - 15.00

Panel 4: Myanmar's International Relations

MODERATOR John Ciorciari

*Assistant Professor, Public Policy and
CSEAS Faculty Associate, University of Michigan, USA*

Maung Aung Myoe

*Director, International Relations Program, Graduate School of
International Relations, International University of Japan*

Thaung Tun

Government Relations Advisor, Shell Myanmar Energy

Andrew Lee

Chief Country Representative, GE Myanmar

Christopher Tan Chor Sen

*Executive Vice President and Head, International
Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank*

15.00 - 15.30

Tea

15.30 - 16.30

Panel 5: Doing Business in Myanmar

MODERATOR Linda Lim

*Professor of Strategy, Stephen M Ross School of Business and
former CSEAS Director, University of Michigan, USA*

Wong Yit Fan

Emerging Market Entrepreneurs

Wachirachai Koonamwattana

*Strategic Management Director
SCG-Cement Building Materials, Siam Cement Group*

Jean Loi

Managing Partner, VDB-LOI

Sandra Min

Head of Corporate Affairs, Yoma Strategic Holdings

16.30 – 17.15 **In conversation with**

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

U Ko Ko Gyi

General Secretary, 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society)

MODERATOR

Ong Keng Yong

*Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University*

SPEAKERS' BIOS

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

U Ko Ko Gyi is one of the leading figures of the struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma, also known as Myanmar. He spent nearly 19 years in prison for his belief in and peaceful campaign for democracy, human rights and justice for the peoples of Burma. He is now one of the leaders of the 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society), the largest civil society organisation in Myanmar with missions to achieve permanent peace and establish open society in the country.

On March 15, 1988, Ko Ko Gyi, a student in his final year, majoring in International Relations at Rangoon University, led a peaceful strike at the university campus with many fellow students. He became actively involved in the 1988 popular democracy uprising. On August 28, 1988 he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABSFU), the largest national student organisation in Burma which was outlawed by the military regime. On December 11, 1991, the regime arrested him for participating in a student gathering at Rangoon University to honour the Nobel peace prize awarded to Aung San Suu Kyi. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison with hard labour. On March 17, 2005, he was released after nearly 14 years in imprisonment.

He was rearrested on September 17, 2006, together with his colleagues, including fellow student leader Min Ko Naing. This second arrest lasted about four months and they were released on January 11, 2007 as the international community intensified pressure on the military regime for their immediate release, and held a debate on Burma at the United Nations Security Council.

On August 21, 2007 he was again arrested with other leaders of the 88 Generation Students group for organising peaceful demonstrations. On November 11, 2008, he was sentenced to 65 years and 6 months imprisonment. This third arrest lasted over four years and he was released along with numerous other activists on January 12, 2012 as part of a mass presidential pardon for political activists.

After release from Maingsatt Prison (Eastern Shan State), he has undertaken the responsibilities of General Secretary for the 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society); commissioner for the Rakhine Investigation Commission (completed); and member of the Scrutinising Committee for Remaining Political Prisoners (completed). He is currently serving as a vice-chairperson of the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee –Union Level, as a civilian representative.

SPEAKERS

Panel 1: History & Culture — The Past Informing the Present

Dr Maitri Aung-Thwin, s Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and coordinates the Faculty's Comparative Asian Studies PhD Programme. A historian specialising in Burmese and Southeast Asian history, he has lived and worked in Southeast Asia for over a decade. Dr. Aung-Thwin's current research is broadly concerned with the social history of nation-building and, in particular, the role of Burmese scholar-officials in the epistemological construction of Myanmar.

Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing currently heads the Center for Diversity and National Harmony in Yangon. Dr Kyaw has served as a member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council to the President of Myanmar (2012-15); and was director of the Political Dialogue Programme at Myanmar Peace Center. He was formerly Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian and International Studies at the City University of Hong Kong, and prior to that, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the National University of Singapore. He is one of the founding members of Myanmar Egress, an NGO concerned with change in the country.

Professor Paul Cheung, a national of Singapore, is Professor of Social Policy and Analytics at the National University of Singapore. He returned to Singapore in January 2013 after serving for 9 years as the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (2004-2012). At the UN, he facilitated the development of the global statistical system and coordinated the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission. In 2011, his initiative of establishing an inter-governmental platform to address issues on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) was endorsed by the UN. Prior to his appointment at the UN, he served as Chief Statistician of the Government of Singapore (1991-2004).

