



ASEAN-INDIA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (AIDPP)



**An online training and capacity
building programme for officials,
scholars and practitioners of ASEAN
countries and India**

16 to 20 August 2021

Concept Note, Agenda and Resumes

CONCEPT NOTE

1. ASEAN and India are bound together by their shared history and culture. Relation with ASEAN is one of the cornerstones of India's foreign policy. There has been steady progress in the ASEAN-India relation since the Look East Policy (LEP) was initiated in 1992. Today, India's relations with ASEAN have also been the core foundation of India's Act East Policy (AEP). India became a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1992. In 1996, this was upgraded to full dialogue partnership. India has been increasingly engaged with ASEAN, and that is also growing rapidly. In 2002, India became a Summit level partner of ASEAN. These political level interactions are further strengthened through the Senior Officials' Meetings, as also specialised working groups in the various functional areas. At present, there are more than 30 senior official level interactions between India and ASEAN, cutting across all the sectors, and an annual summit of the Heads of the countries. In 2018, ASEAN and India commemorated 25 years of dialogue partnership and 15 years of Summit level partnership. The Commemorative Summit attended by the Leaders from all the 10 ASEAN countries and came out with the *Delhi Declaration*, the guiding roadmap of ASEAN-India partnership. In 2022, ASEAN and India will be celebrating its 30 years of partnership.

2. The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted lives and livelihoods, basic well-being, and the productivity of countries across the world. Faced with the greatest challenges since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the need for stronger multilateral cooperation is, therefore, felt *sine qua non* to not only containing the pandemic and mitigate its social and economic effects but also bringing back the world economy to the growth path. It also underlines the need for deeper cooperation between ASEAN and India in search of collective solutions to these challenges and the collective path for a resilient recovery.

3. While initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic witnessed a deceleration of trade between ASEAN and India, India's engagements with ASEAN nations in coping with the COVID-19 challenges have paved the way for friendship, good neighbourliness, peaceful co-existence and prosperity in the region. Although trade growth, both in India and ASEAN, in recent months has faltered due to COVID-19 pandemic and trade policy uncertainties, there is still untapped potential for further enhancing ASEAN-India trade. Also, the future looks promising as there is a clear sign of revival of trade in goods between ASEAN and India in later months. One of the key challenges to India's export in this uncertain time is, therefore, to maintain the competitiveness in the global and regional markets by improving trade facilitation not only at home but also with the trade partners. Along with it, upgrading the ASEAN-India FTA (AIFTA) and its effective utilisation may perhaps add the required momentum to the bilateral trade flows while promoting sustainable and inclusive growth for both ASEAN and India. Another great opportunity to scale up the ASEAN-India engagements is the development of value chains. ASEAN and India can leverage the emerging scenario and support each other to build new and resilient supply chains. However, to explore this opportunity, ASEAN and India must upgrade the improve logistics services and strengthen the transportation infrastructure. Investment reform is another challenge for both India and ASEAN.

Business and economic cooperation between India and ASEAN in areas of mutual interest such as financial technology (FinTech), connectivity, start-ups, and innovation, empowerment of youth and women and the development of MSMEs is important driver to move up the ASEAN-India relation in higher plateau. ASEAN-India connectivity could serve as a basis for Indo-Pacific infrastructure cooperation. The ASEAN-India Plan of Action (POA) (2021-2025) recommends for transforming Trilateral Highway into an Economic Corridor. Deep integration between India and ASEAN is likely to provide a strong platform for the larger economic integration, particularly in the post-COVID-19. This is a time for skilling and capacity building, firming up the new strategy to cope up with the emerging challenges.

4. In the wake of the current global pandemic, economic and cultural interactions have been restricted. ASEAN member states and India have been facing daunting tasks to bring back the regional economy into growth path. This poses substantial challenges for research relationships aiming to build capacity and foster co-creation to achieve the economic growth as well as Sustainable Development Goals, where regional collaboration and communication is paramount. Only an enhanced and upgraded skill can provide better solutions. In such background, this online capacity building will make an attempt to fulfill this requirement. This is an opportune moment to develop best practice for virtual interactions, which will not only facilitate working under the current circumstances but will allow us to gain from each other's experiences and knowledge.

