

2026 ASEAN-KOREA ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

ADVANCING SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
THROUGH ASEAN-KOREA ACADEMIC
COLLABORATION



9-10 FEB 2026



Juwono Sudarsono Auditorium, FISIP UI

Panel 1: Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia

Panel 2: Korea-ASEAN Studies: Cross-Regional Knowledge Production

Panel 3: Educating Southeast Asia: Programs, Pedagogies, and Partnerships

Panel 4: Contemporary Issues in ASEAN-Korea Relations

In collaboration with:



전북대학교
JEONBUK NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
동남아연구소
Institute for Southeast Asian Studies

2026 ASEAN–Korea Academic Conference (AKAC)

Advancing Southeast Asian Studies through
ASEAN–Korea Academic Collaboration

Conference Proceeding

Disclaimer

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About ASEAN–Korea Platform for Great Minds

ASEAN–Korea Platform for Great Minds (AKPGM; www.akpgm.org) aspires to be a transformative initiative in regional academic cooperation. The project is supported by the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and is led by the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS), with administrative support provided by a dedicated Project Management Team based in Seoul. By supporting both emerging and established scholars, fostering academic networks, and institutionalizing cross-border collaboration, AKPGM directly contributes to ASEAN’s community-building agenda and strengthens ASEAN–Korea relations through sustained long-term intellectual engagement.

AKPGM supports emerging scholars through the **ASEAN–Korea Young Scholar Research Grant**, which provides funding for fieldwork. Each year, 12 outstanding graduate students—11 from ASEAN Member States (AMS) and one from the Republic of Korea (ROK)—are selected to undertake at least three months of immersive field research in ASEAN countries or Korea. Promoting cross-regional learning and academic exchange, comparative or cross-country perspectives are strongly encouraged.

In addition, the **ASEAN–Korea Young Scholar Workshop** is held online each year, offering recipients of the Young Scholar Research Grant a dedicated platform to present the progress and outcomes of their fieldwork. The workshop brings together emerging researchers and senior scholars, who serve as mentors, session chairs, and discussants, providing constructive feedback, guidance, and valuable insights to help strengthen and advance the scholars’ research.

The ASEAN-Korea Academic Conference is an annual two-day event that provides a dynamic platform for scholarly exchange on key issues concerning ASEAN, Southeast Asian countries, and ASEAN-Korea cooperation. This year's conference marks the inaugural ASEAN-Korea Conference and is co-hosted by the Korea-Indonesia Connection (KIC) at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia (FISIP UI) which serves as the local host institution. KIC at FISIP UI has long served as a dedicated platform for facilitating dialogue on Korea-Indonesia relations, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries and their peoples.

Looking ahead, the themes of the ASEAN-Korea Conference, to be held annually, will align with ASEAN's Post-2025 Vision and the priority areas of ASEAN-Korea cooperation. These themes will cover topics such as higher education, the green and digital economy, sustainable development, ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and regional connectivity.

Introduction

Conference Background

The rapid transformation of Southeast Asia—marked by economic integration, digitalization, demographic change, and shifting geopolitical dynamics—has reinforced the importance of Southeast Asian Studies as a field of scholarly inquiry. At the same time, ASEAN–Korea relations have deepened significantly, culminating in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), which underscores the need for stronger intellectual and academic foundations. In this context, the 2026 ASEAN–Korea Academic Conference is designed as a flagship scholarly forum under the AKPGM initiative. The conference aims to bring together scholars from ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea to reflect on the state of Southeast Asian Studies, promote cross-regional knowledge production, and foster sustainable academic partnerships. By providing space for both senior scholars and emerging researchers, the conference seeks to strengthen regional expertise and cultivate future Southeast Asianists who can contribute to ASEAN community-building and ASEAN–Korea cooperation.

The conference aims to:

- Strengthen academic collaboration between ASEAN and Korean scholars in Southeast Asian Studies.
- Provide a platform for comparative and cross-regional knowledge production on ASEAN and Southeast Asia.
- Support the development of emerging Southeast Asianists through scholarly exchange and mentoring.
- Contribute to the intellectual foundations of ASEAN community-building and ASEAN–Korea relations.
- Promote people-to-people connectivity and shared regional identity through academic dialogue

Conference Theme

Advancing Southeast Asian Studies through ASEAN–Korea Academic Collaboration

Under this theme, the conference aims to provide a rigorous and inclusive forum for critical inquiry into the evolving trajectories of Southeast Asian Studies and ASEAN–Korea relations. Building on ASEAN’s recognition of Southeast Asian Studies as a vital field for regional understanding, the conference will facilitate cross-national dialogue among scholars, graduate researchers, and practitioners. Through original research presentations and policy-relevant discussions, the conference will explore issues such as sustainable development, digital transformation, regional connectivity, identity, education, and geopolitical change. By institutionalizing regular scholarly exchange and supporting emerging scholars, the conference seeks to strengthen both the epistemic foundations of Southeast Asian Studies and the academic infrastructure of ASEAN–Korea cooperation.

Conference Details:

Day/Date:

Day 1: Monday, 09 February 2026 (08.00 - 21.30)

Day 2: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 (09.00 - 13.30)

Venue:

Juwono Sudarsono Auditorium (AJS)

Faculty of Social and Political Science (FISIP), Universitas Indonesia (UI),
Depok, Indonesia

Format:

Academic panels, thematic discussions, and networking sessions

Participants:

Scholars, researchers, and graduate students from ASEAN Member States
and the Republic of Korea

Conference Schedule

Overview

Time	Activity	Location
February 9, 2026 (Monday)		
08:00-09:00	Registration	Juwono Sudarsono Auditorium
09:00-10:00	Opening Remarks	
10:00-12:00	Panel 1 "Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia"	
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break + Prayer Break	Room F202
13:30-15:30	Panel 2 "Korea-ASEAN Studies: Cross-Regional Knowledge Production"	Juwono Sudarsono Auditorium
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break + Prayer Break	
16:00-18:00	Panel 3 "Educating Southeast Asia—Programs, Pedagogies, and Partnerships"	
18:00-18:30	Closing	
18:30-19:30	Moving and Prep Time	Bus
19:30-21:30	Official Dinner	Margo Hotel
February 10, 2026 (Tuesday)		
09:00-09:30	Registration	Auditorium Juwono Sudarsono
09:30-11:30	Panel 4 "Contemporary Issues in ASEAN-Korea Relations: Challenges and Future Directions"	
11:30-	Lunch Break + Prayer Break	Room F202

13:00		
13:00-13:30	Closing	Auditorium Juwono Sudarsono
13:30 onwards	Departure	

Day 1 (Mon, 09 February 2026)

Time	Presenter/Title	Chair/Discussant
February 9, 2026 (Monday)		
08.00-09.00	Registration	
09:00-10:00	Opening & Welcoming Remarks Opening Address - Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS): Professor KIM Dong-Yeob (President) Welcome Addresses - Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN - Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand to ASEAN - University of Indonesia (Dean FISIP UI) Congratulatory Remarks - ASEAN Secretariat - ASEAN University Network (AUN): Thanapan Laiprakobsup (Executive Director)	
10:00-12:00	Panel 1: Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia Auditorium Juwono Sudarsono	[Chair] Getar Hati (University of Indonesia)
	Gerard Concepcion (University of the Philippines) Southeast Asian Studies in the Philippines:	[Discussant] Hyung Jong Kim (Yonsei University)