Professor Cheung is a senior adviser to many governments. He has received many national and professional awards. He is currently advising the Myanmar government on re-building its national statistical system. He was the Chair of the International Technical Advisory Board of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

Ms. May Thway Ko is special assistant to the Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, and Donor/External Relations Officer. She has a multidisciplinary academic background covering international relations, history, and project management. In her work with Yangon Heritage Trust, Ms. May Thway Ko focuses on liaising with the government, collaborating on heritage-related events and trainings,

and managing the schedules of the Chairman and Director. One of the favourite parts of her job is discovering the amazing stories behind Yangon's historic buildings.

Panel 2: Political Evolution — Democracy Dilemmas

Dr. Lin Htet Aung has been Assistant Lecturer of International Relations at East Yangon University, Myanmar since September 2005. His research interests range from transnational Issues, non-traditional security problems, Myanmar's multilateral relations, Myanmar-Indochina relations, and democratisation in Myanmar. He has led Myanmar youth delegations to the Ship for Southeast Asia Youth Programme, and to the ASEAN Plus Three Youth Symposium. Dr Lin Htet Aung studied international relations at Dagon University, Yangon University, and the International University of Japan.

Mr. Min Zin is a regular contributor to the Foreign Policy blog's Democracy Lab. He also serves as Burma's country analyst for several research foundations including Freedom House. He took part in Burma's democracy movement in 1988 as a high-school student activist and went into hiding to avoid arrest by the junta. His underground activist-cum-writer life lasted for nine years until he fled to the Thai-Burma border in August 1997. His writings appear in the Foreign Policy, The New York Times, The Irrawaddy, The Bangkok Post, Far Eastern Economic Review, Wall Street Journal, and other international/regional publications. He is currently a PhD candidate in the Political Science Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Chaw Chaw Sein has been Head of the International Relations Department, University of Yangon, since 2006. She was promoted to the post of Professor in 2011, and is now in charge of both International Relations and Political Science at Yangon University. She is also as a member of Myanmar ISIS, an independent think-tank, and participates in conferences jointly held by Myanmar ISIS and international partners. She supervises theses and gives lectures at the National Defence University of Myanmar's Ministry of Defence. She obtained her PhD in International Relations from Yangon University in 2004 and her research interest is on China-Myanmar relations. Dr Chaw Chaw Sein has written articles on a "Mapping Study on Myanmar Police Reform", electoral politics in Myanmar; Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) integration; and Myanmar education reform, among others.

Dr. Tin Maung Maung Than is Visiting Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He has been following economic and political developments in Myanmar since 1983. His research interests focus on developmental issues, democratisation, civil-military relations and political cooperation in Southeast Asia. He has authored "State Dominance in Myanmar: The Political Economy of In-

dustrialisation” (ISEAS, 2007) and has contributed several chapters and numerous articles on politics, economics and security issues in Myanmar to regional and international publications.

Panel 3: Economic and Social Development

Dr. Zaw Oo is Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development at the Myanmar Development Resource Institute, a leading Myanmar think-tank based in Yangon. Dr Zaw Oo coordinated Myanmar’s preparation work for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) candidacy, and also served as one of the economic advisors to President Thein Sein. In that capacity, he contributed to the development of Myanmar’s Framework of Economic and Social Reforms which was launched in January 2013. A former student dissident who spent more than a third of his life in self-imposed exile, he holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and American University, including a PhD in Development Economics and International Development. He previously taught at Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand, serving as Director of the Vahu Development Institute. He has co-authored “Assessing Ceasefire Accords in Burma” (2007) and “Economic Development of Burma: A Vision and a Strategy” (2000), and has contributed to many scholarly journals and news media.

U San Thein is Leading Professional, Financial Sector Development, Myanmar at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, a German development cooperation entity, since June 2013. He started his career with the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and served at the CBM’s Research Department for over 20 years. After his CBM stint, he joined a Hong Kong-based research firm, Irrawaddy Adviser, and was involved in preparing sector-wise research reports on various economic sectors of Myanmar. When the research company left Myanmar in 2002, he joined Myanmar Oriental Bank Ltd. as a General Manager, and, subsequently, the Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Ltd as a Senior Adviser.

Recognising that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the back-bone of the economy, U San Thein devotes his time and energy to SME financing, and disseminating knowledge and awareness on SME development in Yangon and other parts of Myanmar. He has contributed his knowledge on banking, finance and insurance (BFI) sector in Myanmar in the preparation of a GIZ report on Myanmar’s Financial Sector. U San Thein also contributes articles on banking and finance to the New Light of Myanmar.

