



2023

ANNUAL
REPORT



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CENTER

"In the place of the virtual isolation in which King Rama III sought to keep his country, King Mongkut bequeathed to his successor a firm foundation for Siam's venture into international politics, for it was from his modest one-man Consulates - the man invariably a foreigner - in the various capitals of Europe and Asia, that the diplomatic machinery of Siam was developed".

Siam's Foreign Relations in the Reign of King Mongkut, 1851-1868



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I am pleased to begin my fifth report as Director of International Studies Center (ISC) by stating that we successfully completed the activities for the year 2023, which was a busy year for ISC, despite reduced staff and budget. In July, Dr. Walaya Jariyadham, who joined ISC as Fellow in July 2022, left to take up her new position of Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Thai Embassy in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. I wish her success in her present and future endeavours. In her place, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet assigned someone to the ISC team.

A major part of ISC's activities in 2023 was connected with the Global Center for Mekong Studies (GCMS). On 18 January, a GCMS Think Tank Forum was held online to discuss current developments and future prospects of Mekong-Lancang cooperation. On that occasion, the GCMS co-chairmanship with the China Center for the next two years was handed over by the Myanmar Center to the Thailand Center. Following the hand-over, we had an opportunity to welcome Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), in his capacity of Director of GCMS China Center, to our office on 19 July to discuss GCMS's work for 2023-2024. In preparation for its role of GCMS co-chair, ISC invited several prominent individuals whose work or studies involved the Mekong River to be advisors to GCMS Thailand Center. This group of advisors held an online meeting with the ISC team on 8 September. On 2 November, ISC as GCMS Thailand Center hosted the 10th coordinators' meeting in Bangkok, a first in-

person meeting in many years. This was followed by a Think Tank Forum, another in-person meeting and the first to be hosted by the Thailand Center, on 22 December.

As the situation had returned to normal in 2023, ISC held several major on-site seminars, the first of which was on 8 June to launch the inaugural edition of the Thailand-Spain Forum (Tribuna) which was jointly organised by Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) and ISC on the Thai side and Casa Asia on the Spanish side. This collaboration has been under preparation since 2022. In August, ISC held 2 seminars to launch 2 books: the first was on 8 August to launch ISC's own publication *Siam's Foreign Relations in the Reign of King Mongkut, 1851-1868* by the late Dr. Neon Snidvongs; and the second was on 29 August, to help launch the book *Southeast Asia's Multipolar Future: Averting a New Cold War* by Mr. Thomas Parks, The Asia Foundation's Country Representative in Thailand. Both events were well-attended and the discussions by distinguished panelists were lively and informative. ISC wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Tej Bunnag, Professor Sunait Chutintaranond and Dr. Chachapon Jayaphorn (for the event on 8 August) and Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Dr. Pipat Leungnaruemitchai, and Professor Cheng-Chwee Kuik (for the event on 29 August) for agreeing to participate in these events. Our last major public seminar in 2023 was held on 22 November to discuss the topic of "Thai-American Friendship: The Way Forward." This event was organised in collaboration with The John F. Kennedy



Foundation of Thailand to commemorate the 60th anniversary of its founding, with the participation of the American Studies Association in Thailand (ASAT).

ISC also organised 2 special lectures at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2023. The first was the lecture by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN on the topic “Why ASEAN Matters: Navigating our Shared Future” on 30 March. This event was a collaboration with the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The second special lecture was given by Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, on the subject “International Law and Emerging Technologies”. This lecture was given on 5 September to mark the 4th anniversary of ISC’s relaunch. Both lectures were well attended.

As for our flagship project for 2023, ISC held 3 meetings of a small focus group to discuss “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World.” The group met on 27 April, 25 May, and 29 June. The meetings looked at how various foreign affairs issues appearing on social media can impact diplomacy in the real world. The report containing the findings and policy recommendations, the “ISC Blue Paper”, will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in early 2024.

I am pleased to report that our online publications continue to attract a large number of readers. All ISC publications can be easily accessed at our website isc.mfa.go.th.