	Current Trends and Future Directions	
	Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad (Dept. of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia) Southeast Asian Studies and the Regional Integration Project Amidst Great Power Rivalry	[Discussant] Dwi Ardhanariswari (ASEAN Study Center FISIP, Universitas Indonesia)
	Nguyen Vu Tung (Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam) ASEAN Studies in Vietnam	[Discussant] Myo Oo (Myanmar Future Forum)
	Mica Barreto Soares (Universidade Nasional Timor Lorosa'e) Theme: Southeast Asian Studies in Timor-Leste	[Discussant] Chhay Lim (The Royal University of Phnom Penh)
12:00–13:30	Lunch Room F202	
13:30–15:30	Panel 2: Korea-ASEAN Studies: Cross-Regional Knowledge Production	[Chair] Yoonhwan Shin (Sogang University)
	Tauchid Komara Yuda (Universitas Gadjah Mada) Theme: Diverging Paths, Shared Pressures: Comparing Social Policy Trajectories in Indonesia and South Korea	[Discussant] Dian Novikrisna (Binus University)
	Sirima Thongsawang (Chulalongkorn University) Connecting SEA and Korea through Urban Ontologies	[Discussant] Chanamas Phengsomboom (Chulalongkorn University)
	Geetha Govindasamy (University of Malaya) Understanding Continuity And Change In Korea–asean Diplomatic Relations: Research Trends From The Past Decade	[Discussant] Bokyung Gu (Busan University of Foreign Studies)
	Inero Ancho (University of the Philippines) Balikbayan: Studies on Filipino Migration to	[Discussant] Chahue YANGSENSAY

	Korea	(Souphanouvong University)
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break Auditorium Juwono Sudarsono	
16:00–18:00	Panel 3: Educating Southeast Asia—Programs, Pedagogies, and Partnerships	Chair: Fitri Meutia (Universitas Nasional)
	Hanafi Bin Hussan (University of Malaya) Strengthening And Enriching Area Studies In Malaysia Through Southeast Asian Studies	[Discussant] Taesik Kim (Monash University, Malaysia)
	Ramon Guillermo (University of the Philippines) Kepulauan / Kapulauan: The Philippines in the Malay World	[Discussant] Lorena Jean D. Saludadez (University of the Philippines Open University)
	I Ketut Ardhana (Udayana University) Teaching SEA in Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities in Strengthening Southeast East Asian Studies	[Discussant] Nurul Isnaeni (ASEAN Study Center FISIP, Universitas Indonesia)
	Jiwon Suh (Seoul National University) Teaching Southeast Asia in Korea: How much Korea should it be? The View from SNU ALC	[Discussant] Kihong Mun (Pukyong National University)
18:00–18:30	Closing Auditorium Juwono Sudarsono	
18:30–19:30	Moving and Prep Time Bus (University of Indonesia - Margo Hotel)	
19:30–21:30	Official Dinner Margo Hotel	

Day 2 (Tue, 10 February 2026)

Time	Presenter/Title	Chair/Discussant
February 10, 2026 (Tuesday)		
09:00-09:30	Registration	
09:00-11:00	Panel 4: Contemporary Issues in ASEAN-Korea Relations: Challenges and Future Directions	[Chair] Jae-hyon Lee (ASEAN Institute for Policy Studies)
	Min Joung Park (Korea National Diplomatic Academy) Engaging with the Unevenly Integrated ASEAN: Assessing the ROK-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	[Discussant] Ratih Indraswari (Parahyangan University)
	Bui Hai Dang (University of Social Science and Humanities) Challenges In Realizing The Korea-asean Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)	[Discussant] Nguyen Phu Tan Huong (Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam)
	Sarah Teo (Nanyang Technological University) ASEAN and the ROK: Navigating the Realities of Middle Power Diplomacy	[Discussant] Hafizh Hashim (University Brunei Darussalam)
	Eva Latifah (Universitas Indonesia) Beyond Hallyu: Digital Transnationalism and the Semiotics of Contemporary Digital Texts among Indonesian Youth	[Discussant] Intan Syafira Gustia (Universitas Indonesia)
11:00-12:00	Lunch break + Closing Room F202 & Auditorium Juwono Sudarsono	
12:00 onwards	Departure Bus (University of Indonesia - Airport)	

Table of Contents

Panel 1

Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia p. 14

- Southeast Asian Studies in the Philippines: Current Trends and Future Directions p. 16
- Southeast Asian Studies and the Regional Integration Project Amidst Great Power Rivalry p. 18
- ASEAN Studies in Vietnam p. 21
- Southeast Asian Studies in Timor-Leste p. 25

Panel 2

Korea-ASEAN Studies: Cross-Regional Knowledge Production p. 23

- Studying Social Policies of Indonesia and Korea in Comparative Perspective p. 29
- Connecting Southeast Asia and Korea through Urban Ontologies p. 32
- Understanding Continuity and Change in Korea-ASEAN Diplomatic Relations p. 34
- Balikbayan: Studies on Filipino Migration to Korea p.38

Panel 3

Educating Southeast Asia—Programs, Pedagogies, and Partnerships p. 42

- Strengthening and Enriching Area Studies in Malaysia through Southeast Asian Studies p. 44
- Kepulauan / Kapuluan: The Philippines in the Malay World p. 49
- Teaching SEA in Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities in Strengthening Southeast East Asian Studies p. 52
- Teaching Southeast Asia in Korea: How Much Korea Should It Be? p. 57

Panel 4

Contemporary Issues in ASEAN–Korea Relations: Challenges and Future Directions p. 62

- Engaging with the Unevenly Integrated ASEAN: Assessing the ROK–ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership p. 64
- Challenges in Realizing the Korea–ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) p. 69
- ASEAN and the ROK: Navigating the Realities of Middle Power Diplomacy p. 74
- Beyond Hallyu: Digital Transnationalism and the Semiotics of Contemporary Digital Texts among Indonesian Youth p. 80

Proceeding

Panel 1

Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia

Chair:

Getar Hati (Universitas Indonesia)

Chair

Getar Hati is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia (FISIP UI), where she actively develops academic and collaborative initiatives with a focus on industrial social welfare as well as organizational and community development. She is a graduate of the Department of Social Welfare at Ewha Womans University. Following her PhD graduation in 2023, she initiated a dedicated unit at FISIP UI to coordinate and advance the development of Indonesia–Korea studies and academic cooperation. She currently serves as the Program Director of the Korea–Indonesia Connection (KIC) at FISIP UI, which has been actively fostering diverse collaborations with scholars, students, and practitioners who are enthusiastic about strengthening Indonesia–Korea relations.

Southeast Asian Studies in the Philippines: Current Trends and Future Directions

Gerard Conception

University of Philippines

I explore the current state of Southeast Asian Studies in the Philippines, focusing on the academic programs and contributions of six key universities: the University of the Philippines Asian Center (UP Asian Center), University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), Ateneo de Manila University (Ateneo Asian Center), De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas (UST), and Centro Escolar University (CEU). By surveying the academic degrees and institutional contributions, I aim to provide an overview of the evolving field of Southeast Asian Studies in the country. I further discuss the importance of area studies and the growing emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches, focusing on history, politics, economics, culture, and regional cooperation. Finally, I will argue that the study of Asian Studies and specifically Southeast Asian Studies in the Philippines is at a pivotal moment with new opportunities to grow through further research, educational outreach and cooperative relations throughout the region. I will provide an indication of ways that the development of this discipline can continue to be supported, allowing for a more comprehensive perspective of the region's impact and involvement in global affairs, as well as integrated within the scope of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Presenter

Gerard Conception holds Bachelor, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of the Philippines. From 2019 to 2020, he served as a Visiting Professor at Busan University of Foreign Studies in South Korea, teaching Filipino language and culture to Korean university students. He was recently honored with the 2025 ENITS Scholarship Award through the Empowering Network for International Thai Studies Program at Chulalongkorn University. He is a Professor and the Assistant Chairperson in the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature at the University of the Philippines.

Discussant

Hyungjong Kim is currently serving as a Professor in the Department of International Relations at Yonsei University Mirae Campus. He obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science from Malaya University in Malaysia and worked as a Senior Lecturer in the Southeast Asian Studies Department at the same university. He is currently serving as the Vice President of the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies. His research focuses on ASEAN and regionalism in East Asia. Some of his major research outputs include: "ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and Human Security," *East Asia Research*, 2022, "The Crisis in Myanmar and the Continuity and Change of ASEAN Norms," *Southeast Asian Studies*, 2020, "The Network of East Asian Think Tanks: Socializing China into an East Asian Community?" (*Asian Survey* 57:3, 2017) among others.

