

ENHANCING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Join us every Wednesday on 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September and 7 October 2020

ABOUT THE WEBINAR SERIES

Southeast Asia has experienced rapid economic growth over recent decades which have resulted in notable achievements such as the reduction of poverty and the rise of the region's middle class. However, business activities have also resulted in sustainable development and human rights challenges in a region where its nations are still evolving in their transition towards democracy, respect for the rule of law, and good governance. The current Covid-19 pandemic, difficult conditions within Southeast Asia's countries, major geopolitical shifts, and international trade tensions also threaten to downsize some of the emerging sustainability transitions. This 6-part weekly webinar series examines the new forms of social projects and responsible practices undertaken by states, private sector, and responsible business stakeholders in addressing the impacts of business activities on Southeast Asia's individuals, societies, and the environment. Addressing these impacts and challenges — and other key social issues that need to be protected and mitigated across nation states, supply chains, and industries — will be crucial to promote an enabling responsible business environment for the region's sustainable, long term and inclusive growth.

Jointly organised by ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute and The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

PROGRAMME

Preparing for the New Reality: Institutional Mechanisms for Addressing Responsible Business Practices in Southeast Asia

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

GMT 1.30am (Tokyo 10.30am – 12pm, Singapore 9.30am – 11am)

The gradual progress and gains achieved in promoting an enabling environment for responsible business practices have the potential to be eroded by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. This webinar discusses the state of existing, potential, and future challenges to enhancing institutional mechanisms and coordination for responsible business practices to be mainstreamed into national and subnational policies and integrated across sectors. It will explore how different stakeholders and actors can work together to prevent, mitigate and remediate adverse impacts of the Covid-19 on business activities and their repercussions on individuals and society. Joining the webinar discussion will be **Professor Surya Deva** who will examine the role of states in promoting responsible

business conduct in times of Covid-19, **Professor Dato Aishah Bidin** will speak on the role of National Human Rights Institutions in responsible business during and post-Covid19, **Professor Zhang Wanhong** will examine business and human rights in China before and after Covid19 and **Dr Serina Abdul Rahman** will look into the role of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil in Malaysia and Indonesia. **Ms Akiko Sato** is the moderator of the webinar.

The webinar will begin with Welcoming Remarks on the ISEAS-SPF webinar series by Director of ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, **Mr Choi Shing Kwok**, and President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, **Dr Atsushi Sunami**.

WEBINAR SERIES WELCOMING REMARKS:



Mr Choi Shing Kwok
Director
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute



Dr Atsushi Sunami
President
Sasakawa Peace Foundation

SPEAKERS:



Professor Surya Deva
Member
UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights



Professor Dato Aishah Bidin
Professor
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Professor Zhang Wanhong
Professor
Wuhan University School of Law



Dr Serina Abdul Rahman
Visiting Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

MODERATOR:



Ms Akiko Sato
Deputy Secretary General
Human Rights Now

Register for this event

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I1J9s7irRPeb4rVmNpRFYw

Engaging Southeast Asia's Labour Force

Wednesday, 9 September 2020

GMT 1.30am (Tokyo 10.30am – 12pm, Singapore 9.30am – 11am)

While Southeast Asia has been riding on the wave of globalization that has brought benefits and economic growth with expanding trade and investment linkages, such global integration has also exposed fractures in the protection of the region's labour force that have been crucial to business and country investments. Fast-paced economic development has come at the expense of labour and human rights protection in several countries. Recent geo-political instabilities and the Covid-19 pandemic has also exposed its fragility – disruptions in supply chains, lockdowns and cessation of trade have wide-ranging adverse effects on vulnerable populations and societies. This webinar will examine the wide variances in responsible business practices within, as well as across, countries in Southeast Asia, and how

companies and business can step up their efforts to ensure that Southeast Asia's labour force, in particular its vulnerable groups, can benefit from better protection and access to remedy. In this webinar, **Dr Oliver Tappe** will examine "Artisanal and Small-scale Mining in Laos: Local Subsistence Strategies, New Frontier Capitalism and Shifting Labour Relations", **Dr Vannarith Chheang** will examine "Chinese Investments in Cambodia and their Challenges for Business and Human Rights", **Dr Su Yin Htun** will speak on "Sustainable Development in a Local Community: the Mining Sector in Myanmar", and **Dr Tham Siew Yeap** will speak on "Foreign Workers and Human Rights in Malaysia". **Dr Benjamin Loh** is the moderator of the webinar."

SPEAKERS:



Dr Oliver Tappe
Associate Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute



Dr Vannarith Chheang
President
Asian Vision Institute



Dr Su Yin Htun
Associate Professor
Department of Law
University of Mandalay



Dr Tham Siew Yeap
Visiting Senior Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute
Professor Emeritus
Universiti Kebangsaan
Malaysia

MODERATOR



Dr Benjamin Loh
Senior Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

Register for this event

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_j6mEnsRuQl25Ms7R5hC2Cw

Migration and Reinforcement of Social Protection

Wednesday, 16 September 2020

GMT 1.30am (Tokyo 10.30am – 12pm, Singapore 9.30am – 11am)

Labour migration has been an important factor supporting the growth and development of the Southeast Asian region, filling labour shortages in countries of destination and providing much needed employment opportunities for workers in countries of origin. However, in spite of migrant workers' vital role in increasing the region's labour market efficiency, they are often subjected to abuses during recruitment and employment and are unable to make use of the social protection benefits to which they are entitled. This webinar examines the experiences and challenges of migrant workers in

countries of origin and destination, and explore how businesses can play key roles in promoting responsible migration and decent work. During the webinar, **Dr Darian McBain** will speak on "Human Trafficking in the Thailand's Seafood Industries", **Dr Wako Asato** will touch on the "Migration Policy Reform and its Implementation in Japan", **Professor Reiko Ogawa** will examine "Southeast Asian Migrant Workers in Japanese Long-term Care Facilities", and **Dr Lee Hwok Aun** will talk about "Migrant Labour and Social Protection in Malaysia". **Dr Akihiro Ueda** is the moderator of the webinar.

