



2021

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CENTER

“Traditionally, Thailand enjoys being in close contact and trading with other countries. Thailand has never closed her doors to the outside world but, on the contrary, has regularly maintained contact with neighbouring countries and maritime nations.”

H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakorn, *A Diplomatic History of Thailand*



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I wish to open my 2021 report with a message of congratulations to Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of the Advisory Board, on his appointment as the Secretary-General of the Thai Red Cross Society, a position of important responsibility and high prestige in Thai society. Congratulations go also to another member of the Advisory Board, Professor Dr. Kitti Prasirtsuk, on his appointment to a full professorship. Moreover, I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Busaya Mathelin, former Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Veerathai Santiprabhob, former Governor of the Bank of Thailand, whom the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appointed to the Advisory Board in 2021. But, regrettably, the ISC also lost a Board member, Ms. Chutima Boonyaprapatsorn, when she resigned in August. I wish to extend to her my profound appreciation for her involvement with the work of the ISC.

Following my 2020 Report, I am pleased to inform that the refurbishment of the ISC's headquarters, its official "home", is in progress. The new office should be ready for moving in by early 2022.

Unfortunately, the headlines in 2021 were still dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Thailand, the year started rather ominously with a serious outbreak of infections, which became wide-spread in the second and third

quarter. It forced the ISC, yet again, to rearrange or cancel some public events or to hold them virtually. So, as in 2020, the ISC focused on publications in 2021, and this proved to be very fruitful.

Following the publication in July 2020 of the "Collection of Study Papers (1988-1991)", which contained the reprints of previous ISC study papers together in a single volume, the ISC further published a 2-volume "Collection of Papers and Proceedings, 1987-1992" in July 2021. They contained the reprints of various papers presented at the seminars organized by the ISC as well as reports and summaries from those seminars, both in Thai and English. Proceedings from the two seminars held in 2020 were also printed as hard copies in 2021.

This year the ISC started to reprint rare short papers on the subject of Thai diplomacy. The first volume, *A Diplomatic History of Thailand* by H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakon, was reprinted to mark the 130th anniversary of his birth.

The book "Thai Diplomacy: in conversation with Tej Bunnag", which we had been working on since 2020, was finally published in October. The book takes the form of interview with Dr. Tej Bunnag over a period of several months and covers a wide-range of subjects on Thai diplomacy. However, it is not intended to be a



wholly academic book. It presents Dr. Tej's views and analyses of issues in Thai diplomacy, as well as personal stories and anecdotes from his long career and involvement in diplomacy and foreign affairs.

Another book published by the ISC in 2021 was Dr. Arun Panupong's classic tome on diplomacy and international affairs. The book, which is in Thai, is a collection of 14 lectures given at the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, in 1986. The ISC decided to reprint this rare volume to mark Dr. Arun's approaching centenary, and in recognition of his contribution to the ISC as its second Director. The book has an enduring impact on many former and current officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, many of whom said it was essential to their preparation for the Ministry's entrance examination! Regrettably, soon after the book was published and we received the copies from the printer, we learnt the sad news that Dr. Arun passed away on 28 October. He will be remembered always for his notable work at the ISC in the 1990s.

Moreover, four officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, current and retired, gave the ISC their permission to publish their doctoral theses as books in 2021. The books are: Thakur Phanit's "ASEAN's First Decade", published in August; Apichart Chinwanno's "The Quest for Thai-U.S. Alliance"; published in

November; Owart Suthiwartnarueput's "From Extraterritoriality to Equality: Thailand Foreign Relations, 1855-1939", and Salinee Phonprapai's "Battlefield to Marketplace: Responses to Thailand's Major Foreign Policy Change", both published in December.

Further volumes in the Study Paper series came out in September 2021. A paper by Associate Professor Supamit Pitipat of Chulalongkorn University, which is in Thai, titled "Environmental Diplomacy" came out in July. Dr. Thakur Phanit's paper, which is also in Thai, titled "ASEAN's Arduous Journey" was published in December. Moreover, due to high demand, we reprinted Associate Professor Dr. Sitthiphon Kruarattikan's paper "Thailand and the People's Republic of China: Volatile Politics and Troubles in the Early Years of Diplomatic Relations (1975-1978)" in July.

A study, in Thai, of Thailand's policy towards its maritime neighbours during the Cold War years, titled "Diplomacy Across the Seas: Learning Tools from Thai Foreign Policy Experience". also by Associate Professor Supamit was published in December.