However, partly due to reduced funding, ISC did not publish as many books in 2023 as in previous years. We were able to produce one major book, Dr. Neon Snidvongs’s *Siam’s Foreign Relations in the Reign of King Mongkut, 1851–1868*, with funding support from the

Kasemsamosorn Fund. ISC also reprinted Dr. Konthi Suphamongkhon’s *Thailand’s Diplomacy, 1940–1952* (in Thai) as part of the book series on Thai diplomatic history. Other publications included the book *Royal Attire and Thailand’s Modern Foreign Affairs* (in Thai) by Dr. Sibordee Nopprasert, Faculty of Social Sciences, Silpakorn University, and 4 study papers: “Scenarios for Statecraft: Strategic Thinking for Communication and Negotiation in the International Arena” (in Thai) by Assistant Professor Dr. Narut Charoensri; “Regional Institutions on Nuclear Energy in ASEAN: Design and Development” (in English) by Seksan Anantasirikiat; “Opportunities and Challenges for Thailand-Türkiye Relations” (in Thai) by Assistant Professor Dr. Yasmin Sattar, Dr. Anwar Koma, and Ms. Marwah Plaipon; and “ASEAN in the Eyes of Japan” by Assistant Professor Dr. Narut Charoensri and Seksan Anantasirikiat. Nevertheless, ISC is in the process of preparing more books to be published in 2024.

With regard to our collaboration with external entities, ISC continued its relations with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA). Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of ISC’s Advisory Board, and ISC Director visited SIIA in July 2023 and held an extensive discussion with Professor Simon Tay, his SIIA colleagues, and several representatives from Singaporean think tanks, including the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. ISC again held a webinar with Iran’s Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS). The session which took place on 10 October discussed international and regional situations as well as development in Thai-Iranian relations. In March 2023, ISC continued its collaboration with Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)



in hosting the regional experts dialogue on environmental peace-making in the Mekong River Basin. This workshop could be held in-person for the first time. On 3 May, during a private vacation in Israel, Dr. Tej Bunnag and ISC Director took the opportunity to visit the Center for Policy Research (CPR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. In September, the Director and Mr. Seksan Anantasirikiat, ISC Researcher, were invited to attend the 2023 Korea-ASEAN Community on Policy Exchange (KACPE) International Public Policy Symposium in Jakarta where the Director gave a presentation on “Climate Security in ASEAN and the Role of the Republic of Korea”. On 6 December, the Director was invited by the Foreign Policy Strategy Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, to participate as a panelist in the 2nd ASEAN Policy Dialogue on ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

ISC also had the opportunity to welcome several foreign visitors in 2023, namely: H.E. Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado, Ambassador of Spain to Thailand on 7 February; H.E. Mr. Sayed Reza Nobakhti, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Thailand on 18 April; Ms. Jane Racancoj, Counsellor, Australian Embassy in Bangkok on 25 May; Ms. Melissa Conley Tyler, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D), who was accompanied by officials of the Australian Embassy, on 30 June; Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Research Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) on 30 June; H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand, on 25 July; and a delegation from China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), led by its Vice President Dr. Hu Jiping on 18 September.

On collaboration with local institutions in 2023, ISC joined the European Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organise a seminar on “Thailand and the European Union Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (PCA): Focusing on Values and Political Issues” on 8 March. A roundtable discussion, the ACMECS Forum, was hosted by ISC and the Mekong Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 26 September to discuss the development of ACMECS during the past two decades with a view to making practical suggestion on ways to build a more meaningful, sustainable and beneficial ACMECS for all. The Forum was attended by participants from all five member countries. ISC also received a delegation of academics from the School of Sinology, Mae Fah Luang University, on 1 June; Ambassador Pradap Pibulsonggram, Chairperson, and other Board members of The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand on 17 August; and Associate Professor Dr. Sunida Aroonpipat, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, and Associate Professor Dr. Jintawat Chaichanawong, Faculty of Engineering, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology, on 27 September.

Despite the budgetary and personnel challenges, I can conclude that ISC had completed satisfactorily another year of activities. As customary, I wish 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 partners, domestic and external, for their support and cooperation. We look forward to a more active year in 2024.