SPEAKERS:



Dr Darian McBain
Global Director
Thai Union



Dr Wako Asato
Associate Professor
Kyoto University



Professor Reiko Ogawa
Professor
Chiba University



Dr Lee Hwok Aun
Senior Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

MODERATOR



Dr Akihiro Ueda
Program Officer
Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Register for this event

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hs6iNoL-SG63LhKBKv1-qQ

Delivering Post-Covid Recovery and Fighting Inequalities by Sustainable Finance

Wednesday, 23 September 2020

GMT 1.30am (Tokyo 10.30am – 12pm, Singapore 9.30am – 11am)

The finance sector has an important role in driving more responsible sustainable business practices to advance positive social and human rights impacts in the fight against climate change, environmental degradation and social inequalities whilst making supply chains more resilient and sustainable. In the current Covid-19 pandemic, there is also an urgent need for the finance sector to engage with governments, businesses, investors and civil society to work collectively to protect people and jobs, and to work towards a sustainable recovery pathway. This webinar will discuss the role of the finance sector in driving more responsible business

practices and investments in support of a sustainable and inclusive post-COVID recovery, as well as in reducing social inequalities. In this webinar, **Dr Youngho Chang** will speak on “Credit Guarantee Scheme and Start-up Businesses: Financial Pipelines and Successful Start-ups in South East Asia”, **Mr Sylvain Augoyard** will speak on the “Role of Central Banks and Regulators, and How Finance can be a Force for Good”, and **Dr Sukich Udindu** will look into efforts at “Financing the Sustainable Business in Thailand”. **Dr Cassey Lee** is the moderator of the session.

SPEAKERS:



Dr Youngho Chang
Associate Professor of Economics
School of Business
Singapore University of Social Sciences



Mr Sylvain Augoyard
Vice President
Asia Sustainable Finance
WWF-Singapore



Dr Sukich Udindu
Director
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency
Economy Philosophy for Sustainability

MODERATOR



Dr Cassey Lee
Senior Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

Register for this event

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VX1JA024ROC6He49iy_hTg

Business Imperatives of Environmental Protection

Wednesday, 30 September 2020

GMT 1.30am (Tokyo 10.30am – 12pm, Singapore 9.30am – 11am)

Sustainable climate and environment initiatives were on a gradual trajectory to the mainstream with the integration of material environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into investments and portfolio solutions. However the Covid-19 pandemic has shifted priorities away from climate and environmental protection to focus on crisis management, and scarce financial resources have been redirected to support economies, business, people, and jobs. This webinar examines the impact of the pandemic on the momentum for environmental protection and sustainable ESG investing into Southeast Asia, and how countries can optimise post-loss funding capacity and

budgetary discipline to protect and sustain existing and future ESG projects. The webinar will feature **Dr Diana Suhardiman** who will speak on “(Re)assembling State power through the Laos-China Railway Project”, **Dr Angela Tritto** who will speak on “Making the Belt and Road Environmentally Sustainable in Southeast Asia”, **Professor Zhang Ling** who will touch on the “Environmental and Social Governance of Chinese Investments into Southeast Asia”, and **Dr Diane Tang-Lee** who will examine “ESG and Tailings Management in the Southeast Asia’s Mining Industry”. **Ms Sharon Seah** is the moderator of the session.

SPEAKERS:



Dr Diana Suhardiman
Senior Researcher
International Water Management
Institute



Dr Angela Tritto
Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute of Emerging Market Studies
The Hong Kong University of Science
and Technology



Professor Zhang Ling
Director
Legal Research Center for Regional
Energy Cooperation
Yunnan University of Finance and
Economics



Dr Diane Tang-Lee
Manager
International Council on Mining
and Metals

MODERATOR



Ms Sharon Li-Lian Seah
Coordinator
ASEAN Studies Centre
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

Register for this event

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YUjZUAQ5Teyz5ICZlvi1Kg

The Future of Responsible Business in Southeast Asia

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

GMT 1.30am (Tokyo 10.30am – 12pm, Singapore 9.30am – 11am)

The current pandemic coincides with an exceptional and challenging time for Southeast Asia as its countries try to navigate difficult internal conditions, major geopolitical shifts, and international trade tensions. The challenges appear to be many for the future of responsible business in the region where the corporate sector have been already lagging behind societal demands for responsibility. This panel discussion examines how

governments, businesses, industry associations, civil society organizations, and business and human rights stakeholders can respond to the challenges facing responsible business, and what will be needed to prepare for the changes that lie ahead in efforts to tackle societal problems like climate change, and the impacts of business activities on individuals and societies.

SPEAKERS:



Mr Thomas Thomas
CEO
ASEAN Corporate Social
Responsibility Network



Dr Yang Mee Eng
Executive Director
ASEAN Foundation



Mr Hirokazu Kobayashi
Executive Director, JETRO Singapore
and Special Advisor to METI, Japan



Dr Miwa Yamada
Director
Law and Institution Studies Group
Institute of Developing Economies,
JETRO



Mr Lowell Chow
East Asia Senior Researcher &
Representative
Business and Human Rights
Resource Centre

MODERATOR



Dr Benjamin Loh
Senior Fellow
ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

Register for this event

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