The ISC's website, isc.mfa.go.th, has been developed further with different types of online publications. In addition to the Journal, which was started in 2020, the ISC began publishing opinion-based articles in English



in the column Points of View, and a Thai-language publication Vithes Paritas, in 2021. A short bi-weekly online Thai-language discussion programme of the same name, broadcast live through the ISC's Facebook Page, began in 2021 to disseminate foreign affairs issues to a wider audience and to stimulate interest in international affairs among the general public.

Amidst the pandemic and the necessity to curtail some events, the ISC managed to complete its flagship project for 2021, although after some considerable delay and format change, which was to produce the report and policy recommendations on "Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s." This is a decade of importance for Thai diplomacy and Thailand's role in international affairs. The decade opens with Thailand's hosting of APEC in 2022, and will close with Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2029. Furthermore, in the middle of the decade, in 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will mark the 150th anniversary of its foundation. Under the project, the ISC held 3 brainstorming sessions between March-July, two of which in webinar format, to survey the changed and changing international landscape, to identify how Thailand should adapt to the changing geo-political and geo-economic environment, and to recommend policies on various issues of concern and interest to Thailand. The draft report and recommendations

from these sessions were examined by a group of eminent persons and experts who offered useful comments and suggestions. The final report will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in January 2022.

On collaboration with other entities, the ISC joined with the East Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in hosting 2 closed meetings: the first of which was held on 4 March to discuss the impact of U.S.- China competition in technology; and the second one on 17 August to discuss the issues concerning the Mekong River in the 2020s. On 8 December, the ISC organized an on-site event with the ASEAN Association of Thailand to launch Ambassador Thakur's book, ASEAN's First Decade, followed by a seminar titled "ASEAN's Next Decade." This event was originally planned for early August to coincide with the ASEAN Day but had to be postponed. We also co-hosted an online event with United Nations Association of Thailand (UNAT) on 16 December, discussing Thailand's role in and its contribution to the UN system, to mark the 75th anniversary of Thailand admission as a member of the United Nations.

Externally, the ISC collaborated with the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to produce a report and policy recommendations on the Ministry of Foreign



Affairs' role in the field of Bio-Circular-Green economy (BCG), for which I would like to express my appreciations to Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, President of TDRI, and his team for engaging with the ISC on this important policy issue. The final report will be submitted in early 2022.

Although the unabating pandemic dashed any hope of visiting our counterpart institutions, especially in the region, in 2021, modern technology enabled us to keep in touch with them through webinars and online meetings. On 18 February, we had a session with Professor Simon Tay, Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), to discuss regional issues. On 12 March, a meeting with Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director-General, the Institute of Security Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), was held for the first time. On 21 July, in collaboration with the co-authors, Professors David M. Lampton, Selina Ho, and Cheng-Chwee Kuik, the ISC organized an online event to launch their book, *Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia*, for the Thai audience. The ISC was grateful to the authors for sparing their valuable time to present their findings and to discuss this very important issue for Southeast Asia. On 18 August, a meeting with Dr. Ufuk Ulutas, Chairman of the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Turkey, based in Ankara, was organized. On 23 September, a session was held with Dr. A. Sushentsov, Director, Institute for International Studies, and Dr. E. Kuldunova, Acting Director, ASEAN Centre, MGIMO University, Russian Federation. Many of these meetings were the results of suggestions by or the efforts of foreign embassies in Bangkok, as well as Thai embassies abroad. The ISC wishes to take this opportunity to thank them warmly. We welcome the opportunity to meet with colleagues from these institutions and look forward to further collaboration with them in the future.

Regarding the ISC Director's role as the Director and Coordinator of Global Center for Mekong Studies (GCMS) - Thailand Center, I wish to report its activities for the year 2021. The GCMS held the 7th and 8th Coordinators' Meeting online on 14 January and 29 September to discuss the draft 2020 joint research paper and the concept note for the 2021 joint research paper respectively. The 2020 joint research paper, titled "Promoting Synergy between the Mekong-Lancang Economic Development Belt and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor" was submitted to and endorsed by the 6th MLC Ministerial Meeting in Chongqing on 8 June 2021. Furthermore, on 27 September, we organized a consultative session of the GCMS - Thailand Center's



Advisory Committee to map out its possible future direction and activities. Then on 10 December, we participated in GCMS Think Tank Forum, again online. The last of GCMS's activities in 2021 was the 9th Coordinators' Meeting held on 17 December.

In conclusion, despite the continued disruption caused by the pandemic, I am pleased to report that we successfully carried out most of our planned activities, though many in a modified format. We will do our best to adapt to the "new normal" as we continue our work in 2022. As customary, I wish to take this

opportunity to express our appreciations to the Minister and all officials and staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Advisory Board, as well as our various external partners, for their support and cooperation which enabled the ISC to fulfil its mandate amidst very difficult circumstances in 2021. We hope that 2022 will bring brighter prospect.