Dr. Anuson Chinvano
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 organisations, 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 2001 respectively. However, after that period of much activity, the ISC became inactive and its functions were reassigned and 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
Chairperson



Busaya Mathelin
Advisor



Veerathai Santiprabhob
Advisor



Vijavat Isarabhakdi
Advisor



Kitti Prasirtsuk
Advisor



STAFFS



Anuson Chinvanno
Director



Walaya Jariyadham*
Fellow



Seksan Anantasirikiat
Researcher



Pattarwan Kaewkrong
Research Assistant



Rapeepat Suknarn
Research Assistant

* Until July 2023



ACTIVITIES IN 2023

**16 January**

Visit by Ms. Jasmin Lutzi, Regional Deputy Director, Southeast Asia, Dr. Ying Yao, Project Officer, and Mr. James Banfill, Project Advisor, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)

18 January

5th GCMS Think Tank Forum (Online)

7 February

Visit by H.E. Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado, Ambassador of Spain to Thailand

2 March

Meeting of the Advisory Board

8 March

Seminar on “Thailand and the European Union Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA): Focusing on Values and Political Issues”

28-29 March

Regional Dialogue on “Addressing Shared Challenges of Climate Change Risks in the Greater Mekong Region”

30 March

Special Talk “Why ASEAN Matters: Navigating our Shared Future” by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN

18 April

Visit by H.E. Mr. Seyed Reza Nobakhti, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Thailand

24 April

Visit by Students from Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University



27 April

1st Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World”

3 May

Visit to Center for Policy Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel

25 May

2nd Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World”

Visit by Ms. Jane Racancoj, Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Bangkok

1 June

Visit by Academics from School of Sinology, Mae Fah Luang University

8 June

1st Edition of Thailand-Spain Forum (Tribuna)

29 June

3rd Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World”

30 June

Visit by Ms. Melissa Conley Tylor, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D)

Visit by Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Research Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE)

19 July

Visit by Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) and Director of GCMS China Center

20 July

Visit to Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

25 July

Visit by H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand

8 August

Book Launch and Seminar on “Siam’s Foreign Relations in the Reign of King Mongkut, 1851-1868”

17 August

Visit by The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand and the American Studies Association in Thailand (ASAT)

29 August

Seminar on “Southeast Asia: Navigating a New Cold War?”

5 September

ISC Special Lecture on “International Law and Emerging Technologies” by Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University



8 September

Meeting of GCMS-Thailand Advisory Members (online)

18 September

Visit by China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)

21 September

Korea-ASEAN Community on Policy Exchange (KACPE) International Public Policy Symposium

26 September

ACMECS Forum on “Reflecting the Past and Pondering the Future of ACMECS”

27 September

Visit by Dr. Sunida Aroonpipat, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University and Dr. Jintawat Chaichanawong, Faculty of Engineering, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology

10 October

Webinar with Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Islamic Republic of Iran

17 October

Visit to Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore

2 November

10th GCMS Coordinators’ Meeting

22 November

Seminar on “Thai-American Friendship: Way Forward” to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand

6 December

2nd ASEAN Policy Dialogue on the ASEAN Community Vision 2045

22 December

6th GCMS Think Tank Forum



EVENTS



Seminar on “Thailand and the European Union Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA): Focusing on Values and Political Issues”

Co-organised with the Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

8 March 2023, Bangkok Marriott Hotel The Surawongse



On 8 March 2023, International Studies Center together with the Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-organised a seminar on “Thailand and the European Union Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA): Focusing on Values and Political Issues” at the Bangkok Marriott Hotel The Surawongse. Six speakers, namely Assistant Professor Kasira Cheepensook, Vice Dean, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Ms. Somrudee Poopornanake, Deputy Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ambassador Kitti Wasinondh, Member of the Senate, Mr. Kanapoj Bhuvaborirak from the National Security Council, Mrs. Cheraporn Siripalang Thummas from the Ministry of Justice, as well as Dr. Pimrapa Dusadeeisariyakul, Programme Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, shared their views on the issue. The seminar was attended by participants from various educational institutions, government agencies, the business sector, and the civil society.



1st meeting of Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World”

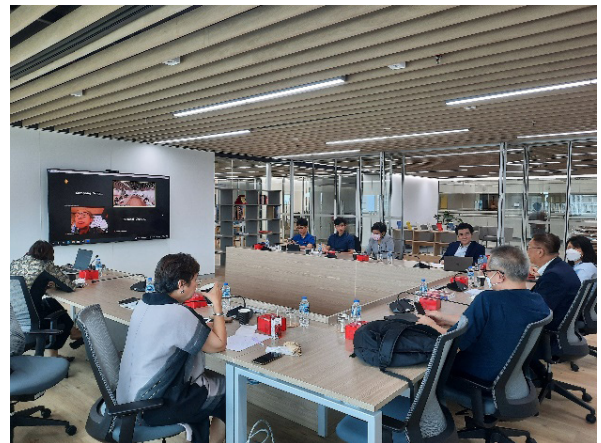
27 April 2023, Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center



International Studies Center held the first meeting of the Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World” on 27 April 2023 at Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center. The Focus Group’s task is to discuss the impacts of the virtual world on foreign affairs and to suggest policy recommendations on this issue. This first meeting set the parameter for subsequent discussions and explored various case studies. Participants included policymakers, scholars, and the media.

