

ASEAN Matters for America

ASC's parent institute ISEAS has jointly launched with the East-West Centre in Washington a new initiative on "ASEAN Matters for America/ America Matters for ASEAN", which assesses and provides recommendations for deeper, long-term partnerships between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten member states.

The East-West Centre in Washington released the new initiative in the United States on 2 April 2010, to be followed by the ASEAN segment of the launch by ISEAS in Singapore in early June.

On the occasion of the initiative's release, in an Asia-Pacific Security Seminar organised by the East-West Centre in Washington, Mr Keith Luse, Senior Professional Staff Member at the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, highlighted that ASEAN matters greatly to the United States "for matters of peace, economic opportunity and position". However, ASEAN has been underappreciated by official and academic policy communities in Washington D.C. Noting that the "ad hoc U.S. priority for ASEAN" had undergone some change in recent years, Mr Luse called for a comprehensive proposal that illustrates U.S. long term commitment to ASEAN and that ASEAN matters to the U.S.

Joining Mr Luse in discussing the important connections between the U.S. and ASEAN were U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN Scott Marciel; Mr Bronson Percival, senior advisor with the Centre for Strategic Studies at CNA; Mr Robert Scher, deputy assistant secretary of defense for South and Southeast Asia' and Ms Barbara Weisel, Assistant U.S. trade representative for Southeast Asia.

For the full text of Mr Luse's article, please visit:

<http://www.iseas.edu.sg/aseanstudiescentre/asco14-10.pdf>.

For more information about ASEAN Matters for America, please visit

<http://www.ASEANMattersforAmerica.org>.



US Ambassador to ASEAN Scott Marciel speaking on US-ASEAN relations (Image source East-West Centre in Washington)



Speaking on how ASEAN matters for America (From left to right) Mr. Keith Luse, Mr. Bronson Percival, Mr. Robert Scher, Ms. Barbara Weisel, and Ambassador Scot Marciel (Image source East-West Centre in Washington)