Dr. Anuson Chinvanno

Director,

International Studies Center



**ABOUT
THE INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES CENTER**



The International Studies Center (ISC) aims to encourage the studies and analyses of relevant policies and issues in various aspects of diplomacy and international affairs, including foreign policy, international economics, international law, and international and regional organizations, as well as to create opportunities for policy and issue related discussion for the benefit of the formulation and conduct of diplomacy and foreign policy, while promoting public awareness and understanding of major foreign policy issues, through such activities as lectures, seminars, experts discussion, publications and broadcast.

The ISC was previously established in April 1987 by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila. Phan Wannamethee and Arun Panupong were the two Directors who actively ran the

International Studies Center in its early years, from 1987 to 1991 and from 1992 to 1999 respectively. However, after that period of much activity, the ISC became moribund as its functions were reassigned or redistributed to other units in the Ministry. With changing global and regional landscape and pressing international issues, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided in 2019 to revive the ISC to support the work of the Ministry and to serve as a link to wider foreign affairs community both in Thailand and abroad.

The ISC is currently set up as an affiliated unit of the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The Advisory Board provides advice on the overall policy and direction of the Center.



A square, two vertical lines and three horizontal dashes form the logo of the International Studies Center. The logo, which has been in use since 1988 was designed by Mr. Munin Paniswadi, a former diplomat whose last post was Consul - General in Osaka, Japan, from 2017 to 2018. According to Mr. Paniswadi, the logo's contemporary look was inspired by "the shape of flexible bamboo stems that, at times, are said to represent the characteristic of Thai foreign policy"



ADVISORY BOARD



Tej Bunnag
Chairman



Chutima Boonyaprapatsorn*
Advisor



Busaya Mathelin**
Advisor



Veerathai Santiprabhob**
Advisor



Vijavat Isarabhakdi
Advisor



Kitti Prasirtsuk
Advisor

* Until July 2021 ** From August 2021



STAFFS MEMBERS



Anuson Chinvanno
Director



Kanyarat Vejjajiva*
Fellow



Sirawadee Ngamwisedchaikul**
Senior Analyst



Arthit Prasartkul
Senior Analyst



Seksan Anantasirikiat
Researcher



Rapeepat Kongraksa
Administrative Assistant

* From August 2021 ** Until July 2021



**ACTIVITIES
IN 2021**

**14 January**

7th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting (online)

1 February

Meeting of the Advisory Board 1/2021

5 February

Visit by Dr. Pitchayaphant Charnbhumidol, Vice President and Director of Chinese-Thai Institute of Rangsit University

8 February

Visit by H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Thailand

Visit by Mr. Christoph Sutter, Head of Regional Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

18 February

Online meeting with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

1 March

Visit by H.E. Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa, Ambassador of the Mongolian People's Republic to Thailand

3 March

Visit by Mr. Thomas Parks, Country Representative, Thailand, Asia Foundation

4 March

Seminar on "Major Power Competition on Technology: Economic and International Security Implications for Thailand"

12 March

Online meeting with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

19 March

Director's visit to the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)



ACTIVITIES IN 2021

22 March

Seminar on “Changing World, Changing Thailand: Directions for Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s”

18 May

Online meeting with Mr. Stepan Golovin, Senior Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Russian Federation to Thailand

28 June

Webinar on “Thai Economy-World Economy: Economic Cooperation and Sustainable Development”

19 July

Webinar on “Thai Public Diplomacy in the Digital Era”

21 July

Book launch and discussion on “Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia”

17 August

Webinar on “The Mekong in the 2020s: A Game of Thrones?”

18 August

Online meeting with the Stratejik Arařtırmalar Merkezi (SAM) or the Center for Strategic Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey

23 September

Online meeting with the ASEAN Centre of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Russian Federation

27 September

Meeting of the Advisory Committee of GCMS Thailand Center

28 September

Online meeting with Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, President of TDRI



29 September

8th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting (online)

4 October

Meeting with Dr. Buntoon Srethasirote, Commissioner of Energy Regulatory Commission and President of Good Governance for Social Development and the Environment Institute (GSEI), and Ms. Theerada Suphaphong, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

8 October

Online meeting with Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute

29 November

Meeting of eminent persons and experts to discuss policy recommendations on "Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s"

8 December

Book launch of "ASEAN's First Decade" and Seminar on "ASEAN's Next Decade"

10 December

GCMS Think Tank Forum (online)

16 December

Webinar on "Thailand and the United Nations: 75 Years of Cooperation"

17 December

9th GCMS Coordinator's Meeting (online)

21 December

Meeting with Dr. Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Assistant Professor and Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



EVENTS



Seminar on “Major Power Competition on Technology: Economic and International Security Implications for Thailand”

co-organized with the Department of East Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4 March 2021, The Siam Hotel



The International Studies Center and the Department of East Asian Affairs co-organised a seminar on “Major Power Competition on Technology: Economic and International Security Implications for Thailand” at The Siam Hotel, for representatives from various departments under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the session, four experts, namely, Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Former Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Lt. Gen. Dr. Prachya Chalermwat, Secretary-General, the National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC), Dr. Supavud Saicheua, Advisor of Kiatnakin Financial Group, and Mr. Prathet Tankuranun, Chief Technology Officer, DTAC, shared their views on the issue.