2nd meeting of Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World”

25 May 2023, Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center



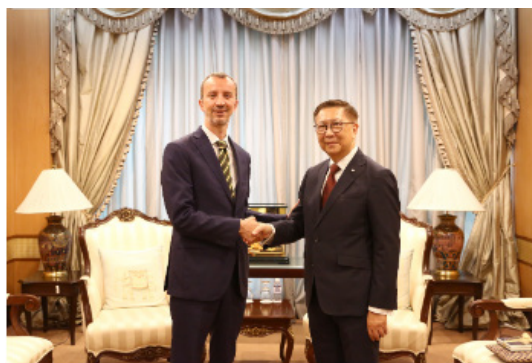
International Studies Center held the second Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World” on 25 May 2023 at Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center. At the meeting, the participants discussed the impacts of online activism on foreign affairs practices in the real world. They also discussed proactive measures to maximise the benefits and reduce the risks.



1st Thailand-Spain Forum (Tribuna)

Co-organised with Casa Asia

8 June 2023, Narathip Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



On 8 June 2023, International Studies Center (ISC), Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA), and Casa Asia, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Spain, co-hosted the inaugural Thailand-Spain Forum (Tribuna). The Forum (Tribuna) is aimed at strengthening Thai-Spanish bilateral relations through semi-official activities. At the event, Ms. Busadee Santipitaks, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. Javier Salido, Director General for North America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain, delivered opening remarks.

The Forum focuses on three main topics, namely “Geopolitical Changes in the Indo-Pacific: Views from Thailand and Spain”, “Good Practices of Thailand and Spain in the Tourism Sector: Opportunities for Collaboration”, and “Promotion of the Spanish language and culture in Thailand and of the Thai language and culture in Spain”.

The event was attended by about 100 participants, including several ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, former Thai ambassadors, as well as distinguished guests from the private sector, partner institutions, universities, and high school students.



3rd meeting of Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World”

29 June 2023, Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center



International Studies Center held the third and final meeting of the Focus Group on “Foreign Affairs and the Virtual World” on 29 June 2023 at Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center. The meeting identified the issues of future concerns and their possible impact on foreign affairs as well as recommendations on policy, strategy and measures in dealing with such issues.



Seminar on “Southeast Asia: Navigating a New Cold War?”

In cooperation with The Asia Foundation

29 August 2023, Surasak Ballroom 1, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn



International Studies Center (ISC), in cooperation with The Asia Foundation organised a seminar on “Southeast Asia: Navigating a New Cold War?” on 29 August 2023 at Surasak Ballroom 1, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn. At the event, Mr. Thomas Parks, Country Representative Thailand, The Asia Foundation, introduced his book entitled “Southeast Asia’s Multipolar Future: Averting a New Cold War”.

The book introduction was followed by a discussion by three distinguished speakers, namely Ambassador Sihasak Phuanketkeow, former Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Pipat Leungnaruemitchai, Managing Director, Kiatnakin Phatra, and Professor Dr. Cheng-Chwee Kuik, Head, Centre for Asian Studies, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, National University of Malaysia (UKM). They shared their views on the ongoing geopolitical competition between the major powers and its implications for the ASEAN region. Approximately 100 participants, including ambassadors, representatives from foreign diplomatic missions, scholars, members of the business sector, and government officials, attended the event.



Seminar to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand on “Thai-American Friendship: The Way Forward”

Co-organised with The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand and the American Studies Association in Thailand (ASAT)

22 November 2023, Surasak Ballroom 1, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn



On 22 November 2023, The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand, International Studies Center (ISC), and the American Studies Association in Thailand (ASAT) jointly organised a roundtable discussion to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand at Surasak Ballroom 1, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn. At the event, Ambassador Pradap Pibulsonggram, Chairperson of the Foundation, gave introductory remarks, which was followed by the commemorative address by H.E. Mr. Robert F. Godec, Ambassador of the United States of America to Thailand. Speakers discussed the directions, possibilities, potentials of the Thai-US relationship in the twenty-first century as well as ways to improve the relationship in the current geopolitical context. Approximately 120 participants from government agencies, the private sector, the civil society, US alumni associations, think tanks, and educational institutions attended the meeting.