5. In view of the above, the Asian Confluence, Shillong; ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and ASEAN-India Center (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi propose to offer a week-long online programme titled "ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP)" on 16-20 August 2021. The first edition of the AIDPP will focus on the achievements and challenges of ASEAN-India economic relations. Considering the current situation, we aim to explore how we can build trust and dialogue, deliver international capacity building and advance research activities through virtual interactions. This capacity building programme will help strengthen the ASEAN-India relations this changing time.

6. The AIDPP course will comprise of several lectures and interactive sessions that will include both overarching and broad issues like geo-politics, economic relations, etc. and more specific issues like trade and investment, connectivity, trade facilitation and sector-specific sessions focusing on priority sectors for the ASEAN-India relations. This programme better suits to officials, research scholars, practitioners, etc. It will be targeted at representatives from think-tanks, industry associations, researchers and students of international relations, economics and development sciences, who can gain a comprehensive understanding of ways to deepen and diversify the relationship and cooperation between India and ASEAN countries. The course will help equip researchers, practitioners and officials to better understand how to approach the various facets, achievements, challenges for enhancing cooperation between ASEAN and India. The course will have leading experts from the fields of policy, academia, law and industry to deliver lectures and conduct interactive sessions on various topics and subjects that are critical towards forging mutually beneficial collaborations and larger regional cooperation between India and ASEAN countries.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

6 August 2021
[Indian Standard Time]

- 16 August 2021** **Inaugural Session**
- 09.15 – 09.30 Welcome remarks by three organizers: Asian Confluence, ASC, AIC
- 09.30 – 09.35 Remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS
- 09.35 – 09.40 Remarks by Mr. M P Bezbaruah, Chairman, Asian Confluence
Governing Council
- 09.40 – 09.45 Remarks by Mr Choi Shing Kwok, Director and CEO, ISEAS-Yusof
Ishak Institute, Singapore
- 09.45 – 09.50 Remarks by Mr Mark Neo, Director-General, ASEAN Directorate,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- 09.50 – 10.00 Remarks by Mr. V V Sapkal, Joint Secretary, South, Ministry of
External Affairs (MEA) India
- 16 August 2021** **Session I:** Moderator – Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman,
ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- 10.00 – 11.30 Three decades of ASEAN-India relations by
- Dr Prabir De
- Ms Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow, Coordinator, ASEAN Studies
Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
- 13.30 – 15.00 Strategic imperatives of ASEAN-India relations by Prof. Harsh V.
Pant, Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme,
Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi
- 17 August 2021** **Session II:** Moderator - Dr Jayant Menon, Visiting Senior Fellow,
ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore
- 10.00 – 11.30 Deepening ASEAN-India trade integration: Trade facilitation and Non-
Tariff Measure reforms by Dr Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy, Lead
Researcher (Economics), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof
Ishak Institute, Singapore
- 13.30 – 15.00 Changing profile of ASEAN-India investment relations and B2B
engagements by Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, International Relations,
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi

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| 18 August 2021 | Session III: Moderator- Ms Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow, Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore |
| 10.00 – 11.30 | Multilateralism in post-COVID-19 world by Ms Hoang Thi Ha, Lead Researcher (Political and Security), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | ASEAN-India in Indo-Pacific by Ms. Jane Chan, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore |
| 19 August 2021 | Session IV: Moderator – Mr Rajat Nag, Member, Governing Council, ASCON, New Delhi |
| 10.00 – 11.30 | ASEAN-India connectivity - Dr Prabir De - Prof. Ruth Banomyong, Department of International Business, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | Production networks and ASEAN and India in shifting global supply chains by Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, ERIA, Jakarta |
| 20 August 2021 | Session V: Moderator - Dr Prabir De |
| 10.00 – 11.30 | Fostering people to people contacts by - Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group (DPG), New Delhi - Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, ASCON, Shillong |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | ASEAN and India’s Progress on SDGs: Opportunities for Collaboration - Ms Melinda Martinus, Lead Researcher (Socio-Cultural), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore - Dr P K Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi |
| | Session VI: Moderator – Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, ASCON |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Feedback collections and closing remarks by the organisers |