Seminar on “Changing World, Changing Thailand: Directions for Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s”

22 March 2021

Surawongse Ballroom 1, Bangkok Marriott Hotel The Surawongse



The International Studies Center organised a seminar on “Changing World, Changing Thailand: Directions for Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s”, at Surawongse Ballroom 1, Marriott Surawongse Hotel, Bangkok. This seminar is the first in a series of seminars on “Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s”.

At the event, two experts, namely, Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Former Permanent-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Associate Professor Kitti Prasirtsuk, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, discussed the current geopolitical landscape and the prospective role of Thailand in the international arena.

The seminar was attended by more than a hundred participants from various educational institutions, government agencies, the business sector, and the civil society.



Webinar on “Thai Economy-World Economy: Economic Cooperation and Sustainable Development”

28 June 2021



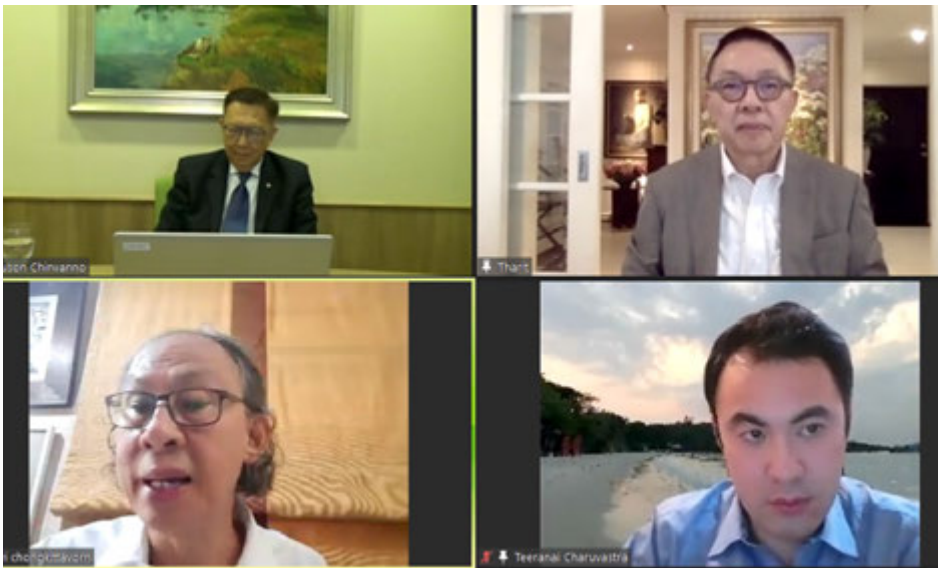
The International Studies Center hosted a webinar on “Thai Economy-World Economy: Economic Cooperation and Sustainable Development”. This webinar is the second in a series of seminars on “Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s”.

At the event, three experts, namely, Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr, Research Director for International Economics and Development Policy, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Dr. Buntoon Srethasirote, Director of Good Governance for Social Development and the Environment Institute (GSEI), and Dr. Pipat Luengnaruemitchai, Chief Economist, Kiatnakin Phatra Financial Group, shared their views on the current geoeconomic landscape, Thailand’s role in international economic cooperation as well as sustainable development.



Webinar on “Thai Public Diplomacy in the Digital Era”

19 July 2021



The International Studies Center held a webinar on “Thai Public Diplomacy in the Digital Era”. This webinar is the third in a series of seminars on “Thai Foreign Policy in the 2020s”.

At the event, three experts, namely, Ambassador Tharit Charungvat, Secretary-General, Thailand Foundation, Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Veteran Journalist on Regional Affairs, and Mr. Teeranai Charuvastra, Member of Foreign Affairs Committee, Thai Journalists Association. Issues of current digital media landscape and the role of public diplomacy in enhancing national image as well as engaging with foreign and domestic public were discussed.



Webinar on “The Mekong in the 2020s: A Game of Thrones?”

co-hosted with the Mekong Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

17 August 2021



The International Studies Center and East Asia Watch, the Department of East Asian Affairs, and Mekong Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-organised a webinar on “The Mekong in the 2020s: A Game of Thrones?”. More than a hundred participants from various government agencies joined the webinar.