Southeast Asian Studies and the Regional Integration Project Amidst Great Power Rivalry

Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad

Universitas Indonesia

In the Bangkok Declaration (1967), “to promote Southeast Asian Studies” is explicitly mentioned as one of the seven “aims and purposes” of the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies. This implies the recognition of the political nature of knowledge production in area studies, including Southeast Asian studies, and its importance in the regional integration project. This article assesses ASEAN’s existing initiatives in promoting Southeast Asian studies, the development of the knowledge production in the field of Southeast Asian Studies inside and outside Southeast Asia, and locating them in the context of increasing Great Power rivalry. It offers an “insider reflection” on the state of Southeast Asian studies in ASEAN and potential ways forward.

Presenter

Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad, is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia. He also serves as the Executive Secretary of the University's ASEAN Study Center and the Manager of Research, Publication, and Community Engagement of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia.

His research interests are issues on the entanglements between multiple scales of governance: global, regional, national, and local. Shofwan looks at how local and national political economic dynamics continuously and mutually interact with the evolution in global and regional orders. His works have appeared in various academic and popular platforms, including Asia Europe Journal, Asian Perspective, Pacific Affairs, Contemporary Southeast Asia, Forest Policy and Economics, Asian Politics & Policy, Indonesia, Good Governance Africa, Global, Nikkei Asia, The Jakarta Post, Kompas, and Media Indonesia, among others. Apart from academic works, he also frequently assists policy makers in Indonesia and ASEAN to design better policies and strategies. Shofwan also hosts a podcast for Indonesian youth on Indonesian perspectives on international relations, Podcast Bebas Aktif..

Discussant

Dwi Ardhanariswari Sundrijo is a lecturer on transnationalism at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia. Her current research focuses on the transformation and localization of global norms, taking cases in Southeast Asia while pertaining to a particular interest in issues related to the role of non-state actors in the bottom-up regionalism in the region. Her book titled "Regionalizing Global Human Rights Norms in Southeast Asia" was published in 2021 by Palgrave Macmillan, and "Civil Society Participation in ASEAN Regionalism" was published in 2021 by Human Rights Working Group Indonesia. Her upcoming book on ASEAN and the Failures of Human Rights Protection in Southeast Asia is to be published by the end of this year

ASEAN Studies in Vietnam

Nguyen Vu Tung

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Vietnam joined ASEAN in 1995. The decision to join ASEAN was made in the contexts of the post-Cold War world and Vietnam's world view change. Accordingly, Vietnam was able to formalize and implement a new foreign policy that was less dependent on political ideology and more compatible with its national interests. Since the membership, ASEAN held an increasingly important place in Vietnam's foreign policy. Indeed, ASEAN became the prerequisite for Vietnam's most important foreign policy priorities including deepening bilateral relations with big and neighbouring countries, intensifying international integration, elevating multilateral diplomacy, and protecting territorial integrity. ASEAN, therefore, also became the prerequisite for the attainment of Vietnam's foreign policy goals including a peaceful and stable environment conducive for national security and development and international integration, an enhanced posture for diversification of external relations, and a new state identity.

The studies of ASEAN in Vietnam have been carried out against this background. Since early 1990s, the need to formalize an effective foreign policy required a good understanding of ASEAN history, ASEAN mode of regional organization, its role in inter-state relations in Southeast Asia, and in security architecture in Asia Pacific. Without such knowledge, Vietnam's foreign policy would miss an important founding bloc. Luckily, that was not the case. Since the admission to ASEAN in 1995, Vietnam became a more proactive member and its commitments to the ASEAN Community grew stronger. Hanoi's ASEAN policy rested on its recognition of benefits for the members and the ASEAN Way of regionalism with its strength and weakness.

In this presentation, I plan to share my personal observation (as a Vietnamese scholar and diplomat) on Southeast Asia research in Vietnam with the following points. Firstly, the ASEAN research is a recent endeavour and of largely policy-oriented nature. Secondly and related to that, ASEAN research has been closely linked to the field of International Relations and foreign policy. And lastly, although ASEAN studies have been promoted, there are some areas that can still be promoted, including (i) the introduction of other perspectives, approaches and methods in Sociology, Economics, History, or other disciplines in social sciences, (ii) the promotion of ASEAN as a field of study and teaching program in Vietnam's university to raise the awareness of ASEAN in Vietnam, and (iii) the promotion of closer cross-country and cross-region cooperation and collaboration in ASEAN research programs and teaching to reflect the need to build stronger ASEAN collective identity as a part of the ASEAN Community, and to be in line with the state of enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and its partner countries including the ROK.

To support these points, I would like to introduce (i) the major works of ASEAN studies in Vietnam, that are suggestive of (ii) the topics that have been prioritized in ASEAN studies, and (iii) the main entities and scholars that engaged in these research projects. The list of these works is not exhausted and can be added by other participants in this conference, especially my Vietnamese colleagues.

Presenter

Dr. Nguyen Vu Tung is currently a professor of international relations at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV). He was former DAV president (2016-2020) and Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (2020 – 2023). He received Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Columbia University in 2003. His latest international publications include *Flying Blind: Vietnam's Decision to Join ASEAN*, (2021), “Decoding Vietnam's Foreign Policy after the Thirteenth National Party Congress: Process, Continuity, and Adjustment,” (2022), and “Reflection on the 30th Anniversary of Vietnam’s Accession to ASEAN: Thoughts from Hanoi,” *Outlook of 2025 ASEAN and Related Summits: CSIS Special Edition*, (Jakarta, April 2025).

Discussant

Myo Oo is an experienced researcher and educator in Myanmar studies, Southeast Asian history, and the sociology of Southeast Asia. She received her degrees at Yangon University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and Hitotsubashi University. She previously served for ten years at Busan University of Foreign Studies (2011-2021) and later at Cambodia University of Technology until 2024. She is currently a Senior Researcher at Myanmar Future Forum and a Visiting Professor at the Korean Institute for ASEAN Studies. My research includes 13 published articles, nine in peer-reviewed journals in South Korea. I also serve as a journal reviewer and associate editor and actively mentor young Myanmar researchers.

Southeast Asian Studies in Timor-Leste

Mica Barreto Soares

Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e

Despite having been formally admitted into ASEAN as the 11th member state only in 2025, Timor-Leste's geographical location in Southeast Asia made this inclusion natural as a part of the region. Over the past two decades, there have been several initiatives through different higher learning institutions associated with Asian and Southeast Asian-related studies to raise the profile of Timor-Leste studies, as well as to create space for Timorese scholars' participation in knowledge sharing and knowledge production. These initiatives are predominantly led by international scholars from various disciplines such as anthropology, history, geography, social and political science. The growing number of studies about Timor-Leste have focused on topics related to the country's political development, post-conflict social and economic recovery, and its regional integration into ASEAN. The participation of Timorese scholars, however, remains underrepresented. There are still no institutions focusing on Asian and Southeast Asian-related studies in the country. The few existing homegrown research institutions have been driven mainly towards policy-oriented research related to Timor-Leste's development in general. This paper attempts to unpack the nature of Southeast Asian studies in Timor-Leste by exploring how and why Southeast Asian studies is still absent in the country's higher learning. The paper identifies several challenges and obstacles that hinder the development of Southeast Asian studies in Timor-Leste. Chief

among these include funding, research infrastructure and a language barrier. The paper then proposes a way forward on how to raise further the profile of Timor-Leste studies and improve Timorese scholars' participation in knowledge production in the region.

Keywords: Timor-Leste, Southeast Asian Studies, higher learning, knowledge production

Presenter

Laurentina 'mica' Barreto Soares teaches international politics at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences of the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL). Mica earned a PhD in 2021 at the Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. Her research focuses on China-Timor-Leste relations. She earned her Masters' degrees in Peace Studies from Notre Dame University in USA in 2003 and International Development Studies from Ohio University in USA in 2011. Since 2020 mica takes part as a member of the Organizing Committee for the Timor-Leste Studies Association (TLSA)'s biannual conference at UNTL and since 2023 as focal point for the UNTL-Association for Asian Studies (AAS) cooperation.

