



Australian
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2025 Southeast Asia Regional Geo-Economic Update

Tuesday 2 December 2025

This Update is hosted by the Southeast Asia Institute at the Australian National University, supported by the College of Asia and the Pacific and the Australian Research Council.

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Program

Tuesday 2 December

All sessions: Lecture Theatre 1 (HB1), 130 Garran Road

TIME	PROGRAM
8.30am	Arrival and registration
9.00am	Welcome and opening remarks Professor Helen SULLIVAN, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
9.30am	Panel 1: Realignments <i>How is Southeast Asia navigating the most pressing geo-economic challenges? How have regional states and actors been realigning in different key areas – great power relationships, domestic state-society relations, and the trade-offs between economic gains and security concerns?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Helen NESADURAI, Monash Malaysia• Dr VŨ THÀNH Tỵ Anh, Fulbright University Vietnam• Professor Evelyn GOH, Australian National University• Chair: Dr Nicholas CHAN, Australian National University
11.00am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11.15am	Panel 2: Resources <i>Many Southeast Asian economies are fuelled by the extraction of rich natural resources. How are the challenges of producing, processing and supplying key natural resources changing because of global and regional geo-economic trends? To what extent is resource nationalism exacerbated by great power pressures, global economic fragmentation, and technological constraints and opportunities? How is the 'greening' imperative in these resource sectors affected by these geo-economic pressures?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Eve Warburton, Australian National University• Dr Trissia Wijaya, University of Melbourne• Chair: Dr Emirza Syailendra, Rajaratnam School of International Studies
12.45pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm	Panel 3: Risks <i>Intensifying geo-economic challenges exacerbate the nature and amount of risk endemic to a rapidly but unevenly developing region. What are some of the most significant expressions of such risk in Southeast Asia's most vulnerable economies, and in the region's most important economic infrastructure? How are these risks embedded in political-economic systems, and what are the prospects for de-riskification?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Professor Keith Barney, Australian National University• Ms Elina Noor, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace• Chair: Professor Kanishka Jayasuriya, Murdoch University
3.00pm	Update Closing
3.30pm	End of 2025 Southeast Asia Regional Geo-Economic Update

Update Speakers

Welcome

Professor Helen SULLIVAN
Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Professor Helen Sullivan currently serves as Dean of the College of Asia and the Pacific. She is a political sociologist and public policy scholar. Educated in the humanities and social sciences she holds degrees in Modern History and Political Science (BA Comb. Hons, University of Birmingham, UK), Women's Studies (MA, University of York, UK), and Public Policy (PhD, University of Birmingham, UK).

Panel 1: Realignments

Professor Helen NESADURAI
Monash Malaysia

Helen NESADURAI is Professor of International Political Economy at Monash University Malaysia. Her research focuses on the intersection of global, regional and transnational governance architectures and mechanisms in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Recent publications include 'Economic statecraft, geoeconomics and regional political economies in East Asia' (with Shaun Breslin, *The Pacific Review*, 2023) and 'Malaysia as an ambivalent middle power reconceptualising geoeconomics from a Global South perspective' (*Global Policy*, 2025). She serves on several editorial boards, was Co-Chief Editor of *Contemporary Politics* (with Jeffrey Wilson), and has consulted for the ASEAN Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank.

Dr VŨ THÀNH TỰ Anh
Fulbright University Vietnam

Dr VŨ THÀNH TỰ Anh served as Dean of the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management at Fulbright University Vietnam from 2017 to 2024, leading its transformation into the first public policy institution in Southeast Asia to earn accreditation from NASPAA (USA). His main research interest is political economy of development. He is an author in two recent edited volumes on Vietnam: *Navigating a Rapidly Changing Economy, Society, and Political Order* (HUP) and *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Vietnam*. During 2013 – 2015, he was a Global Leaders Fellow at Blavatnik School of Government (Oxford) and Woodrow Wilson School (Princeton). He was a member of the Economic Advisory Group of Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc (2017-2021). He holds a Ph.D. degree in economics from Boston College.

Professor Evelyn GOH
Australian National University

Evelyn GOH FBA FASSA is the Shedden Professor of Strategic Policy Studies at the Australian National University, where she is also the Director of the ANU Southeast Asia Institute. Professor Goh is a scholar specialising in security and international relations in East Asia. She has published extensively on US-China and China-Japan relations (historical and contemporary), and advanced new theorising on power, order and change in International Relations. Her original research and conceptualisation of Southeast Asian strategies towards great powers remain influential, and she was also one of the earliest scholars to study post-Cold War transboundary environmental security in the Lancang-Mekong River basin.