Dr. Mary Callahan is Associate Professor of International Studies at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington–Seattle,

USA. Her research and teaching interests are in the states, markets and societies (SMS), peace, violence and security (PVS), and law, rights and governance (LRG) fields for the Jackson School's PhD Program, with a particular emphasis on Political Reform in Post-Junta Constitutional Myanmar. Her research has also included Asian militaries in political reform processes, the history of peace negotiations in modern Myanmar, and civil-military relations in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Michael McGovern is a political anthropologist who works in West Africa and Southeast Asia, using a variety of sources from kinship idioms to the aesthetics of state-sponsored folklore to try to understand postcolonial states within the arc of longer historical trajectories. He has authored three books on Africa. His forthcoming *A Socialist Peace? Explaining the Absence of War in an African Country* argues that certain elements of Guinea's socialist past may have helped to inoculate the country against dynamics that have favoured the outbreak of civil conflict elsewhere. Recent book chapters and publications have focused on the politics of history in a polarised political setting, moral evaluations of rapid socio-economic changes, the aspirational facet of kinship talk during times of war, the politics of popular music in Côte d'Ivoire, and the interplay of Islamist conversion, local politics, and US counter-terrorism policy in West Africa. Dr McGovern has taught anthropology at Yale and was also the West Africa Project Director of the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think-tank that analyzes the causes of armed conflict. In that position he researched and wrote papers on post-conflict reconstruction, the social reintegration of ex-combatant youths, and security sector reform. His recent research focuses on issues around land tenure in West Africa and in Myanmar.

Panel 4: Myanmar's International Relations

Dr. Maung Aung Myoe is Director of the International Relations Program in the Graduate School of International Relations at the International University of Japan (IUJ). His research interests are civil-military relations, regional security in Southeast Asia, and the government and politics in Myanmar. He teaches Security and Strategy in International Relations, Foreign Policy Analysis and Southeast Asian International Relations.

U Thaung Tun is a retired Myanmar Ambassador. He joined the Myanmar Foreign Ministry in 1972 and served at headquarters and various diplomatic posts abroad until his retirement in April 2010. His overseas postings include Bern, Brussels, Geneva, Manila, New York, and Washington D.C. His last diplomatic posting was in Brussels where he served concurrently as Ambassador of Myanmar to Belgium, the Netherlands and the European Union from 2008 to 2010. He was Ambassador of Myanmar to the Philippines from 2005 to 2008.

U Thaung Tun was Director-General for Political Affairs in the Myanmar Foreign Ministry and Leader of the Myanmar delegation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) from 2001 to 2005. Prior to this, he was Secretary of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs (NCEA) where he led the working group of the Commission in drawing up Myanmar Agenda 21. He also served as Secretary of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic Studies (MISIS).

U Thaung Tun holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Rangoon Arts and Science University, and a Diploma in French from the Institute of Foreign Languages, Rangoon. He also attended the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C. as a Fulbright Scholar from 1984 to 1985, where he graduated with a Master of International Public Policy degree. He was a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute from 2010 to 2015. He currently serves as Government Relations Advisor, Shell Myanmar Energy Pte Ltd.

Mr. Andrew Lee is Chief Country Representative for GE Myanmar. He has over 20 years of experience in management consultancy, sales, marketing and operations, with an exceptional background in developing new markets and implementing strategic business plans, including product innovation through risk management, business development, profit and loss projection and cost cutting initiatives.

Andrew has worked in various multinational companies such as Panasonic, Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts, B2BGalaxy.com, and Dun & Bradstreet. Prior to joining GE, Andrew was the Principal Consultant for Lee Consulting LLC in Bear, Delaware, U.S., consulting primarily for small and medium businesses in Strategic Market Analysis, Business Efficiencies, Project Proposals along with Financial Planning and Business Development Initiatives.

In addition to advanced training in the banking and investment sectors, Andrew holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Rutgers State University. He actively participates in investment clubs and enjoys fund-raising for community events, golfing, cooking and keeping up with developments in financial markets in the Eurozone and Southeast Asia.

Mr. Christopher Tan Chor Sen is currently Executive Vice President, and Head, International, Global Commercial Banking at the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC) Bank. He joined OCBC Bank as its Head of Emerging Businesses in 2005. As part of his portfolio, he oversees the growth and development of cross-border capabilities and business within the region, leveraging on the OCBC network and partner banks in key markets such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Greater China.