Discussant

Chhay Lim is the Designated Deputy Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the Institute of International Studies and Public Policy, Royal University of Phnom Penh. His research focuses on Cambodia's foreign policy, Southeast Asia's engagement with major powers, and the region's evolving strategic landscape. His research work was recognized with the "Best Paper Award in International Relations" at the 21st Asia Pacific Conference hosted by Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Ritsumeikan APU) in 2023, and his master's thesis received Ritsumeikan University's "Distinguished Master's Thesis Award." Chhay contributes analysis and commentary to regional and international platforms, including The Diplomat, ISEAS-Singapore, South China Morning Post, East Asia Forum, and the Lowy Institute's Interpreter.

Proceeding

Panel 2

Korea-ASEAN Studies: Cross-Regional Knowledge Production

Chair:

Yoon Hwan Shin (Sogang University)

Chair

Yoon Hwan Shin, After obtaining his Ph.D. from Yale University, USA, in 1989 with a study on the origin and formation of big business in Indonesia, I taught comparative politics, Southeast Asian politics, and political anthropology at Sogang University, Korea, for 31 years before my retirement in 2020. I served as the Director of the Institute for East Asian Studies (SIEAS) at the university for 15 years, from 2001 to 2018. I am the editor-in-chief of the journal TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia, published by Cambridge University Press. I am a founding member of the two most prominent associations for scholars specializing in Southeast Asian Studies in Korea: The Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS), having also served as president from 2015 to 2017, and The Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (KISEAS) as the chairman of the board of trustees from 2008 to 2011.

Diverging Paths, Shared Pressures: Comparing Social Policy Trajectories in Indonesia and South Korea

Tauchid Komara Yuda

Universitas Gadjah Mada

This presentation compares social policy developments in Indonesia and South Korea to explore how countries with different development trajectories and regime evolutions can learn from each other. Beyond descriptive contrast, the presentation situates both cases within the context of welfare regime transformation. Korea illustrates welfare expansion through state-led industrialisation, infrastructure capacity building, and post-authoritarian social coordination, while Indonesia demonstrates welfare development amidst informality, fiscal constraints, and fragmented political incentives. Despite their different trajectories, the comparative analysis highlights shared social risks—labour market insecurity, inequality, and demographic change—but differing institutional responses shaped by state capacity and political coalitions. The Korean experience highlights the importance of long-term administrative capacity, expanded social insurance, and early preparation for demographic ageing. In contrast, Indonesia offers lessons on safeguarding against informality, fiscal constraints, and decentralised social policy.

Presenter

Tauchid Komara Yuda is an Associate Professor at the Department of Social Development and Welfare, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, and an executive board member at the East Asian Social Policy (EASP) Research Network. He is also a Fellow of the Consortium of Social Change, Well-being and Policy Studies, co-launched by the Institute of Policy Studies at Lingnan University and the Centre for Public Policy at The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. His areas of research expertise are international in scope, focusing on the analysis of social policy changes, the political economy of the welfare state, and transformations in social governance in developing countries.

Discussant

Dian Novikrisna received her degree in Bachelor of Social Science from the Department of International Relations, University of Indonesia, in 2011. Upon graduation, Dian worked as a teaching and research assistant at the Department until 2013. In 2015, Dian concluded her graduate study in International Studies (International Cooperation) at Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University. She was a fellow recipient of KOGAS (Korea Gas Corporation) Global Fellowship from 2013 to 2015 during her study at Seoul National University. Before joining Bina Nusantara University as faculty member in 2020, she worked as faculty member at one of the private universities in Jakarta, teaching several courses related to International Relations, such as International Organizations, Global Governance, Contemporary World Order, and Diplomacy & Negotiation. Dian specializes in theories of international relations, Korean peninsula, and foreign policy. Currently, she serves as Deputy Head at the Department of International Relations, BINUS University.

Connecting SEA and Korea through Urban Ontologies

Sirima Thongsawang

Chulalongkorn University

Since the 1990s, concepts of sustainable smart cities (SC) have emerged in which advanced technologies and comprehensive services are designed to improve urban livelihoods and life quality. Digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI) are ubiquitous in advanced metropolitan centers where technology is skillfully used for spatial governance, private workforce management, manual labor, and administration time reduction. To respond to these challenges, especially in the workforce and labor market sectors, municipal governments and relevant stakeholders support citizens who lack required expertise through reskilling and upskilling as potential solutions for urban sustainability. Amidst socioeconomic disruption, reskilling and upskilling under a lifelong learning approach may be a potential solution for SC living. City governments have launched such programs, but training participation in Asia remains limited.

Presenter

Sirima Thongsawang, is an associate professor in the department of sociology and anthropology, faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University. Her research interests include migration, inequality, development and Southeast Asian Studies. She has written about Sociospatial relations through development projects of Thailand's EEC and China's BRI (2024), Thai Habitus and Inequality (2025), and The Sociopolitical Manifestation of Built Environment in Thailand (2025). The ongoing project, Migrating Thai Cuisines in Brunei (2025-2026), examines foodscapes through policies and (un) anticipated outcomes. The project Diversifying Ontologies of Smart Cities through Reskilling in Asia is currently planned to start toward the end of 2026.

Discussant

Dr. Chanamas Phengsomboon received her master's and doctoral degrees in Korean Studies, with concentration in Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language, from the Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea. She is currently a full-time lecturer in Korean language at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and serves as the Head of the Korean Language Education Research Center in Thailand (KLERC).

Understanding Continuity and Change in Korea-ASEAN Diplomatic Relations: Research Trends From the Past Decade

Geetha Govindasamy

University of Malaya

The main objective of this presentation is to examine scholarly works on continuity and change in Korea-ASEAN diplomatic relations amid geopolitical uncertainties over the past decade. To understand the evolution of this research, it is necessary to situate it within the historical development of Korea-ASEAN relations. Over the years, Korea-ASEAN relations progressed from limited engagement to strategic and, subsequently, comprehensive partnership. Initially designated as a sectoral dialogue partner in 1989, Korea was upgraded to full dialogue partner status in 1991. The Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998 marked a turning point, as Korea's participation in the ASEAN Plus Three framework intensified institutionalized cooperation. This momentum culminated in the late 2000s with the conclusion of an ASEAN-Korea free trade agreement and the formalization of a strategic partnership. ASEAN's importance increased markedly with the launch of the New Southern Policy (NSP) under the Moon Jae-in administration. The shift from the NSP (2017-2022) to the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI, 2022-2024) transformed bilateral engagement from a primarily economic focus to Yoon Suk Yeol's strategic emphasis on deeper geopolitical alignment with ASEAN. The establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2024 marked an intentional deepening of bilateral ties, signaling both sides' commitment to coordinated action and resilience amid escalating regional geopolitical and economic uncertainties. Drawing on the

preceding developments, this presentation assesses how shifts in the trajectory of Korea–ASEAN relations conditions, scholarly outputs and thematic priorities in the study of diplomatic ties. In particular, the presentation focuses on understanding research shifts in the bilateral relationship—such as transitions from economic-focused engagement to strategic-security priorities, the impact of middle power interactions, maritime security considerations and so on. Using scholarly databases such as Scopus and Web of Science, as well as research outputs by several prominent think tanks in Korea and ASEAN, the study investigated patterns of knowledge production using thematic focus areas. This approach made it possible to trace the evolution of core issues over the past decade and to examine the reciprocal relationship between knowledge production and Korea–ASEAN diplomatic initiatives. The study also elucidates how the scholarly community interprets the significance of core issues adopted in Korea–ASEAN diplomatic relations. The findings suggest that, over the past decade, the literature has undergone a clear reorientation toward assessing the New Southern Policy (NSP), the Korea–ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI), and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) as overarching strategic frameworks, with analytical focus shifting from bilateral economic engagement to broader regional, strategic, and security concerns. Correspondingly, research on Korea–ASEAN relations has increasingly been situated within the wider Indo-Pacific strategic context. More recently, scholarship has also diversified into non-traditional security issues, digital transformation, and cultural diplomacy. In other words, it demonstrates that different stages in the evolution of bilateral relations have generated distinct thematic emphases in academic research.