Book Launch and Seminar on “Siam’s Foreign Relations in the Reign of King Mongkut, 1851-1868”

8 August 2023, Surasak Ballroom 1, Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn



On 8 August 2023, International Studies Center (ISC), with support from the Kasemsamosorn Fund, organised a book launch for “Siam’s Foreign Relations in the Reign of King Mongkut, 1851-1868”, by the late Dr. Neon Snidvongs, a former lecturer at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy (CRMA) and former Director of Institute of Thai Khadi Research Institute at Thammasat University.

At the event, three distinguished speakers, namely Dr. Tej Bunnag, Secretary-General of Thai Red Cross Society and Chairman of ISC Advisory Board, Professor Dr. Sunait Chutintaranond, Director of Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, and Associate Professor Dr. Chachapon Jayaphorn, Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, shared their views on the book. The discussion focused on international and domestic developments that affected foreign relations during the reign of King Mongkut. Approximately 100 participants, including former and current diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, history and social science scholars, former and current CRMA lecturers, and publishers attended the event.



Special Talk on “Why ASEAN Matters: Navigating our Shared Future” by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Co-organised with the Department of ASEAN Affairs and
the ASEAN Association-Thailand

30 March 2023, Vithes Samosorn, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



On 30 March 2023, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, gave a special talk under the topic “Why ASEAN Matters: Navigating our Shared Future” at Vithes Samosorn, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He underlined the importance of ASEAN Centrality, the relevance of ASEAN in the current global context, relationships between ASEAN and its partners, ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and beyond. The event was well attended by many ambassadors as well as representatives of diplomatic missions, government officials, scholars, and the media.



ISC Special Lecture on “International Law and Emerging Technologies”

5 September 2023, Narathip Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



On 5 September 2023, International Studies Center organised the ISC Special Lecture on “International Law and Emerging Technologies”, by Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn, Faculty of Law Chulalongkorn University, at Narathip Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The lecture covered emerging technologies, including AI and robotics, green technology, algorithm, datafication, from international law perspectives. About 100 participants, including ambassadors and representatives from diplomatic missions, government officials, scholars, university students, and the civil society, attended the event.



Regional Experts' Dialogue on "Addressing Shared Challenges of Climate Risks in the Greater Mekong Region"

28-29 March 2023, Baan Thai 2 Room, The Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok



As part of their ongoing cooperation, International Studies Center (ISC) and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) co-hosted the third meeting of the regional experts' dialogue under the title "Addressing Shared Challenges of Climate Risks in the Greater Mekong Region" on 28-29 March at The Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok. Participants, including climate change experts, development practitioners, and representatives of prominent think tanks from the riparian states of the Mekong River identified sources of climate insecurity and their impacts on the vulnerable groups in the region. They also discussed the implications for existing regional cooperation and national policies as well as possible measures to alleviate risks in the long run.

Korea-ASEAN Community on Policy Exchange (KACPE) International Public Policy Symposium

21 September 2023, Pullman Jakarta Indonesia Hotel



Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC and Mr. Seksan Anantasirikiat, ISC Researcher, were invited to attend the 2023 Korea-ASEAN

Community on Policy Exchange (KACPE) International Public Policy Symposium under the theme "Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN for Shared Future Development" on 21 September 2023 at Pullman Jakarta Indonesia Hotel. At the event, Dr. Anuson gave a presentation on "Climate Security in ASEAN and the Role of the Republic of Korea". The symposium was jointly organised by the Korea Research Initiatives, University of New South Wales and its partner institutions from the Republic of Korea and Indonesia. Approximately 200 participants, including representatives of the diplomatic missions to ASEAN, ambassadors, officials, and scholars participated in the event.



ACMECS Forum on “Reflecting the Past and Pondering the Future of ACMECS”

Co-organised with the Mekong Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

26 September 2023, Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center



On 26 September 2023, the Mekong Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ISC jointly organised the ACMECS Forum on “Reflecting the Past and Pondering the Future of ACMECS”, at Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center, to mark its 20th anniversary of the establishment of ACMECS. At the event, representatives from five ACMECS member countries, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam discussed the development of ACMECS during the past two decades. They also suggested practical ideas on ways to build a more meaningful, sustainable and beneficial ACMECS for all member countries.



