How do Southeast Asians view the Trump Administration?
Introduction

- The ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute conducted an online survey from 10-23 April 2017 to get a sense of how Southeast Asians view the Trump Administration and US engagement in the region.

- This survey used a purposive sampling approach, drawing on a specialised pool of regional affairs experts. We received 318 responses from government officials, business leaders, academics, the media and civil society across the ten ASEAN member states: Myanmar (49), the Philippines (49), Vietnam (47), Malaysia (42), Indonesia (33), Singapore (29), Thailand (26), Cambodia (20), Brunei Darussalam (18) and Laos (5). Of the 318 responses, a very small number opted to skip some questions in the survey, but the impact on the results is negligible.

- For purpose of readability, the numbers in this report are rounded up or down to one decimal point.

- These findings do not purport to represent the views of the whole of Southeast Asia.

- This report was first published online on 4 May 2017.
1. In your view, which of these geographical regions are most important to the Trump Administration?

(Answered: 302     Skipped: 16)

- Middle East: 108 (35.8%)
- Northeast Asia: 75 (24.8%)
- Europe: 61 (20.2%)
- Central and South America: 33 (10.9%)
- Southeast Asia: 13 (4.3%)
- Africa: 9 (3.0%)
- South Asia: 3 (1.0%)

Note: This graph reflects the first choice selections of a ranking exercise.
2. Southeast Asia is more stable and secure with active US engagement.

Answered: 318  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82 (25.8%)</td>
<td>140 (44.0%)</td>
<td>43 (13.5%)</td>
<td>16 (5.0%)</td>
<td>37 (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. What is your view of the Trump Administration’s attitude toward Southeast Asia?

(Answered: 316  Skipped: 2)

- Highly interested: 17 (5.4%)
- Interested: 117 (37.0%)
- Not interested: 137 (43.4%)
- Irrelevant: 27 (8.5%)
- No opinion: 18 (5.7%)
4. Which statement comes closer to your view of the US' global image today compared to that of four months ago?

(Answered: 315  Skipped: 3)

- It has improved substantially: 9 (2.9%)
- It has improved: 38 (12.1%)
- It is the same as four months ago: 42 (13.3%)
- It has deteriorated: 146 (46.3%)
- It has deteriorated immensely: 80 (25.4%)
5. What are your expectations of the US’ level of engagement in Southeast Asia under the Trump Administration?

(Answered: 316   Skipped: 2)

- **Substantially increase**: 17 (5.4%)
- **Increase**: 38 (12.0%)
- **No change**: 83 (26.3%)
- **Decrease**: 137 (43.3%)
- **Substantially decrease**: 41 (13.0%)
6. How do you rate the US as an ally/partner today compared to four months ago?

(Answered: 315     Skipped: 3)

- Very dependable: 10 (3.2%)
- Dependable: 41 (13.0%)
- Same as four months ago: 93 (29.5%)
- Undependable: 138 (43.8%)
- Highly undependable: 33 (10.5%)
7. The US can be relied on to uphold free trade, human rights and international law in the region.

(Answered: 316   Skipped: 2)

- Strongly agree: 14 (4.4%)
- Agree: 73 (23.1%)
- Disagree: 145 (45.9%)
- Strongly disagree: 58 (18.4%)
- No opinion: 26 (8.2%)
8. The US will uphold freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

(Answered: 315  Skipped: 3)

- Strongly agree: 46 (14.6%)
- Agree: 168 (53.3%)
- Disagree: 47 (14.9%)
- Strongly disagree: 16 (5.1%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 38 (12.1%)
9. Do you think President Trump will attend the ASEAN-US and East Asia Summits in November 2017?

(Answered: 316  Skipped: 2)

- Definitely: 32 (10.1%)
- Likely: 119 (37.7%)
- Unlikely: 101 (32.0%)
- No: 20 (6.3%)
- Don’t know: 44 (13.9%)
10. Has the US lost strategic ground to China since Donald Trump took over the US presidency?
(Answered: 317  Skipped: 1)

Yes: 163 (51.4%)
No: 105 (33.1%)
No comment: 49 (15.5%)
11. If the Trump Administration reduces the US’ commitment to Southeast Asia, this will induce ASEAN to strengthen intra-regional cooperation and unity.

(Answered: 317     Skipped: 1)
12. In your view, which country/regional organisation is the most influential in Southeast Asia now?

(Answered: 314  Skipped: 4)

- ASEAN: 57 (18.2%)
- China: 231 (73.6%)
- The European Union: 1 (0.3%)
- India: 0 (0.0%)
- Japan: 14 (4.5%)
- The United States: 11 (3.5%)
13. In your view, which country/regional organisation will be the most influential in Southeast Asia in the next ten years? (Answered: 317  Skipped: 1)

- **ASEAN**: 57 (18.0%)
- **China**: 237 (74.8%)
- **The European Union**: 1 (0.3%)
- **India**: 3 (0.9%)
- **Japan**: 9 (2.8%)
- **The United States**: 10 (3.2%)
14. In the event of a strategic vacuum created by the US’ indifference to the region and ASEAN, which country do you think would most likely fill the gap?