Presenter

Geetha Govindasamy, Dr. Geetha Govindasamy holds a PhD from Monash University, Australia. She is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia. An expert in East Asian international relations, her teaching and publications focus primarily on Korean affairs. She is actively involved in the Malaysia Scholars on Korea (MASK) network, which facilitates dialogue among scholars, policymakers, and think-tanks on Malaysia–South Korea relations. Her most recent book chapter, titled “ASEAN’s Role in the Denuclearization Process on the Korean Peninsula: Some Recommendations,” appears in *ASEAN Community: Challenges to Integrating the Region*, edited by Ravichandran Moorthy, to be published by Lexington Books in 2026.

Discussant

Bo kyeung Gu is a Research Professor at the Korea Institute for ASEAN Studies and the Department of International Development Cooperation at Busan University of Foreign Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in International Studies from Pusan National University. Her primary research interests include regional development, disasters and local knowledge, and subregional development cooperation, with a particular focus on Indonesia and ASEAN. Her recent research has centered on development assistance for Indonesia and ASEAN's subregional cooperation initiatives, as well as the empowerment of Indigenous women in Indonesia's new capital relocation (IKN) area. Her recent publications include "International Cooperation Trends for Indonesia as an Emerging Provider: Theoretical Insights on Triangular Cooperation and the Republic of Korea's Challenges," "Digital Solutions for Cultural Heritage Protection: Korea's ODA Contributions to the BIMP-EAGA"

Balikbayan: Studies on Filipino Migration to Korea

Inero Ancho

University of the Philippines

“Balikbayan” as a concept refers to Filipino (or former) who returns to the Philippines after being overseas for a long period of time. Balikbayan is at the core of the Philippine diaspora experience encompassing the migration landscape. Various social and cultural practices are attached to Filipinos leaving the Philippines, making migration a complex and interesting focus of study. This presentation maps contemporary studies on Filipino migration to Korea. It synthesizes data-informed directions on Korea-bound migration of Filipinos being a relatively recent but emerging point of inquiry. While studies on migration primarily cover traditional destinations such as the US and the Middle East, the dawn of the 21st century has seen increased migration interest and attention to Korea. A report from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas showed around 10 Filipino emigrants per year from 1981 – 1995, while an increasing trend was observed from 1996 to 2013. In 2025, Filipino married migrants totaled around 15,500 across the Korean peninsula. Prominent migration studies conducted involved Filipino women married to Koreans: their multicultural life, language learning, including policies and government programs. Research on multicultural families intersects with

issues on gender, family life, and children's education, welfare, and well-being. Korea has been host to Filipino laborers since the 1990s through the Trainee Scheme under the Alien Industrial Technology Training Program (AITTP) and later transitioned to the Employment Permit System (EPS) in the mid-2000s. Overseas Filipino workers are employed in Korea's small and medium enterprises as they occupy jobs that are difficult, dangerous and dirty; thus, research in this domain covers family dynamics and those left behind, workers' welfare, labor migration patterns, overseas remittance, and others. The internationalization of education and cultural exchanges have contributed to the increase in the number of Filipino students in Korea. Studies on Filipino migration to Korea for educational purposes investigate scholarship opportunities, quality of education / training received, and government policies on education. Related examination also includes cultural differences, Korean language learning, school life experiences, and employability. Studies on Filipino migration to Korea are central in understanding the experiences of Filipinos overseas, as these go beyond the emotion, social, and cultural dynamics of the totality of the Filipino diaspora landscape. Balikbayan as a concept encapsulates revisiting and strengthening one's roots and connection to the Philippines. Balikbayan is an ever-present concept in the Filipino migration milieu – from departure to return, from leaving to homecoming.

Presenter

Inero Ancho, is an Associate Professor 7 and currently serves as the Chairperson of the Department of Human and Family Development Studies within the College of Human Ecology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. His academic training includes a Master of Arts (2010) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (2015), both earned from Jeonbuk National University in South Korea. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of the Philippines Diliman, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philippine Studies (2007). He participated in a student exchange program at Hannam University in South Korea (2005), during which he specialized in Korean Studies. His research interests encompass Philippine Studies, Korean Studies, organizational behavior, transformative leadership, and the dynamics of multicultural families

Discussant

Chahue Yansansay I am working at faculty of economics and tourism, Souphanouvong University, Laos. I also worked for Korean cooperation center at my university for 3 years (2007-2009) after that in 2009 I got Korean government scholarship to studied at Woosong university, Korea. In 2015, I got Chinese government scholarship to studied PH.D in Kunming university of science and technology then I came back to work at Souphanouvong university. During my 4 years in Korea and 5 years in China, I had met many local and southeast Asian friends, some time we share education, culture and information together.

Proceeding

Panel 3

Educating Southeast Asia—Programs, Pedagogies, and Partnerships

Chair:

Fitri Meutia (Universitas Nasional)

Chair

Fitri Meutia is a Korean Language Professor at Universitas Nasional Jakarta, Indonesia. She holds a Master's degree and a PhD in Korean Language Education from Kyung Hee University, South Korea. Her academic expertise includes Korean phonology, pronunciation acquisition by Indonesian learners, Korean language pedagogy, and translation and interpretation studies. She has extensive professional experience as a lecturer, translator, and interpreter in academic, governmental, and corporate settings, including embassies, multinational companies, and King Sejong Institutes. She has published research articles in national and international journals and actively serves as a reviewer and assessor for academic publications.

Strengthening And Enriching Area Studies In Malaysia Through Southeast Asian Studies

Hanafi Bin Hussan

University of Malaya

Area studies in Malaysia are crucial for fostering a deep, interdisciplinary understanding of Southeast Asian and broader Asia-Pacific societies, cultures, and politics. They enable informed policymaking, economic development, and academic research, while helping Malaysia navigate complex regional dynamics, maintain its cultural identity, and strengthen its geopolitical positioning within the evolving globalisation. Area studies, particularly Southeast Asian studies, provide a comprehensive, multi-faceted understanding of the region's socio-cultural and political-economic fabric. Area studies help Malaysia better interpret regional and international affairs and align with national agendas and interests. It serves as a tool for understanding complex geopolitical issues in the Asia Pacific, particularly Southeast Asia. Area studies, including Southeast Asia, allow for in-depth knowledge of local, regional, and international cultural differences and nuances. They have become a platform for research, producing valuable input for policymakers, as seen in the focus on regional security, economics, and diplomacy within the context of regional cooperation, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Through area studies, an increasing focus on

cultivating national expertise, including the creation of research networks such as the ASEAN Regional and Country Studies Alliance. Therefore, Southeast Asian Studies serve to bridge the gap between academic theory and practical, real-world application, which is essential for Malaysia's active role in the region. Southeast Asian Studies in Malaysia is essential for fostering a deeper understanding of the region's complex political, economic, and cultural dynamics and for facilitating regional integration within ASEAN. It meets the need for specialised knowledge to navigate shifting geopolitical power, capitalise on economic opportunities, and address shared regional challenges through "thinking locally, expanding globally". There are reasons for the necessity of Southeast Asian Studies in Malaysia, and it has grown in Malaysian universities, promoting multidisciplinary research that combines social sciences and humanities. The focus includes strategic regional understanding and addressing regional challenges, the development of local perspectives, economic and cultural development, and academic and professional growth. The discipline is growing and crucial within the region, providing a solid foundation for research that helps define Southeast Asian identities, as experts discuss. This paper will discuss the importance of educating in Southeast Asian Studies in Malaysia, primarily through multidisciplinary academic programs, research initiatives, and publications focusing on regional politics, economy, culture, and security. This academic focus helps train professionals understand the region's diverse, interconnected nature. Pedagogies in Southeast Asian Studies have also evolved from country-specific colonial lenses to

multidisciplinary, student-centred frameworks that emphasise regional integration and sustainable development, which will also be discussed. This paper will also discuss how partnerships could strengthen and enrich Southeast Asian Studies in Malaysia, a crucial endeavour, by focusing on interdisciplinary academic, research, and strategic collaborations to advance regional understanding and address regional challenges while navigating complex, long-term, and equitable relationships between academic and professional institutions.