At the event, four speakers, namely, Associate Professor Piti Srisangnam, Director, Center for International Economics, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Assistant Professor Narut Charoensri, Assistant to the Dean, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, Associate Professor Pittaya Suvakunta, College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Thammasat University and Professor Sekson Yongvanit, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, discussed the current geopolitical situation in the Mekong region, the roles of regional and great powers and the prospective role of Thailand in the region.



Discussion on Thai Foreign Policy for the 2020s

29 November 2021,
Dokkaew Room, Bangkok Marriott Hotel The Surawongse



Eminent persons and experts in various fields relating to international affairs discussed the International Studies's draft paper on policy recommendations on Thai Foreign Policy for the 2020s. The event was chaired by Tej Bunnag, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the ISC.



Webinar on “Thailand and the United Nations: 75 Years of Cooperation”

co-hosted with the United Nations Association of Thailand

16 December 2021



The webinar entitled “Thailand and the United Nations: 75 Years of Cooperation”, co-hosted with the United Nations Association of Thailand, was held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Thailand’s Membership to the United Nations. The Chairman of the United Nations Association of Thailand, Dr. Manaspas Xuto, gave the opening remarks. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Former Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, gave a keynote address on “Thailand’s Multilateral Diplomacy: Past, Present and Future”. A panel, consisting of General Jerdwut Kraprayoon, M.L. Dispanadda Diskul and Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert, gave insights and views on Thailand’s global cooperation with the United Nations in the field of peace and security, sustainable development and global health.



Meeting with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

18 February 2021, online



The International Studies Center held an online meeting with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) at Conference Room 2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman, ISC Advisory Board, and two Board members, namely, Dr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi and Associate Professor Kitti Prasirtsuk, as well as Dr. Anuson Chinverno, Director of ISC. On the SIIA side, Professor Simon Tay, Chairman, Ms. Chen Chen Lee, Director, Policy Programmes, Ms. Jessica Wa'u, Deputy Director, ASEAN, and Ms. Selina Ho, Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, participated in the event.

The participants exchanged their views on current developments in the region as well as the strategic role of think tanks in disseminating knowledge on international affairs.



Meeting with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

12 March 2021, online



The International Studies Center held an online meeting with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on 12 March. This introductory meeting was arranged as a follow-up to the discussion between His Excellency the Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand and the Director of ISC.

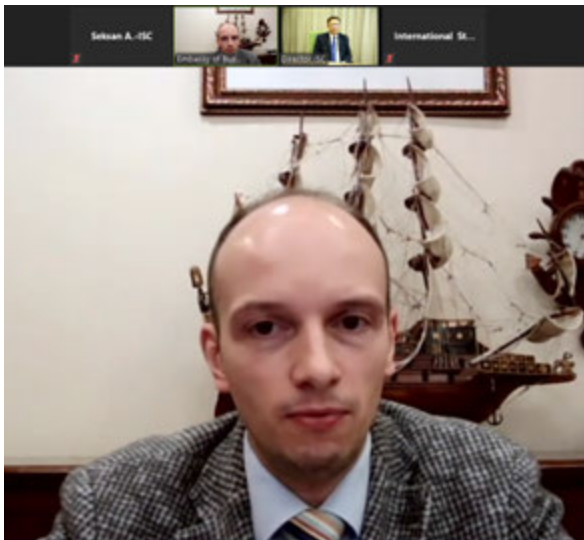
The meeting was attended by Dr. Anuson Chinvanno, Director of ISC, as well as Mr. Muhammad Lutfee Useng, Chargé d'affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy Islamabad. On the Pakistani side, H.E. Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director-General, ISSI, and H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand, participated in the event.

The participants exchanged views on possible academic collaborations, including an institutional dialogue on strategic development in Asia.



Meeting with Mr. Stepan Golovin, Senior Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Russian Federation to Thailand

18 May 2021, online



Mr. Stepan Golovin, Senior Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Russian Federation to Thailand, held an online meeting with Dr. Anuson Chinvano, to discuss possible collaborations between Russian think tanks on international affairs and security with the ISC.

Meeting with the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) , Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey

18 August 2021, online



The International Studies Center (ISC) held an online meeting with the Stratejik Araştırmalar Merkezi (SAM) or the Center for Strategic Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey. The meeting was attended by Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC, as well as Mr. Chakrinorathip Sevikul, Chargé d'affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy Ankara. On the Turkish side, Dr. Ufuk Ulutas, Chairman of SAM participated in the event. The participants exchanged views and discuss possible academic collaborations.