BIO NOTE OF ALL SPEAKERS

(SESSION WISE)



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, Research and Information System for
Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi is currently Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based Think-Tank. He works on issues related to development economics, involving development finance, SDGs and South-South Cooperation, apart from trade, investment and innovation linkages with special focus on WTO. He is also Member, Board of Governors, Reserve Bank of India.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi has been part of several important initiatives of the Government of India and takes keen interest in transforming economic policymaking towards integrated and evidence-based approaches. He is one of the foremost commentators on India's external sector economic engagements and partnerships. He is considered as most dynamic and affable by his peers and has mentored several bright scholars and researchers in the profession.

He has authored/edited more than 20 books, apart from contributing several chapters in the edited volumes and also publishing several research articles in prestigious journals. He is on the Editorial Board of several journals including the South Asian Economic Journal, IDS Bulletin, Sussex, UK among others. His book "The Logic of Sharing – Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation" has been acclaimed internationally as one of the best volumes on international development cooperation.



Mr. M.P. Bezbaruah
Chairman Governing Council, Asian Confluence, Shillong

Madan Prasad Bezbaruah served as member of the North East and belongs to an illustrious family with a civil service background. He has held important government positions in the North Eastern Council – Assam and Meghalaya and in the Government of India. He was Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Departments of Education, Health, Industries and Finance, Chairman of the Assam State Electricity Board and the Home Secretary of Assam from January 1986 to August 1990. During 1990 to 1994, he was Minister (Economic) in the High Commission of India, London. From 1997 to 2001, he served as the Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, and Government of India. He also served as the Principal Adviser in the Planning Commission of India and was Banking Ombudsman for the Reserve Bank of India. After retirement, he was conferred the Honorary Permanent Representative of World Tourism Organisation (WTO)



Mr Choi Shing Kwok
Director and CEO, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Mr Choi Shing Kwok was appointed Director and CEO of ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute on 15 January 2018 and also took on the role of Head of ASEAN Studies Centre at the institute in March 2020.

Prior to this appointment, he was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources from 2012 to 2017. Mr Choi started his career in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1978. He held various appointments in the SAF before he was appointed as

Director, Security and Intelligence Division, Ministry of Defence in 1995 and held the post till 2005. After leaving the Ministry of Defence, Mr Choi held the post of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport from 2005 to 2012.

Mr Choi studied at the University of Cambridge, graduating with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering in 1981 and 1985 respectively. He also obtained a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1994. Mr Choi was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) (Military) in 1993 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2000 for his contributions to the Singapore Public Service.



Mr Mark Neo, Director-General, ASEAN Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Mr Mark Neo is currently the Director-General of the ASEAN Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since April 2019. Mr Neo graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Literature and Political Science from the University of Western Australia in 1996. He obtained a Masters in Public Administration in 2008 from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore on an MFA Postgraduate

Scholarship. Mr Neo joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 1997. He was a Country Officer for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific from March 1997 to November 1998, and then Country Officer for Malaysia until April 1999. His first overseas assignment was as a Second Secretary in the Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur in September 1999 and subsequently First Secretary until June 2003. Returning to Ministry HQ, he was Assistant Director for Indonesia in the Planning and Analysis Directorate I from July 2003 to December 2004. Mr Neo was a Singapore delegate to the 58th United Nation General Assembly in September 2003. From January 2005 to June 2007, he served as Special Assistant to Deputy Prime Minister/Coordinating Minister for National Security/Minister for Law Prof S Jayakumar. After postgraduate studies in August 2008, Mr Neo was appointed Deputy Director for Malaysia and Brunei in the Southeast Asia Directorate. He was subsequently posted to the Singapore Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York as Deputy Permanent Representative and Counsellor in January 2012 and subsequently as Minister Counsellor until January 2015.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr Neo was the Deputy High Commissioner and Minister-Counsellor in the Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur from March 2015 to March 2019. Mr Neo was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 2011.