The Bank now serves over 300,000 small and medium enterprise (SME) customers in the region. OCBC's global presence helps expanding businesses to move overseas and overseas companies expanding into the region. The Bank is recognised as an award-winning SME Bank in the region for its constant innovation using the "Walk with the Customer" concept and bringing new services to the SME segment.

He works closely with the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore) to provide inputs on numerous SME funding initiatives, including responses to the 2008 financial crisis. Since 2012, he has been on the ACE Start-ups and Networking Steering Committees of the Action Committee of Entrepreneurs (ACE). He is also the Council Member of the Singapore Shandong Business Council (SSBC).

Chor Sen's involvement in Myanmar is extensive. He initiated OCBC's engagements in the country prior to its opening up. In 2012, the Bank led a SME business delegation to Myanmar and provided the platform for numerous collaborations between Singapore and Myanmar businesses. In 2014, he led a cross-functional team within the Bank to successfully apply for a banking licence from the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). The branch was successfully opened in July 2015 to serve the financial needs of customers expanding into/out of Myanmar.

Panel 5: Doing Business in Myanmar

Mr. Wachirachai Koonamwattana is the Strategic Management Director of SCG Cement-Building Materials, a business unit of SCG (Siam Cement Group), a diversified conglomerate in Thailand with revenues of more than USD15 billion, with operations in Thailand and other ASEAN countries. His major responsibilities include strategic planning and business development for company investment in Thailand and the region. Prior to the current position, he was engaged in new business development, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and finance.

Wachirachai received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, in 1991, and an MBA from University of Michigan, USA, in 1997. He also joined the Advanced Management Program, Harvard Business School, in 2014.

Ms. Jean Loi is one of the region's most experienced tax and regulatory specialists, with more than 12 years of experience in Indochina, Myanmar and Singapore. Her Myanmar tax experience is unsurpassed. She currently lives in Yangon.

She has advised on a large number of project transactions and tax disputes in the specialities of structuring, power plant projects and oil & gas. As the managing partner of VDB-Loi, she has extensive experience with projects related to the market entry of companies in the infrastructure, telecommunications and financial services industries in the region, as well as with supply chains. She was formerly a tax partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and oversaw the growth of PwC in Cambodia and Vietnam. She has been recognised for her outstanding practice in Myanmar with a number of awards. Jean speaks Mandarin, Bahasa Malaysia, Cantonese and English.

Jean is accredited for Income Tax and GST Advisory by the Singapore Institute of Accredited Tax Professionals (SIATP). Jean is also a member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand. She holds Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Taxation degrees from the University of Auckland, and has been called to the New Zealand Bar.

Ms. Sandra Min is an experienced corporate banker, bringing seven years of banking experience in the United States (U.S.). She has spent her career developing financial strategies and solutions for both affluent corporate and individual high networth clients. Most recently before joining Yoma Bank, Sandra worked for Wells Fargo in the U.S., supporting a portfolio of Fortune 500 corporations across industries including Carl's Jr., Target Corporation, CVS Caremark, Home Depot, UPS, AT&T, etc. At Yoma Bank, Sandra advises both local and international clients on innovative financial solutions, and has helped develop products and services tailored for banking needs in Myanmar since she joined in 2014 as Head of Corporate Banking. Sandra was with Yoma Bank till April 2015 and is now with Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd.

Born and raised in Myanmar, Sandra is a graduate of University of California, Los Angeles, having received a B. Sc. in Biochemistry, minoring in Global Studies. She also holds a M.A. in Economic Sociology from her alma mater. She is an accomplished snowboarder, hiking enthusiast and globetrotter.

Dr. Wong Yit Fan is former Country Head of Jardine Matheson in Myanmar, and currently sits on the Board at Oway Inc and other Myanmar companies. He has over 20 years of experience in the financial sector in Asia. He has both a macroeconomic perspective and experience with operational roles on-the-ground, especially in risk management and investments. His area of geographic expertise is Southeast Asia, especially the frontier Indochina economies. Dr. Wong had been the Chief Economist for Standard Chartered Bank for the region for 10 years in the 1990s. In other previous roles, he was the Chief Financial & Investment Officer at a family office in Abu Dhabi, and started DBS Bank's presence in Hanoi in 2007 and served as its Chief Executive Officer for Vietnam and Indochina. Currently, he is involved in launching an incubator for startups in Myanmar with

Emerging Markets Entrepreneurs (EME), where he will be its Director and Board member.