Meeting with the ASEAN Centre of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Russian Federation

23 September 2021, online



The International Studies Center hosted an online meeting with the ASEAN Centre of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO).

The meeting was attended by Dr. Anuson Chivanno, and ISC staff, as well as Thai alumni of MGIMO. From the MGIMO, Dr. Andrey Sushentsov, Director of the Institute for International Studies led the team of researchers together with Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, Acting Director of the ASEAN Centre.



Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia
by David M. Lampton, Selina Ho and Cheng-Chwee Kuik

21 July 2021, Facebook Live



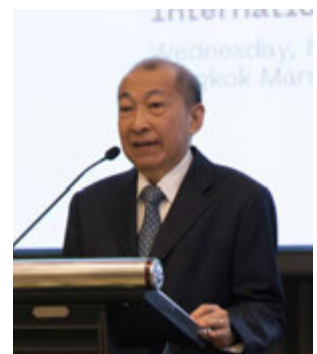
A book launch and discussion on “Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia” was held with the three co-authors David M. Lampton, Professor Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Selina Ho, Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and Cheng-Chwee Kuik, Associate Professor, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia. The session was moderated by Dr. Anuson Chinwanno, Director of the ISC. The authors examined China’s efforts to create an intercountry railway system connecting China and its Southeast Asian neighbours. They also discussed the political strengths and weaknesses of the plan, as well as the capacity of the impacted countries to resist, shape, and even take advantage of China’s wide-reaching actions.



ASEAN’s First Decade by Thakur Phanit and Seminar on “ASEAN’s Next Decade”

Co-hosted with ASEAN Association - Thailand

8 December 2021,
Surawongse Ballroom, Bangkok Marriott Hotel the Surawongse



Dr.Thakur Phanit introduced his book “ASEAN’s First Decade”, which is his Ph.D. thesis at the Pennsylvania State University and examined ASEAN’s long and arduous journey since its formation. Supamit Pitipat gave his views on the book and how it contributed to the understanding of ASEAN and ASEAN studies. In the discussion entitled “ASEAN’s Next Decade”, the panelists - Usana Berananda, Director-General of ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, M.L. Pinitbhand Paribatra of Thammasat University and Suriyan Vichitlekarn of Mekong Institute offered perspectives on the future of ASEAN and the challenges to come.



The 7th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting

14 January 2021



On 14 January 2021, Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of the ISC, in the capacity of Director and Coordinator of the GCMS Thailand Center, attended the Global Center for Mekong Studies (GCMS) Coordinators' Meeting via video conference.

The Meeting was attended by directors and coordinators of the six GCMS national centers and co-chaired by Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) as Director of the GCMS China Center and U Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and Director of the GCMS Myanmar Center.

The Meeting discussed the draft GCMS joint research paper for 2020 titled "The New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the role of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)" prepared by the GCMS China Center and the GCMS Myanmar Center. The draft joint research paper aims to provide the MLC leaders and other policy makers with a study into how public and private sectors in the Mekong countries could benefit from synergizing the new trade corridor with the Mekong-Lancang economic development belt. Participants discussed a number of important issues in the draft joint research paper including some potential challenges as well as some priority areas.



Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the GCMS Thailand Center

27 September 2021



The Advisory Committee of the GCMS Thailand Center comprises Thai experts at the forefront of Mekong studies. In this meeting, the ISC discussed with the Committee research areas that should be explored by the GCMS Centers in their 2021 Joint Annual Paper as the regional economies struggled to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting also explored areas of research and activities to be taken up when Thailand becomes co-chair of the GCMS in 2022.