Mr. V V Sapkal
Joint Secretary, South.
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India.



Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat
Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn
University, Bangkok (TBC)

Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat is professor emeritus of economics at Chulalongkorn University, executive director of ASEAN Studies Center and chairman of Chula Global Network. He was Chairman Center for International Economics, Chulalongkorn University. His academic interests are international trade, investment, finance, regional integration and development, and emerging issues in Asia in relation to the global economy and society. Recent publications include *China's Rise in Mainland ASEAN: New Dynamics and Changing Landscape* (co-eds) (World Scientific 2019) and *China's Rise in Mainland ASEAN: Regional Evidence and Local Responses* (co-eds) (World Scientific 2021).



Dr Prabir De
Professor, ASEAN India Centre
RIS, New Delhi

Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He obtained Ph.D. in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent book includes *Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: India's Expanding Neighbourhood*, published by the Knowledge World in 2020; an edited volume (with Selim Raihan) *Trade and Regional Integration in South Asia: A Tribute to Saman Kelegama*, published by the Springer in 2020; and an edited volume (with Ajitava Raychaudhuri and Suranjan Gupta) *World Trade and India: Multilateralism, Progress and Policy Response*, published by Sage in 2021. In 2020, he edited a flagship Report *ASEAN-India Development Cooperation Report: Avenues for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific*. He is the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Asian Economic Integration*, published by Sage.



Ms. Sharon Seah
Senior Fellow and Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

Ms. Sharon Seah is the Senior Fellow and the Coordinator of ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC), ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. Her research interest lies in Climate governance in ASEAN; survey of climate attitudes in Southeast Asia; understanding the rule of law in ASEAN. Prior to joining the ISEAS Yusof – Ishak Institute, Ms Seah was Associate Director of the NUS Centre for International Law. She has spent 14 years in the National Environment Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to entering academia, including a diplomatic posting to the Singapore Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand from 2003 to 2007. Ms Seah maintains an interest in climate change and environmental issues; multilateralism and ASEAN development. Ms Seah graduated with a Master in Public and International Law from the University of Melbourne in 2018.



Prof. Harsh V.Pant
Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme
Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

Professor Harsh V Pant is Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. He holds a joint appointment with the Department of Defence Studies and King's India Institute as Professor of International Relations at King's College London. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow with the Wadhvani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC. Professor Pant has been a Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania; a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies, McGill University; and an Emerging Leaders Fellow at the Australia-India Institute, University of Melbourne.

Professor Pant's current research is focused on Asian security issues. His most recent books include *New Directions in India's Foreign Policy: Theory and Praxis* (Cambridge University Press), *India's Nuclear Policy* (Oxford University Press), *The US Pivot and Indian Foreign Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan), *Handbook of Indian Defence Policy* (Routledge), *India's Afghan Muddle* (HarperCollins), and *the US-India Nuclear Pact: Policy, Process and Great Power Politics* (Oxford University Press). Professor Pant writes regularly for various Indian and international media outlets including the Japan Times, the Wall Street Journal, the National (UAE), the Hindustan Times, and the Telegraph.



Dr Jayant Menon
Visiting Senior Fellow
ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Dr Jayant Menon research interest lies in International trade policy, International investment, Regional economic integration and institutions, Economic development. At ISEAS, Jayant Menon plans to continue his work on trade and investment issues and economic development in the Asian region. His last post was at ADB as Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist. He was also at the ADB Institute in Tokyo

from 2005 to 2008. He started work as an academic in Australia, spending almost a decade at the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University at its original campus in Clayton, Melbourne. He has also worked at the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, and the American University in Washington, DC. He holds adjunct appointments with the Australian National University, University of Nottingham, UK and IDEAS, Malaysia.