Presenter

Hanafi Bin Hussan, is an Honorary Professor at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya. His current focus is on Southeast Asian anthropology, particularly ritual and performing arts. He actively researches and publishes on the rituals and identity of the Kadazandusun community of Sabah, particularly in Penampang and Tuaran, Sabah, and the Sama-Bajau and Bajau Laut/Sama Dilaut of the east coast of Borneo and the Southern Philippines. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts (2022-2024) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (2016-2018). He also served as Head of the Maritime Social Sciences and Humanities Unit at the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES) and as Head of the Universiti Malaya Malaysian Population and Migration Research Centre (UMMPRC). He served as a Visiting Professor at various universities, including Thammasat University (2021), Universitas Indonesia (2020-2021), Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2020), and Huazhong Agricultural University (2024-2025). Currently, he serves as Malaysia's expert for the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (IGC ICH), 2022-2026.

Discussant

Tae-Sik Kim. His research focuses on urban transformations in the context of human and cultural mobilities, as well as transnational public engagement. His recent work has been published in journals such as the *International Journal of Multilingualism*, *Geoforum*, and *Space & Culture*. As the lead of the research platform 'Transnational Interactions: East Asia and Southeast Asia' at Monash, he has fostered collaborative research initiatives with Korean institutions. He also co-founded 'TransCurrentAsia', a public diplomacy forum developed in collaboration with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Waseda University

Kepulauan / Kapuluan: The Philippines in the Malay World

Ramon Guerrero Guillermo

University of the Philippines

The paper will take a more experiential and autobiographical approach. The presenter will share how, as a student, he developed an interest in Southeast Asian studies, and more particularly, in Philippine-Indonesian-Malaysian historical and cultural relations. This interest took root within a Philippine academic milieu which, though small, was influential in continuing to nurture Pan-Malayan ideas among some students and professors at the University of the Philippines Diliman. He will talk about his mentors in the field as well share his own contributions as a mentor, in turn, to the next generation of Filipino Southeast Asianists.

Presenter

Ramon Guerrero Guillermo, is Director of the Center for International Studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman. He has taught for many years and served as coordinator for introductory courses on Southeast Asia at his institute. Some of his published research and translational projects have looked into the historical and cultural relations as well as comparative perspectives between the Philippines and Indonesia as well as the broader Malay World. The Indonesian thinkers, Pramoedya Ananta Toer and Tan Malaka, have significantly influenced his work.

Discussant

Lorena Jean D. Saludadez is an Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) and Program Chair of the ASEAN Studies Graduate Program under the Faculty of Management and Development Studies. Her teaching and scholarly work focus on the comparative study of ASEAN Member States, examining political, economic, historical, cultural, and environmental contexts to better understand regional identity and intra-ASEAN dynamics. She also serves as Assistant to the Chancellor for UP VINTA–International University Social.

Teaching SEA in Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities in Strengthening Southeast Asian Studies

I Ketut Ardhana

Universitas Udayana

Until now, teaching Southeast Asian history seems to be viewed more dominantly from a political perspective than from a socio-cultural and economic perspectives. This is a key issue that should be examined in order to have a better understanding regarding Southeast Asia Studies comprehensively and comparatively through curriculum planning, teaching systems. This aim of this paper is to elaborate some significant aspects that can be utilized to improve the quality of Southeast Asian Studies in Indonesia in particular, and in Southeast Asia regions in general. There are several significant issues related to how to formulate a suitable curriculum in schools and various possibilities for implementing teaching systems and partnerships in relation to strengthening community and cultural relations, and in this case about the border studies in Southeast Asia, since the border regions are now not seen as the “backyard but the front yard in each country in Southeast Asia, for instance between the regions between Indonesia and Malaysia as a case study. By examining the border case between Malaysia and Indonesia, it can said

that the aim of this study is firstly, as borderland study, it examines the various links that people join living in two different sovereign nations divided by a political border.

Secondly, the study will analyze the role of local actors, institutions, and interests in a borderland environment where ethnicity and kinship continue to be important. Research methodology: an ethnographic approach was used, supplemented by questionnaires, archival, literary research and field research. Therefore, it is significant to examine the available texts not only in the context of tangible, but also intangible culture. The research method used is a historical method through archival research and literature available in the National Archives Building and national and international journal publications. To discuss these significant issues, attention will be focused generally on three aspects as follows. Firstly, how can societies and countries in Southeast Asia interpret long-standing socio-cultural relations as social and cultural capital in its modern life? Secondly, how should the process based on historical sources of relations that occur in relation to texts and contexts, especially their role as social resilience in the dynamics of a dynamic society in Southeast Asia?

Thirdly, what kind of meanings that can be understood in relation to the development of Southeast Asian society and culture in relation to the view that sees Southeast Asia as one social unit towards a dynamic, harmonious, and sustainable development at the present time and the future. It is expected that we will have a better understanding about the social culture, economic and political aspect in the region of Malaysia and Indonesia in particular, and in Southeast Asia in general, not only at this time, but also in the future.

Presenter

Prof. Dr. Phil. I Ketut Ardhana, M.A., is a professor of Asian history at Udayana University, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. He studied History at the Faculty of Humanities, Udayana University from 1980 to 1982 and joined the History Department, Faculty of Literature and Culture, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, in 1983 and graduated in 1985. He completed his Master of Arts in Asian Studies at the Southeast Asian Center, Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, Australia in 1994. He received his Ph. D. or Dr. Phil. (Doctor of Philosophie) at the Southeast Asian Studies Program Faculty of Philosophy- Passau University in Germany with Magna Cum Laude honors in 2000.

Discussant

Nurul Isnaeni, is a distinguished Indonesian scholar and academic leader currently serving as the Vice Dean of Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia (FISIP UI). With a tenure spanning 2021 to 2025, she plays a pivotal role in steering the academic direction of one of the nation's most prestigious institutions. Her academic expertise is centered on the complex intersections of Diplomacy, Environmental Politics, and Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on how multi-stakeholder partnerships can address contemporary ecological challenges.

Her extensive research portfolio reflects a deep commitment to understanding the dynamics of global and local governance. Dr. Isnaeni has published significant works on paradiplomacy and environmental security, including influential studies on Greenpeace's advocacy regarding coal financing and the centrality of government roles in sustainable tourism within regions like Wakatobi. Her scholarship also extends to international trade diplomacy, notably analyzing Indonesia's timber trade relations and FLEGT licensing with the European Union. Through her leadership and research, she continues to bridge the gap between theoretical international relations and practical environmental sustainability.

Teaching Southeast Asia in Korea: How much Korea should it be? The View from SNU ALC

Jiwon Suh

Seoul National University

Does teaching Southeast Asia to Korean students require a different approach from teaching Southeast Asia to Southeast Asians? Many young Southeast Asianists in Korea are attempting to find a niche in the global scholarly community or to respond to policy needs of the Korean government by studying connectivity between Southeast Asia and Korea. Does this “pouring Korea onto Korean Southeast Asian studies” affect the pedagogy? How much self-reflection on ourselves as Koreans should educators practice or encourage? Based on my particular experience as an instructor of Southeast Asian studies in the humanities-based program, I will explore the question of “how much Korea should educating Southeast Asia in Korea involve.” Southeast Asia major in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, College of Humanities, Seoul National University has been offering undergraduate (and M.A.) degrees for more than a decade. The Southeast Asia major program provides basic to intermediate education of three Southeast Asian languages – Malay-Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Thai – and theme-based classes on Southeast Asia – history, literature, diaspora, society and culture, politics, etc. Aside from problems of balancing country-based studies in the eleven-country region and attracting students to language

classes in the age of AI, I am faced with the “Korea question” as discussed above. Most students start from biases they have as Koreans educated in Korea or Korean schools overseas, while the goal of education should be increasing their capacity of understanding civilizational achievement of Southeast Asian societies and interpreting contemporary problems of Southeast Asia from the local perspective. But if Korean biases are problematic, how about biases that exist in the textbooks written by European, American and Japanese scholars? Is official nationalism of each Southeast Asian country preferable to foreign imposition of their view, and is it possible to combine the official views into a coherent whole? What is the best way of acknowledging the diversity within Southeast Asian and Korean societies? Last but not least,

how is it possible to discuss Korean biases among Koreans, not involving Southeast Asian educators and fellow students? In my view, exploring the question of “how much Korea in Korean Southeast Asia education” should involve not only themes, approaches and textbook selection in undergraduate classes – discussion of human connectivity between South Korea and Southeast Asian classrooms and also of expanding education beyond university classrooms is necessary to answer this “Korea question.”