The 8th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting

29 September 2021

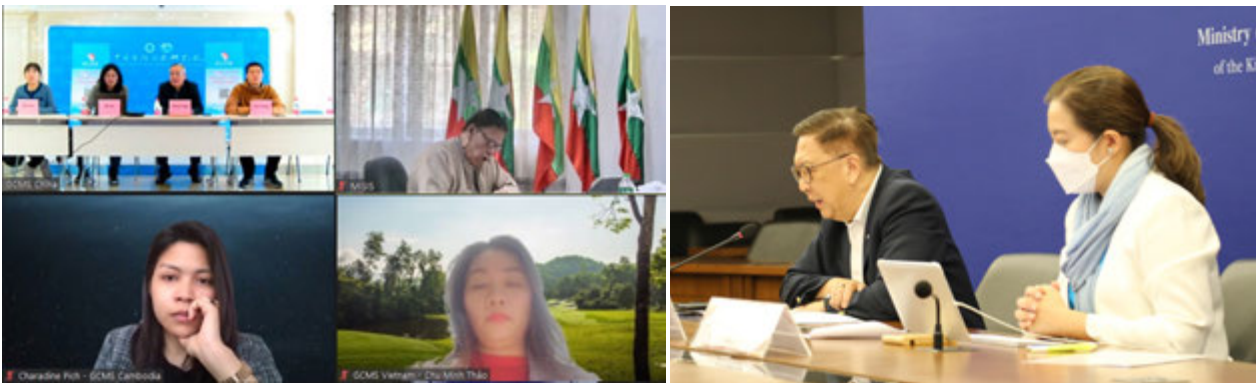


The ISC represented Thailand at the GCMS Coordinators' Meeting, co-chaired by GCMS China Center and GCMS Myanmar Center. The Center Members had fruitful discussions on the proposed research topic for 2021 on "Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery in the Mekong-Lancang sub-region".



The 9th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting

17 December 2021



At this meeting, each GCMS Country Center presented their research papers for 2021. All identified the importance of supply-chain strengthening, human resource development, support for MSMEs, and further development of hard and soft connectivity, all of which will be included in 2021's Joint Paper to be drafted by the Co-chairs, GCMS China Center and GCMS Myanmar Center.

In addition, the GCMS Think Tank Forum 2021 was held online among GCMS National Centers and invited academics on 10 December 2021. Papers were presented under two main themes "Five Years of LMC: Progress and Experience" and "New Areas and Future Direction of LMC in the Next Five Years", with fruitful discussions as inputs for the preparation of the next LCM Five-Year Action Plan.



Visit by Dr. Pitchayaphant Charnbhumidol, Vice President and Director of Chinese-Thai Institute of Rangsit University

5 February 2021



The Director received a visit from Dr. Pitchayaphant Charnbhumidol, Vice President and Director of Chinese-Thai Institute of Rangsit University and his team. They exchanged views and discussed possible collaborations in the future.

Visit by H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Thailand

8 February 2021



H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Thailand, together with Ms. Naila Israr, First Secretary, met with the Director to discuss possible collaborations, including a webinar to exchange views with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).



**Visit by Mr. Christoph Sutter,
Head of Regional Delegation,
International Committee of
the Red Cross (ICRC)**

8 February 2021



Mr. Christoph Sutter, Head of Regional Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with Mr. Paht Tanattanawin, Humanitarian Affairs and Diplomatic Advisor, met with the Director to exchange views and discuss possible academic collaborations on sustainable development, climate change, and relevant issues in the Mekong region.

**Visit by H.E. Mr. Tumur
Amarsanaa, Ambassador
of the Mongolian People's
Republic to Thailand**

1 March 2021



H.E. Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa, Ambassador of Mongolia to Thailand, together with Mr. Gantulga Chadraabal, Counsellor visited the International Studies Center to learn about the ISC's activities as well as to discuss possible collaborations between Mongolian think tanks on international affairs and security with the ISC.



**Visit by Mr. Thomas Parks,
Country Representative,
Thailand, Asia Foundation**

3 March 2021



The Director met with Mr. Thomas Parks, Country Representative, Thailand, Asia Foundation. They exchanged views on regional situation and possible collaborations between the Asia Foundation and ISC.

**Director's visit to the
Thailand Development
Research Institute (TDRI)**

19 March 2021



The Director paid a visit to Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) and was received by Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, TDRI President, and Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr, Research Director for International Economics and Development Policy. They discussed possible policy research collaboration.



EVENTS

MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of the Advisory Board

1 February 2021

Conference Room 1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Advisory Board held its first session for 2021 on 1 February. At the meeting, the Director of ISC reported on activities undertaken in 2020 and briefed the Board on activities planned for 2021. The Board shared thoughts and offered advice on the operation of the ISC.



Vithes Paritas is a live broadcast on International Studies Center's Facebook page. The programme aims at providing academic perspectives on current foreign policy issues to the Thai public as well as engaging with scholars and practitioners in international affairs. In 2021, there were 15 episodes which were moderated by Seksan Anantasirikiat, an ISC's researcher.



Perspective on regional connectivity

Narut Charoensri

Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration,
Chiang Mai University

9 June 2021

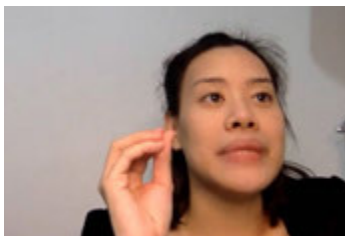


India: a great power by 2050?