Dr Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy
Lead Researcher (Economics), ASEAN Studies Centre
ISEAS -YusofIshak Institute, Singapore

Dr. Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy is an economist with more than seven years research experience in regional economic integration, economic development, and public administration. His career has focused on research and project management in trade, economic development and sustainable development programs. These cover multiple scales including project, program, national and regional scales. He works extensively with the private sector, public sector, bilateral development agencies and multilateral financial institutions. Since January 2020, he has served as a Lead Researcher at the ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, where he undertakes policy-oriented research on ASEAN's economic integration with particular focus on ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Dr Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy research interest lies in Regional economic integration; trade facilitation; non-tariff measures; applied econometrics; applied general equilibrium models.



Mr Pranav Kumar
Head, International Trade Policy Division
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi

Mr. Pranav Kumar heads the International Trade Policy division of the Confederation of Indian Industry. He has over 16 years of professional experience in teaching, research, project management and policy advocacy with primary expertise on multilateral and regional free trade agreements, trade and development. Previously he worked at the India Trade Policy Unit of the British High Commission and UK Department of International Development (DFID) India as a Senior Trade Policy Advisor. Prior to that he worked for the Jaipur-based CUTS International, a leading policy advocacy organisation on trade and development issues. Mr. Kumar has done research work for UNDP, Commonwealth Secretariat, World Health Organisation, International Trade Centre, India's Ministries of Commerce and of Health and Family Welfare. He holds an M.Phil. degree in Economics from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, India.



Ms Hoang Thi Ha
Lead Researcher (Political and Security), ASEAN Studies
Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Ms. Hoang Thi Ha is Lead Researcher for Political-Security Affairs at the ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. Ms. Hoang joined the ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam in 2004. She then moved on to work at the ASEAN Secretariat for nine years, with her last post being Assistant Director, Head of the Political Cooperation Division. Ms. Hoang holds an MA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. Ms Hoang Thi Ha research interest lies in Political-security issues in ASEAN, including the South China Sea disputes and ASEAN cooperation on human rights; ASEAN's external relations with the major powers, ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific discourse, ASEAN's institutional building.



Ms Jane Chan
Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
(RSIS), Singapore (TBC)

Ms. Jane Chan is a Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Program at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Her main research interests include maritime security issues in Southeast Asia, law and order at sea, regional maritime cooperation and confidence-building measures, and regional boundary delimitation and territorial disputes. She is an affiliated faculty at the Singapore Arm Forces (SAF)-NTU Academy (SNA). Her recent publication includes Christian Bueger and Jane Chan (eds.), *Paving the Way for Regional Maritime Domain Awareness: Information Fusion Centre*, Nanyang Technological University, 2019, Sam Bateman, Rajni Gamage and Jane Chan (eds.), *ASEAN and the Indian Ocean: The Key Maritime Links*, RSIS Monograph, 2017, Vijay Sakhujia and Jane Chan (eds.), *China's Maritime Silk Road and Asia*, (VIJ Books India Pvt Ltd, 2016), Geoffrey Till and Jane Chan (eds.), 'Naval Development in Southeast Asia' (Routledge, 2014).



Mr. Rajat Nag
Member, Governing Council
Asian Confluence, Shillong

Mr. Rajat Nag was the Managing Director General of the Asian Development Bank in Manila from 2006 to 2013 and has held several other top positions at the ADB. Mr. Nag is internationally well-known for his intellectual leadership, extensive operational experience, and in-depth knowledge of development issues, particularly in infrastructure financing, public-private partnerships, and regional cooperation. His research interest is in working to enhance regional cooperation and integration in Asia. He holds engineering degrees from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. He also has Masters Degrees in Business Administration from Canada and in Economics from the London School of Economics.