Roundtable Discussion with Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS)

10 October 2023, Online



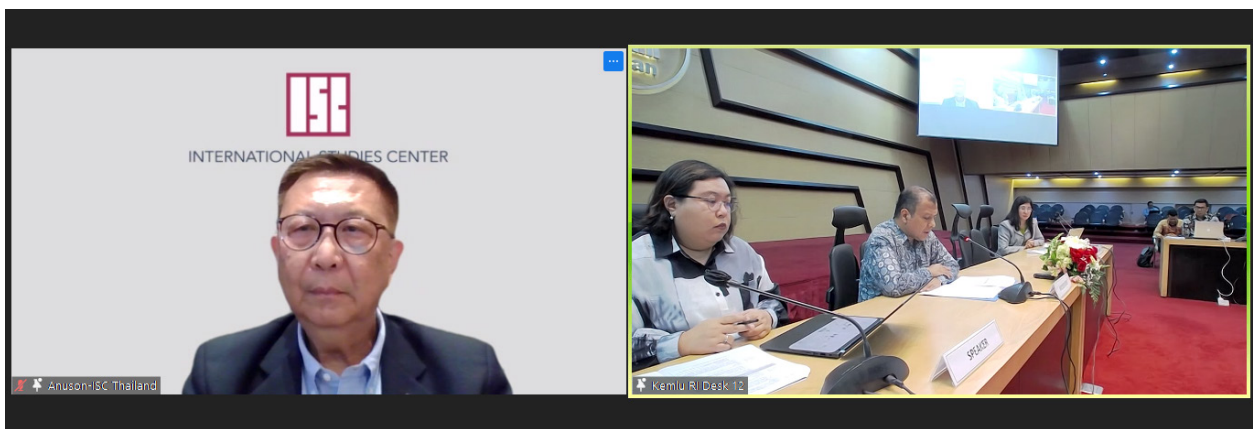
As part of their ongoing cooperation, International Studies Center (ISC) held an online roundtable discussion with Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Islamic Republic of Iran, on 10 October 2023. At the event, Dr. Khalil Shirgholami, Vice President for Research, and Dr. Alireza Gholipour, Director, Group for Asian Studies, IPIS, gave a presentation on “Latest regional developments around Iran, including Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and the Caucasian”. On the Thai side, Associate Professor Dr. Jittipat Poonkham, Associate Dean for Academic and International Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, discussed the topic of “Growing competition in Asia-Pacific and its impact on Thailand and ASEAN”.

The two presentations were followed by a discussion on bilateral relations between Thailand and Iran by Mr. Charkrienorrathip Sevikul, Director, Middle East Division, Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs, MFA, Thailand, Mr. Hosein Zanjani, Director, Asia and Oceania 4th Division, MFA, Iran, and Mr. Mohsen Mohammadi, Senior Research Fellow, IPIS and former Iranian Ambassador to Thailand.



2nd ASEAN Policy Dialogue on the ASEAN Community Vision 2045

6 December 2023, Online



Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC, was invited to attend the 2nd ASEAN Policy Dialogue on the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, co-organised by the Foreign Policy Strategy Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), on 6 December 2023. Dr. Anuson shared his views on climate change and its socio-economic impacts on ASEAN and its member countries. He pointed out that climate change impacts should be viewed as a human security issue affecting the elderly and the youth. He also emphasised the necessity to take a holistic view in rethinking regional and national development model. The event was attended by representatives from ministries of foreign affairs of ASEAN member states, think tanks, and ASEAN-affiliated organisations.

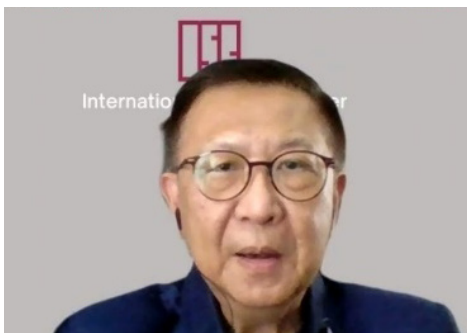


EVENTS

GLOBAL CENTER FOR MEKONG STUDIES (GCMS)

5th GCMS Think Tank Forum

18 January 2023, Online



On 18 January 2023, Dr. Anuson Chinvanno, Director of ISC, in the capacity of Director and Coordinator of GCMS Thailand Center, was invited to participate in the 5th GCMS Think Tank Forum, co-organised by China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS). The meeting was attended by representatives of the six GCMS national centers and moderated by Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President of CIIS and U Khin Maung Zaw, Joint Secretary of MISIS. Participants exchanged views on current developments and prospects of Mekong-Lancang cooperation. On this occasion, the GCMS co-chairmanship, with the China Center for the next two years, was handed over by the Myanmar Center to the Thailand Center.