Piyanat Soikham

Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University

23 June 2021



Delivery drone and international law

Nutchha Sukhawattakun

Faculty of Law, Prince of Songkla University

14 July 2021



Africa from a new perspective

Pailin Kittisereechai

Faculty of Social Sciences, Kasetsart University

28 July 2021



Forecasting post-COVID-19 ASEAN economy

Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore

11 August 2021



EVENTS

VITHES PARITAS LIVE



Indonesia's foreign policy from Soekarno to Jokowi

Punchada Sirivunnabood

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Mahidol University

25 August 2021



Birth of ASEAN: Perspectives from foreign archives

Sorasak Ngamcachonkulkid

Research Project on Significant Historical Documents of
Modern Thai History from Overseas Archives

31 August 2021



Future of trade and investment in the Mekong sub-region

Wimon Punkong

International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)

8 September 2021

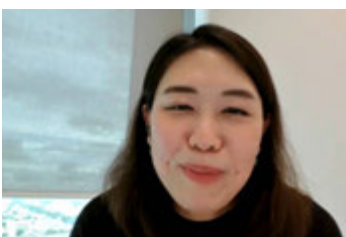


Future of sustainable development in the Mekong sub-region

Suriyan Vichitlekarn

Mekong Institute (MI)

22 September 2021



Revisiting climate change crisis

Angkana Chalermpong

GIZ Thailand

13 October 2021



Towards COP 26

Anuson Chinvanno

International Studies Center

27 October 2021



Economics of climate change

Chayun Tantivasadakarn

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

10 November 2021



Race to Zero: the contribution of Thai private sector

Thanyaporn Krichtitayawuth

Global Compact Network of Thailand

24 November 2021



Australia in a disrupted world

Thosaphon Chieocharnpraphan

Digital Government Development Agency

8 December 2021



Revisiting the concept of soft power

Peera Charoenvattananukul

Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

22 December 2021



NEW OFFICE



The refurbishment of the ISC’s new office, its official “home”, is in progress.

In early 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allocated office space on the east side of the eighth floor of Building B, Government Complex, for the new office of the International Studies Center. Budgetary provision in the 2021 Fiscal Year was earmarked for the design and renovation of the new office. This development will provide a firm foundation for the continuation of the work of the ISC and give a “public face” to the Center in years to come.

During the early part of 2021, interior design and renovation plan was made by Plan Architect. Starting from October 2021, the renovation work has been carried out by Maingan Furniture, and is expected to be completed in January 2022.

The new office space is 550 square meters. The design brief was for a modern office with emphasis on simplicity but warm and welcoming ambience. In addition to workspace and co-working area for staffs and visitors, it will have a 18-seat meeting room which is equipped with teleconferencing facility, offices for visiting fellows, and a library.





NEW OFFICE

INTERIOR DESIGN



Interior design by Plan Architect



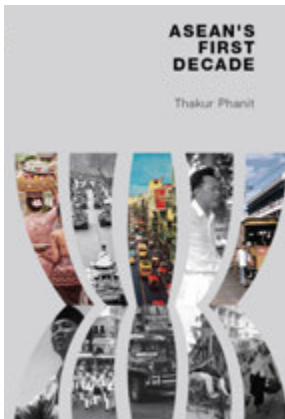
Renovation work by Maingan Furniture
Supervision by Plan Architect



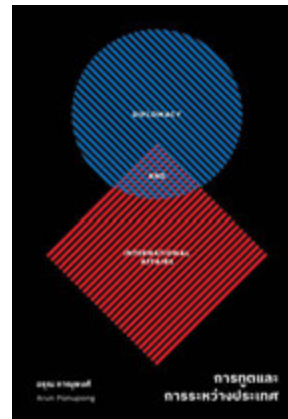
PUBLICATIONS



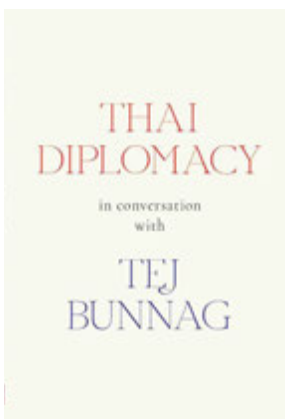
BOOKS



ASEAN's First Decade
Thakur Phanit
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Affairs (in Thai)
Arun Panupong
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Thai Diplomacy: in conversation
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Interviewed and edited
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H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakon
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ISBN 978-616-341-101-3



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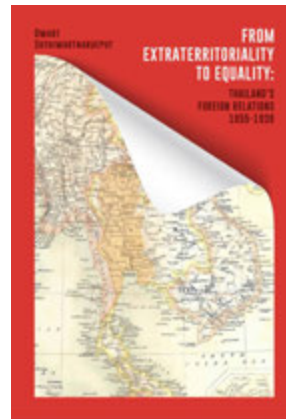


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Apichart Chinwanno

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Salinee Phonprapai

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Jittipat Poonkham
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