Prof. Ruth Banomyong
Department of International Business, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok

Professor Ruth is currently Dean at the Faculty of Commerce & Accountancy Thammasat University in Thailand. He received his PhD in 2001, in the field of International Logistics within the Logistics & Operations Management Section (LOMS) at Cardiff Business School (UK). He was the winner of the James Cooper Cup in 2001 for the best PhD dissertation in logistics from the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport (CILT) in the United Kingdom. In 2016, Supply Chain Asia (Singapore) awarded the prize of supply chain educator of the year while the Industrial Engineering & Operations Management (IEOM) Society awarded him with the Distinguished Educator Award in 2021. Ruth's main research interests are in the field of multimodal transport, international logistics, trade facilitation, logistics development policy and supply chain performance. He has published over 100 papers and reports.



Prof. Fukunari Kimura
Chief Economist, ERIA, Jakarta & Keio University, Tokyo

Professor Fukunari Kimura was born in Tokyo in 1958. He received his Bachelor of Laws from the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1982. He then received Master of Science and PhD titles from the Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990 and 1991, respectively. He worked for the Department of Economics, State University of New York at Albany as Assistant Professor in 1991-1994, and in the Faculty of Economics of Keio University as Associate Professor in 1994-2000. In particular, he has been active in writing academic/semi-academic books and articles on international production networks and economic integration in East Asia. Dr Fukunari Kimura's expertise lies in International trade and development economics; Economic growth theory, applied microeconomics, Japanese/Asian Economies.



Mr Sanjay Pulipaka
Senior Fellow for Research Programmes and Strategic Neighbourhood, Delhi Policy Group (DPG), New Delhi

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka was previously a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum Library and Senior Consultant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Sanjay Pulipaka was a Private Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a former Fulbright Fellow in the Conflict Transformation Programme, in the United States. Sanjay's areas of interest include India's foreign policy, East Asian security issues, India-US Relations, China, Indian politics, regionalism, connectivity frameworks and other related domains. Further, he has been closely following the political transition in Myanmar and conducted field research in that country and in Northeast India. Sanjay also has extensive work experience with think-

tanks and civil society organisations in India. He has considerable work experience in strengthening participatory political processes, governance frameworks and platforms for wider consultation. He has substantive publication record with three co-edited volumes, policy reports, numerous research papers and Op-Ed essays.



Mr Sabyasachi Dutta

Executive Director, Asian Confluence, Shillong

Sabyasachi Dutta is founder Director of the Asian Confluence, India East Asia, Center, headquartered at Shillong, Meghalaya in North East India. Sabyasachi brings a unique combination of experiences to push this initiative: A deep and insightful stint of rural development in the North East and Eastern India where he set up a chain of 80 primary schools using the model of community participation propelled by youth leadership; A successful career spanning 12 years in the Silicon Valley, California USA in cutting edge technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, having held important positions in large corporations such as SONY as well as successful startups, and he hold several patents; He is a long time avid student of Indian Culture, Philosophy ,Public policy and International Relations. Sabyasachi continues to facilitate cultural programs, exchange programs, talks, discussions and symposia with scholars and leaders of culture and thought, from India and abroad as part of the Asian Confluence.



Ms. Melinda Martinus

Lead Researcher (Socio-Cultural), ASEAN Studies Centre ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Ms. Melinda Martinus is Lead Researcher (Socio-cultural) of the ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. Melinda’s research interests revolve around the creative industry, smart city initiatives, urban resilience, and institutional framework and policy for advancing climate ambition in Southeast Asia. Melinda co-edits ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute's quarterly flagship magazine, ASEAN Focus, and two annual survey reports, the State of Southeast Asia and the Southeast Asia Climate Outlook. Before joining ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, she was program manager at Kota Kita Foundation, Indonesia and researcher at the Centre for Metropolitan Studies (Centropolis) at Tarumanagara University Jakarta. Melinda studied urban planning at Tarumanagra University Jakarta and Columbia University in the City of New York.



Dr P K Anand

Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

Dr P K Anand is a Visiting Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. Prior to joining RIS, Dr Anand was working with the Niti Aayog, New Delhi.