

**REGIONAL OUTLOOK FORUM 2017  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Good afternoon, everyone.

Those among you who are observant will notice that this closing speech will take 15 minutes. The point of that is to make you feel relieved when I end my speech within but 3 minutes. That is what I shall indeed try to do.

We have come to the end of a long and exciting day. You didn't need to be told that the coming year is going to face challenges that the pivotal year of 2016 has thrown in its path.

What we hope we have managed to do today is to provide you with some guidelines about what to expect in 2017.

Will President Trump be as disruptive to international relations as Uber has been to the taxi business? Will Brexit break the European Union?

Has globalization entered a new phase beginning this year? Is this how the rise of China plays out on the world stage?

Will ASEAN's many challenges be even more challenging now that the Philippines is the chair for the year, and now that the national problems of each member state are encouraging them to act outside of the ASEAN framework.

How will affected countries handle the sidelining of the TPP, especially those signatories in ASEAN? Will trade negotiations in the coming years gravitate around Chinese concerns rather than American ones?

And what about elections? Will Malaysia be the same after its citizens go the polls this year or next? Will Indonesia be the same after the Jakarta gubernatorial elections? What about Thailand. Will it hold elections soon? And will the troubles in Myanmar split ASEAN?

All these, and more, are questions we have pondered today and will have to continue pondering over in coming months.

Much discussion about them will happen at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, through our conferences and seminars, and through both our digital and printed outputs. We look forward to them, and to you participating in and partaking of them.

Those of you who wish to receive information about these events and products are welcome to leave your email addresses with our Administration personnel outside.

All that remains now is for ISEAS to thank all of you for being here today, and to remind you to keep January 9 2018 free so that you can attend our next Regional Outlook Forum. Remember, 9 January 2018. And this will be at the Shangri-la Hotel.

Mark that down now before you leave. And have a safe journey home.

See you all again next year.