Presenter

Jiwon Suh, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at Seoul National University, where she teaches Southeast Asian politics, society, and culture. Her research focuses on Indonesia and Southeast Asia, addressing topics such as transitional justice, the politics of memory, religion and politics, and Asian regional order. Her recent publications include “Mass Violence and Collective Memory in a Comparative-Historical Perspective” (2025, in Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics) and “Showcasing Morality in the Diaspora: Indonesian Muslim Female Vloggers in South Korea” (2025, in *Indonesia and the Malay World*).

Discussant

Kihong Mun is an Assistant Professor at Pukyong National University (PKNU) in Busan, South Korea. He received his PhD from the University of Sydney as a recipient of the Korean Government Scholarship Program (NIIED). His research focuses on Southeast Asia, particularly Myanmar's political economy, borderland dynamics, memory politics, and international development cooperation. He is actively engaged in field-based and policy-oriented research across Southeast Asia and the Thailand–Myanmar border, working with academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners. His recent work examines authoritarian resilience, ethnic memory, diaspora politics, and the intersections of development, security, and humanitarian governance.

Proceeding

Panel 4

Contemporary Issues in ASEAN-Korea Relations: Challenges and Future Directions

Chair:

Jae-hyon Lee (Asan Institute for Policy Studies)

Chair

Jae-hyon Lee is a principal fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. He is also a member of the advisory group for the Ministry of National Defense and for Korean Coast Guard and was a member of advisory groups for the Presidential Committee for New Southern Policy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr Lee's research focuses on ASEAN, Southeast Asian politics and regionalism. He is also interested in the superpower competition in the Indo-Pacific region. Dr Lee received a B.A. and M.A. from Yonsei University and his PhD in politics from Murdoch University, Australia.

Engaging with the Unevenly Integrated ASEAN : Assessing the ROK-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Min Joung Park

Korea National Diplomatic Academy

This study examines the Republic of Korea' (ROK) engagement with ASEAN under the Lee Jaemyung

administration, inaugurated in June 2025, and assesses how ROK's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) vision has been recalibrated in response to ASEAN's uneven regional integration. Although the CSP was formally established in 2024, the new government has used the leadership transition as an opportunity to articulate a renewed CSP vision that reflects both continuity in ROK's diplomatic emphasis on Southeast Asia and a more explicitly pragmatic foreign policy approach under the Lee administration.

The renewed CSP vision articulates a community-specific approach across ASEAN's three communities. In the socio-cultural domain, the ROK positions itself as a "Contributor," supporting ASEAN's aspirations for resilient, people-centered community-building. In the economic domain, the ROK is framed as a "Springboard" for growth and innovation, emphasizing trade and investment. In the political-security domain, the ROK defines its role as a "Partner" for peace and stability, with a particular focus on non-traditional security cooperation.

This paper argues that this recalibrated CSP vision reflects a realistic assessment of both the possibilities and limitations of ASEAN as a regional platform. While ASEAN continues to demonstrate strong convening power as the platform for regional multilateral cooperation, its capacity for conflict resolution in the political-security domain remains fundamentally constrained. Limited progress on the South China Sea and Myanmar crises, as well as the Thailand-Cambodia border clashes, has exposed clear limitations in ASEAN's conflict management mechanisms and collective leadership.

By contrast, more tangible progress has been observed in the economic and geo-economic domains, supported by institutional advances in trade agreements and expanding cooperation related to economic security. In the socio-cultural domain, regional integration has also advanced through cooperation on transnational crime, environmental protection, labor mobility, higher education, and digital governance. These developments suggest that ASEAN's functional effectiveness has been more readily sustained in policy areas marked by lower political sensitivity and higher consensus potential.

Against this backdrop, the ROK's CSP vision has been calibrated to engage with ASEAN primarily through functional and facilitative forms of cooperation, while seeking to consolidate its role as a reliable middle power by emphasizing the absence of a colonial legacy, avoiding overt political or ideological conditionality, and aligning closely with ASEAN's preference for strategic autonomy amid intensifying major-power rivalry. The paper concludes that the CSP under the Lee administration is best understood as a pragmatic recalibration designed to generate tangible outcomes within the structural realities of the unevenly integrated ASEAN.

Keywords: ASEAN; Republic of Korea (ROK); ASEAN-ROK relations; Middle power diplomacy

Presenter

Min Joung Park, is a Research Professor at the Center for ASEAN-India Studies at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). Prior to joining KNDA, Dr. Park served as a Policy Specialist for development cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and as a Programme Manager of the ASEAN-ROK Programme Management Team (AKPMT) at the ASEAN Secretariat. She has also provided policy advice on the Korea's engagement with ASEAN member states to a range of government bodies, including the Office for Government Policy Coordination at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, the Korea Eximbank, and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). She received her M.Sc. in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Ph.D. in International Studies from Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

Discussant

Ratih Indraswari is an assistant professor under the International Relations Department at Parahyangan University in Bandung, Indonesia. Her specialty is in regionalism, Korea-ASEAN, and public diplomacy study. She received her doctoral degree from Ewha Womans University in Political Science and International Relations supported by the HEAT (Higher Education ASEAN Talents) scholarship and holds a master's degree in International Relations and International Organizations from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands. Currently she is an executive member of the Asia Political and International Studies Association (APISA) and served on the executive board of the Council of ASEAN Professors in Korea (CAPK).

Challenges In Realizing The Korea-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)

Bui Hai Dang

University of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU-HCM

My presentation is to analyze the challenges in realizing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between ASEAN and Korea (ROK) across political-security, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions, focusing on developments since the partnership was upgraded (formally agreed upon in 2022) and particularly in the post-2023 context. I believe strategic alignment is a central concern: ASEAN and Korea must reconcile their regional strategic visions, ensuring that Seoul's Indo-Pacific initiatives complement ASEAN principles (e.g., the ASEAN Vision on the Indo-Pacific) and reaffirming that ASEAN remains a top priority. Continuity and consistency in policy are also key challenges, as changes in administration have raised concerns about sustained commitment to ASEAN, thus maintaining focus and momentum across political cycles is essential. Continuity in policy implementation is key, and mechanisms such as multi-year Action Plans serve as crucial tools to ensure sustainable cooperation regardless of leadership changes. In the economic sphere, cross-border partnerships (CSPs) need to move beyond existing trade relations towards an upgraded, forward-looking partnership. ASEAN is already South Korea's second-largest trading partner, but quantitative growth alone is insufficient; both sides aim to

“promote truly meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial cooperation,” requiring advances in the digital economy, innovation, and sustainable development. Negotiations to upgrade the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement and new initiatives in technology and infrastructure are seen as opportunities to modernize and deepen economic relations. Meanwhile, building a people-centered partnership remains an ongoing challenge. Socio-cultural engagement has lagged behind economic cooperation, and expanded people-to-people exchanges and public participation are necessary for the CSP to be firmly built on a foundation of mutual understanding at the grassroots level. A sustainable partnership ultimately depends on expanding such reciprocal exchanges and fostering a shared sense of community. Therefore, both sides have emphasized people-centered initiatives, from educational scholarships to cultural programs, to cultivate a sustainable relationship. Finally, I believe that enforcement mechanisms to translate commitments into action are crucial.

