

ISEAS Fellow Pavin Chachavalpongpun spoke to CNBC this morning about ASEAN and the Thai crisis.



Pavin Chachavalpongpun, on 18 May 2010, talked about the recommendation of Indonesia for a possible role of ASEAN as mediator in the Thai Crisis. Pavin said that although it is unlikely that the Thai government would allow ASEAN to “intervene”, the recommendation has shown that

ASEAN is gradually watering down ASEAN’s strict principle of non-interference. This is the right direction for the organisation.

ASEAN also said that the state’s crackdown could have driven some radical reds to go underground and work as an insurgent group with the mission of overthrowing the government. Recently, this segment within the reds—the radicals—has overpowered the other factions which may prefer non-violent approach. The split was clear. Veera Musikhapong, a seemingly moderate leader, has resigned purportedly because he disagreed with the radical branch of the UDD.

In the long-term, this would potentially lead to the constitution of a new political culture in Thailand, the kind of culture that condones violence and radicalism