(Answered: 313  Skipped: 5)

- China: 251 (80.2%)
- The European Union: 4 (1.3%)
- India: 2 (0.6%)
- Japan: 34 (10.9%)
- None of the above: 22 (7.0%)
15. How has the Trump Administration’s immigration policy affected your views on travelling to the US?

(Answered: 317   Skipped: 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have no reservations travelling to the US</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will travel to the US, but with some concerns</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would prefer not to travel to the US</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will not travel to the US under any circumstances</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comment</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. Please share your view of how your country’s economy would fare in the context of Trump’s ‘America First’ worldview?

(Answered: 317  Skipped: 1)

- Benefit immensely: 6 (1.9%)
- Make modest economic gains: 44 (13.9%)
- Not be affected: 91 (28.7%)
- Carry small economic losses: 149 (47.0%)
- Suffer huge losses: 27 (8.5%)
17. How will US-China relations look like in the next 12 months?

(Answered: 317  Skipped: 1)

- Very friendly and cooperative: 4 (1.3%)
- Cordial: 65 (20.5%)
- No change: 63 (19.9%)
- More competitive: 139 (43.8%)
- Increased tensions and animosity: 46 (14.5%)
18. How confident are you that China will "do the right thing" in contributing to global peace, security, prosperity and governance?

(Answered: 316  Skipped: 2)

- Very confident: 10 (3.2%)
- Confident: 65 (20.6%)
- Little confidence: 146 (46.2%)
- No confidence: 83 (26.3%)
- No comment: 12 (3.8%)
19. How confident are you that the European Union will "do the right thing" in contributing to global peace, security, prosperity and governance?

(Answered: 317   Skipped: 1)

- Very confident: 25 (7.9%)
- Confident: 119 (37.5%)
- Little confidence: 133 (42.0%)
- No confidence: 31 (9.8%)
- No comment: 9 (2.8%)
20. How confident are you that India will “do the right thing” in contributing to global peace, security, prosperity and governance?

(Answered: 316  Skipped: 2)

- **Very confident**: 7 (2.2%)
- **Confident**: 67 (21.2%)
- **Little confidence**: 153 (48.4%)
- **No confidence**: 61 (19.3%)
- **No comment**: 28 (8.9%)
21. How confident are you that Japan will "do the right thing" in contributing to global peace, security, prosperity and governance?

(Answered: 316   Skipped: 2)

- Very confident: 39 (12.3%)
- Confident: 157 (49.7%)
- Little confidence: 93 (29.4%)
- No confidence: 18 (5.7%)
- No comment: 9 (2.8%)
22. How confident are you that the United States will "do the right thing" in contributing to global peace, security, prosperity and governance?

(Answered: 317  Skipped: 1)

- Very confident: 15 (4.7%)
- Confident: 68 (21.5%)
- Little confidence: 162 (51.1%)
- No confidence: 67 (21.1%)
- No comment: 5 (1.6%)
23. In ten years’ time, the United States will ...

(Answered: 317     Skipped: 1)

- Be “great again,” with its claim of global primacy unchallenged: 6 (1.9%)
- Retain its primacy but faces increasing challenge from the other major powers: 122 (38.5%)
- Have the same power gap with its competitors as now: 26 (8.2%)
- Lose its grip on global primacy but remain the world’s strongest power: 132 (41.6%)
- Be overtaken by China: 31 (9.8%)
24. What is your nationality?

(Answered: 318  Skipped: 0)

- Brunei: 18 (5.7%)
- Cambodia: 20 (6.3%)
- Indonesia: 33 (10.4%)
- Laos: 5 (1.6%)
- Malaysia: 42 (13.2%)
- Myanmar: 49 (15.4%)
- Philippines: 49 (15.4%)
- Singapore: 29 (9.1%)
- Thailand: 26 (8.2%)
- Vietnam: 47 (14.8%)
25. Please tell us your affiliation.

(Answered: 318     Skipped: 0)

- **Academia/Think-Tank**: 153 (48.1%)
- **Business**: 27 (8.5%)
- **Government**: 67 (21.1%)
- **CSO (Civil Society Organisation)/NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation)**: 24 (7.5%)
- **Others**: 47 (14.8%)
Citation Reference

The survey findings may be quoted and used for non-commercial purposes, with proper acknowledgement given to the ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

**APA Style**

**Chicago Style**
ASEAN Studies Centre, “How do Southeast Asians View the Trump Administration?” 3 May 2017, [accessed date], [insert URL link].

**MLA Style**