GCMS-Thailand Advisory Members' Meeting

8 September 2023, Online



International Studies Center (ISC), in its capacity of GCMS Thailand Center, hosted an online meeting with its advisory members on 8 September 2023. The meeting was attended by Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Director of Mekong Institute (MI), Mr. Kobsak Duangdee, Chairperson of the Thai ACMECS Business Council, Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Director of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO-RIHED), Dr. Dollaya Tiantong, Deputy Director for Administrative representing Director of Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Assistant Professor Dr. Narut Charoensri, Deputy Dean of Research and International Affairs, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University, and Dr. Visara Kraiwatanapong, Vice Dean for Academic and International Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University. They exchanged views on the potential activities of GCMS Thailand Center in 2023-2024 as it became co-chair with the China Center.



10th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting

2 November 2023,
Meeting Room 1, International Studies Center



On 2 November 2023, International Studies Center (ISC) in the capacity of Global Center for Mekong Studies (GCMS) Thailand Center and GCMS China Center co-organised the 10th GCMS Coordinators' Meeting, which was attended by representatives from GCMS Centers of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. They discussed the preparation of the joint research paper and the organisation of the 6th GCMS Think Tank Forum in December 2023. The meeting was the first in-person GCMS meeting after the COVID-19 pandemic.



6th GCMS Think Tank Forum

22 December 2023,
International Studies Center



International Studies Center (ISC) and China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), in the capacity of Global Center for Mekong Studies (GCMS) Thailand Center and China Center, co-organised the 6th GCMS Think Tank Forum on 22 December 2023. At the forum, Mrs. Phantipha Iamsudha Ekarohit, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered a keynote speech. Welcome and closing remarks were given by Dr. Anuson Chinvanho, Director of ISC, and Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow, CIIS, co-chairs of GCMS. Representatives of six GCMS national centers, scholars from other ASEAN countries, and development partners discussed the concept and framework of the Mekong-Lancang Community of Shared Future as well as ways to build and develop a closer Mekong-Lancang community. The event was also attended by representatives of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Bangkok, representative of Institute of Security Studies, and the media. The meeting was the first in-person GCMS Think Tank Forum after the COVID-19 pandemic.



EVENTS

VISITS

Visit by Ms. Jasmin Lutzi, Regional Deputy Director, Southeast Asia, Dr. Yao Ying, Project Officer, and Mr. James Banfill, Project Advisor, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)

16 January 2023



On 16 January 2023, Dr. Anuson Chinvanho, ISC Director, and Dr. Walaya Jariyadham, ISC Fellow, had the opportunity to welcome Ms. Jasmin Lutzi, Regional Deputy Director, Southeast Asia, Dr. Yao Ying, Project Officer, and Mr. James Banfill, Project Advisor, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), as part of their ongoing cooperation. They exchanged views on future impacts of climate change and their implications on the Mekong sub-region and discussed possibility of hosting the next regional dialogue on the issue in Bangkok in 2023.

Visit by H.E. Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado, Ambassador of Spain to Thailand

7 February 2023



On 7 February 2023, Director of ISC together with Mrs. Thitiporn Chiraswadi, Director of Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) received a visit from H.E. Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado, Ambassador of Spain to Thailand. They discussed the preparation of the inaugural Thailand-Spain Forum (Tribuna), which will be held this year. The Ambassador also visited the DVIFA library as well as the office of ISC.



Visit by H.E. Mr. Seyed Reza Nobakhti, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Thailand

18 April 2023



On 18 April 2023, Dr. Anuson Chinvanno, Director of ISC, and Dr. Walaya Jariyadham, ISC Fellow, welcomed H.E. Mr. Seyed Reza Nobakhti, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Thailand and Mr. Morteza Soltani, Cultural and Science Attaché at the Embassy. They exchanged views on regional situations and discussed continued collaboration between ISC and Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS).

Visit by Students from the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

24 April 2023



On 24 April 2023, International Studies Center had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Pongphisoot Busbarat, Director of Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, as well as 15 students majoring in Politics and Global Studies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The group was briefed on cross-cutting issues in Thai foreign policy, including the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), Thailand's role in the ASEAN Community, and the country's relations with its neighbouring countries from the officials of relevant departments. The group also had a chance to explore the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' public area.