MODERATORS

Dr. John Ciorciari is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. His research focuses on international politics and law, particularly in Southeast Asia. He is the author of *The Limits of Alignment: Southeast Asia and the Great Powers since 1975* (Georgetown University Press, 2010) and co-author with Anne Heindel of *Hybrid Justice: The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia* (University of Michigan Press, 2014). He is currently part of the inaugural class of Andrew Carnegie fellows and is pursuing a research project on United Nations (UN) sovereignty-sharing arrangements with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Before joining the Michigan faculty, he was post-doctoral fellow at Stanford University (2007-09), policy official in the U.S. Treasury Department (2004-07), and visiting fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore (2003-04). Since 1999, he has been a legal advisor to the Documentation Center of Cambodia. He has a J.D. from Harvard and a D.Phil. from Oxford.

Dr. Allen Hicken is Associate Professor of Political Science, a Research Associate Professor at the Center for Political Studies, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan. He studies political parties, institutions, political economy, and policy making in developing countries, with a focus on Southeast Asia. He has carried out research in Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Cambodia and is the author of a book on parties and elections in Thailand and the Philippines, entitled *Building Party Systems in Developing Democracies*, by Cambridge University Press. He is the editor of *Politics of Modern Southeast Asia: Critical Issues in Modern Politics* (Routledge) and coeditor of *Party and Party System Institutionalisation in Asia* (Cambridge). His articles have appeared in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Asian Survey*, and *Electoral Studies*.

Professor Linda Lim is Professor of Strategy, Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, where she served from 2005-09 as Director of Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Linda obtained her degrees in economics from the universities of Cambridge (BA), Yale (MA) and Michigan (PhD). She has authored, co-authored or edited five books and published more than 100 other monographs, journal articles and book chapters on economic development, trade, investment, industrial policy, labour, multinational and local business in Singapore and Southeast Asia. A regular visitor to Myanmar over the past thirty years, she is currently studying Western vs. Asian business in the country. Linda has consulted and conducted executive workshops on Asian business, politics,

economics and culture for multinational and Asian companies, government agencies, think-tanks and international organisations such as the UN and OECD. She is a Trustee Emeritus of The Asia Society, a New York-based non-profit, and has served sequentially as an independent director on the boards of two U.S. tech manufacturing companies with operations in Asia.

Dr. Michael Montesano is Visiting Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, and co-coordinator of the Institute's Thai Studies Programme. He also coordinates the Myanmar Studies Programme with Moe Thuzar. Dr Montesano also serves as the Managing Editor of SOJOURN, Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia. His experience in Southeast Asia dates back three decades, to his service as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. A specialist on economic and political change in Southeast Asia, Dr Montesano has undertaken research on Thailand for more than twenty years and written widely about developments there. Dr Montesano has travelled to Myanmar regularly since 2007 and conducted policy research on the Myanmar economy since 2010. He speaks frequently on contemporary Southeast Asian affairs, has co-edited five books on the region, and contributed to a range of regional and international newspapers and journals.

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Concurrently, he is Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, non-resident High Commissioner to Pakistan and non-resident Ambassador to Iran. Mr Ong also serves as Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF). Mr Ong was High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia from 2011 to 2014. He served as Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia from January 2003 to January 2008. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. A career diplomat, Mr Ong has also served as Press Secretary to the then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong, while concurrently holding senior appointments in the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and the People's Association in Singapore.

Ms. Moe Thuzar is a Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. She coordinates the Programme together with Dr Michael Montesano, and concurrently holds a position as Lead Researcher (socio-cultural), at the Institute's ASEAN Studies Centre. Moe provides analyses on ASEAN and on Myanmar for Channel News Asia's news programmes. She was also involved in advising Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship in 2014. Prior to joining ISEAS in 2008, Moe headed the Human Development Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat, which assisted regional cooperation in labour, education, youth, women, social welfare, poverty and rural development, health, and civil service matters. At the ASEAN Studies Centre, Moe

assesses implementation of regional priorities in the areas under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. She has co-authored with Pavin Chachavalpongpun *Myanmar: Life After Nargis* (ISEAS, 2009) and co-edited with Yap Kioe Sheng *Urbanisation in Southeast Asia: Issues and Impacts* (ISEAS, 2012). Her main project in 2015 looked at the awareness of, and attitudes toward, ASEAN among young people in the region, and a co-authored book is forthcoming from ISEAS Publishing. In addition to monitoring Myanmar reforms, Moe's other research interests include urbanisation, environment, disaster management and humanitarian assistance, ASEAN integration issues and ASEAN's dialogue relations.

Supported by:

M | MICHIGAN ROSS

Executive Education