Panel 2: Resources

Dr Eve WARBURTON
Australian National University

Eve WARBURTON is a Senior Lecturer at the ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs and former Director of the ANU Indonesia Institute. Her work is broadly concerned with problems of democratic politics and economic governance, with a focus on Southeast Asia and Indonesia. She currently leads two projects: *Political Economies of Mineral-Led Development*, supported by a Westpac Fellowship, and *Private Power and Public Office*, supported by an ANU Futures Grant. Eve has published widely in area and disciplinary journals, and her first book *Resource Nationalism in Indonesia* was published by Cornell University Press (2023).

Dr Trissia WIJAYA
University of Melbourne

Trissia WIJAYA is a McKenzie Research Fellow at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne and author of *The Political Economy of Japanese and Chinese Infrastructure Financing Governance*, published with Bristol University Press. Her research sits at the intersection of geopolitical economy and responses to it in East Asia, encompassing green infrastructure financing, industrial policy, and critical mineral development. Her work has appeared in leading journals, including *International Affairs*, *Environmental Politics*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. Dr. Wijaya is an affiliate of Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies and serves on the Environmental Politics and Policy Research executive committee of the Australian Political Studies Association. She was awarded the 2023 Herb Feith Centre Fellowship and the 2024 ANU Indonesia Project Visiting Fellowship.

Panel 3: Risks

Associate Professor Keith BARNEY
Australian National University

Keith BARNEY has conducted research on environment, development, and natural resource policy in Southeast Asia since 1999, with fieldwork in Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. His work focuses on political ecology, economic geography, and agrarian change, examining how resources are produced, claimed and governed; transformations of property rights and livelihoods; and how natural resources sustain authoritarian regimes. Since 2003, his primary focus has been Laos, as a vantage point for understanding the implications of wider regional and global transformations. Keith teaches in the Resources, Environment and Development Department at the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, and is a member of the ANU Southeast Asia Institute.

Ms Elina NOOR
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Elina NOOR is a Senior Fellow in the Asia Program at Carnegie, focusing on technology's impact on power, governance, and nation-building in Southeast Asia. She previously served as Director of Political-Security Affairs and Deputy Director of the Asia Society Policy Institute, and as Associate Professor at the Daniel K Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Earlier, she was Director of Foreign Policy and Security Studies at Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia and affiliated with the Brookings Institution. Elina serves on the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. She holds degrees from Oxford, the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, and Georgetown University (MA, Security Studies).

Update Chairs

Dr Nicholas CHAN
Australian National University

Nicholas CHAN is the Deputy Director of the ANU Southeast Asia Institute and a postdoctoral fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre. His research interests lie at the intersection of religion and politics, with a particular focus on the politics of status-seeking, right-wing politics and social media, and the role of millenarian thinking in political life. He has an upcoming book, *Islam and Counterterrorism in Malaysia*, under contract with Stanford University Press and scheduled for release in July 2026.

Dr Emirza SYAILENDRA
Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Emirza SYAILENDRA is a Research Fellow at the Maritime Security Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. He is also a Research Fellow at the ANU Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, where he serves as a co-Chief Investigator on a project examining Indonesia's maritime strategy. Emir holds a PhD from ANU, supervised by Professor Evelyn Goh, which investigated why Southeast Asian states exercise restraint toward China and developed a framework on tacit understandings in great power–small state relations. His research combines fieldwork-driven insights with policy relevance, focusing on maritime security in Southeast Asia. He has published widely, secured competitive research grants, contributed to policy debates, and is recognised for excellence in teaching.

Professor Kanishka JAYASURIYA
Murdoch University

Kanishka JAYASURIYA, FASSA is Professor of Politics and International Studies in the Department of Politics, Murdoch University. He is a fellow of the Australian Social Science Academy. Previously, he was Director of the Indo-Pacific Governance Research Centre and Professor at the University of Adelaide. He holds a PhD from ANU and has held academic appointments at several Australian and international universities, including ANU, University of Sydney, Griffith University, NUS, and City University of Hong Kong. He has authored or edited nine books and over 100 journal articles. His current research focuses on social reproduction and the relationship between geopolitics and state and class restructuring.

Wi-Fi details

For the Update at Hedley Bull, please connect to the following Wi-Fi:

- Wi-Fi: ANU-Secure
- Username: SEAIUpdate
- Password: HB2025!