The newly developed ASEAN-Korea Action Plan (2026-2030) aims to realize the goals of the Korea-ASEAN CSP, emphasizing the need for effective coordination, adequate resources, and regular monitoring to ensure the achievement of agreed objectives (in areas such as connectivity, security, and sustainability). Realizing the full potential of the Korea-ASEAN CSP will require sustainable strategic alignment, unwavering policy commitment, economic upgrading through innovation, genuine people-centered engagement, and robust institutional mechanisms to promote implementation, thereby making the partnership “meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial”

Presenter

Bui Hai Dang, has been a senior lecturer at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City (VNUHCM-USSH) since 2002, currently teaching at the Faculty of International Relations and working as the Director of the Center for Korean Studies. Hai Dang's research interests focus on theories of regional integration and regionalism, the politics of regionalism, identity politics; and international relations in Europe and Indo-Pacific region.

Discussant

Nguyen Phu Tan Huong is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of International Politics and Diplomacy (FIPAD), Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV). After receiving a Master from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in 2007, she earned a PhD in International Relations from the DAV in 2017. Her research focuses on ASEAN Studies and was published in different magazines. Dr. Nguyen was the Vice Dean of FIPAD from 2011-2020 and the First Secretary at the Vietnam Embassy in the Republic of Türkiye from 2020-2023. She was a Research Fellow at the Korean National Diplomatic Academy, the Republic of Korea in 2025.

ASEAN and the ROK: Navigating the Realities of Middle Power Diplomacy

Sarah Teo

Nanyang Technological University

This presentation assesses the ROK's engagement with ASEAN as a case of middle power diplomacy, highlighting the coexistence of expanding institutional activism and enduring structural constraints. While Seoul has significantly enhanced its presence in Southeast Asia over the past decade, its efforts reveal both the opportunities and challenges faced by middle powers seeking influence in a region increasingly shaped by great power rivalry and regional order transition. To some extent, the ROK has positioned itself as a networked and norm-sensitive partner for ASEAN. It has embedded itself within ASEAN-led multilateral mechanisms, consistently endorsed ASEAN centrality, and aligned its Indo-Pacific discourse with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

Through development cooperation, digital connectivity initiatives, and people-to-people exchanges, the ROK has cultivated an image as a constructive, non-threatening, and reliable partner. These practices reflect classic middle power strategies: institutional activism, coalition-building, and niche norm entrepreneurship. The ROK's approach has generated diplomatic goodwill and allowed it to exercise a subtle but meaningful influence within ASEAN's dense institutional environment.

At the same time, there remain gaps that constrain the ROK's ability to translate presence into broader strategic impact where ASEAN is concerned. First is a strategic coherence gap. The ROK's regional vision, while broad and functional, lacks a clearly articulated long-term order-building narrative. ASEAN features prominently in official rhetoric, yet ultimately remains secondary to peninsula security and alliance management in the ROK's core strategic calculations. On ASEAN's part, the grouping is also grappling with its own role and priorities within the evolving regional order, which can limit the alignment and effectiveness of the ROK's engagement.

Second is a gap in security engagement and agenda influence. Although the ROK participates actively in ASEAN-led forums, its contributions to regional security governance remain cautious and largely focused on capacity building. Concerns over China's reactions and overextension beyond the Korean Peninsula limit Seoul's willingness to assume visible leadership or pursue normative initiatives in sensitive areas. Similarly, ASEAN is also navigating its own constraints, including diverse priorities of the member states and institutional limitations, which can make it challenging to deepen cooperation with the ROK.

Third is a perception gap. Although views are gradually evolving, many ASEAN states continue to perceive the ROK primarily as an economic and technological partner rather than as a political-security stakeholder. This asymmetry arguably restricts the depth of strategic trust and limits the scope for cooperation on higher-order regional issues.

Theoretically, the presentation situates the ROK's experience within debates on middle powers operating in a fragmenting liberal international order. It suggests that the ROK exemplifies a form of constrained middle-power institutional diplomacy—engaging deeply with regional institutions and aligning with prevailing norms, yet limited by security challenges and a restricted capacity to shape the broader regional agenda. This tension between active institutional participation and restrained leadership provides broader insights into how some middle powers navigate regional dynamics under conditions of geopolitical uncertainty.

Presenter

Sarah Teo, is an Assistant Professor in the Regional Security Architecture Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS); Deputy Head, Graduate Studies; and, Coordinator of PhD Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research interests include multilateral security cooperation in ASEAN and the Asia Pacific, middle powers in the Asia Pacific, as well as power in international relations.

Discussant

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Beyond Hallyu: Digital Transnationalism and the Semiotics of Contemporary Digital Texts among Indonesian Youth

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In the contemporary era of ROK-ASEAN relations, the "text" has moved beyond traditional literature and cinema into the fluid, hyper-textual realm of social media. As Indonesia and South Korea strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), a parallel, bottom-up transformation is occurring within the digital linguistic landscape of Indonesian youth. This paper examines how contemporary digital texts—specifically Twitter threads, Instagram captions, and TikTok video narratives—serve as the primary media for a new form of digital transnationalism. It argues that these micro-texts are not merely informal communication but represent a new genre of contemporary literature that reflects the evolution of cultural exchange between the two nations.

Utilizing a qualitative approach rooted in digital semiotics and discourse analysis, this research deciphers the "grammar" of Indonesian fan engagement on digital platforms. The study focuses on how Indonesian youth deconstruct South Korean cultural symbols and reconstruct them through local linguistic lenses, creating a hybrid digital vernacular. On Twitter, the "thread" functions as a new narrative form where complex social issues—ranging from gender equality to labor rights in Korea—are debated and localized for an Indonesian audience. On Instagram and TikTok, the interplay between visual semiotics and bilingual captions (Indonesian-Korean-English) demonstrates a sophisticated level of code-switching that signals a deep-seated cultural integration.

The analysis reveals that these digital texts function as a "third space" where Indonesian youth exercise agency. This is most evident in "digital activism texts," where fan communities transform aesthetic appreciation into collective social action. By analyzing specific hashtags and viral digital campaigns, this paper illustrates how Indonesian youth use Korean cultural tropes to articulate their own social grievances and aspirations. These texts represent a shift from "Hallyu as a product" to "Hallyu as a language" for transnational solidarity.

Ultimately, this paper concludes that the sustainability of Indonesia-Korea relations in the digital age depends heavily on these informal, text-based interactions. While formal diplomatic discourse remains state-centric, the digital texts produced by youth on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok offer a more resilient and emotive foundation for long-term partnership. By recognizing these digital expressions as significant cultural artifacts, this research provides a fresh perspective on how the next generation of ASEAN and Korean citizens are co-writing their shared future, one post at a time.

Presenter

Eva Lathifah, is an accomplished academic and linguistic expert serving as a Lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia, a position she has held since 1999. She earned her Ph.D. in Korean Language and Literature from Kyung Hee University in 2012, complemented by a Master's in Translation from Universitas Indonesia and a Bachelor's in Arabic Language and Literature. Currently, she holds several high-level leadership roles, including Manager for Cooperation and Ventures at her faculty and President of the GKS Alumni Indonesia. Her extensive administrative background also includes serving as the Head of Magister East Asian Studies and previously leading the Korean Studies Program.

A recognized authority in Korean-Indonesian linguistics, Dr. Latifah serves as the GKS Publicity Envoy and is a member of the International Board of the International Association for Korean Language Education (IAKLE). Her expertise is frequently sought for national and international projects, such as supervising the Text Corpus Project of Korean-Indonesian Translation for the Korean Language National Institute and developing Korean language curriculum guides for the Indonesian Ministry of Education. Beyond academia, she is an active public intellectual who co-founds initiatives like "Drakorlogi" and contributes weekly essays on Korean culture, bridging the gap between scholarly research and public interest in the Korean Wave.

Discussant

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