EVENTS

VISITS

Visit to Center for Policy Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel

3 May 2023



On 3 May 2023, during a private vacation in Israel, Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of ISC Advisory Board and Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC, accompanied by

Ambassador Pannabha Chandramya, Thailand's Ambassador to Israel, had an opportunity to pay a visit to the Center for Policy Research (CPR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. They were received by Ambassador Rafael Harpaz, Deputy Director-General of Asia and Pacific Division, Ambassador Rachel Feinmesser, Head of CPR, and her teams of officials and researchers. They exchanged views on current situations in their respective regions as well as bilateral relations between the two countries.

Visit by Ms. Jane Racancoj, Counsellor, Australian Embassy in Bangkok

25 May 2023



Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC, and Dr. Walaya Jariyadham, ISC Fellow, had the opportunity to welcome Ms. Jane Racancoj, Counsellor, and Mr. Wanarat Chanphet, Political Officer, Australian Embassy, on 25 May 2023. The visitors were briefed on ISC's mandates and activities. Views were exchanged on regional issues, as well as roles of Track 1.5 institutions, and possible collaborations.



Visit by Academics from School of Sinology, Mae Fah Luang University

1 June 2023



ISC received a visit of 9 academics from School of Sinology, Mae Fah Luang University on 1 June 2023. The Director briefed them on ISC's mandates and activities. They also exchanged views on the current status and development of research in international relations and discussed possible collaborations.



Visit by Ms. Melissa Conley Tylor, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D)

30 June 2023



On 30 June 2023, Dr. Anuson Chinvanno, Director, as well as Dr. Walaya Jariyadham, Fellow, International Studies Center (ISC), received a visit by Ms. Melissa Conley Tylor, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D), Ms. Suzanne Passmore, First Secretary, and Mr. Wanarat Chanphet, Political Officer, Australian Embassy, as part of their ongoing cooperation. In June 2022, they held an online forum to discuss AP4D's report "Australia and Southeast Asia: Shaping a Shared Future". During this meeting, they exchanged views on a wide range of issues, such as the role of think tanks, various regional situations, and the Thai public's perception of Australia's role in the region.



Visit by Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Research Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE)

30 June 2023

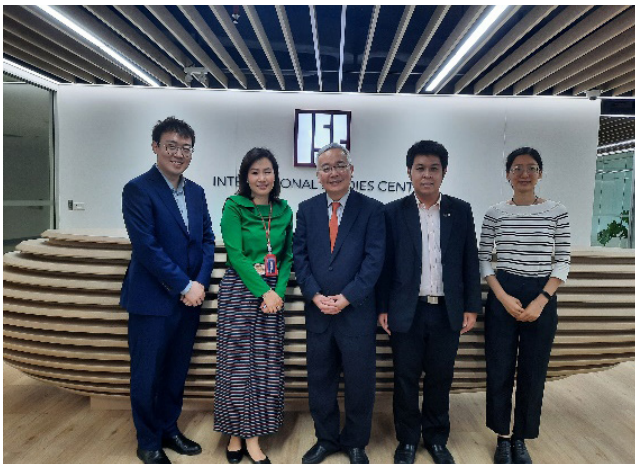


Dr. Anuson Chinvanno, Director of ISC, met with Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Research Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) on 30 June 2023. They briefed each other on their respective institution's mandate and activities. They also discussed future academic collaborations, including a possible online roundtable discussion in the future.



Visit by Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) and Director, GCMS China Center

19 July 2023



On 19 July 2023, Dr. Walaya Jariyadham, ISC Fellow, welcomed Dr. Rong Ying, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow and Director of GCMS China Center, along with Mr. Bao Zhipeng, Assistant Research Fellow, and Ms. Pang Jiayuan, Program Officer, from China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), who visited ISC as part of their ongoing cooperation under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) framework. Dr. Walaya briefed the CIIS delegation on ISC's history and activities. They also discussed possible future collaboration between their respective Global Center for Mekong Studies (GCMS).



Visit to Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

20 July 2023



On 20 July 2023, as part of their ongoing cooperation, Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of ISC Advisory Board and Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC, accompanied by Ambassador Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Thailand's Ambassador to Singapore, paid a visit to Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), marking their first meeting in person after the COVID-19. They were received by Professor Simon Tay, Chairperson of SIIA. Those attended the meeting included executives, scholars and researchers from National University of Singapore, ISEAS Yusof-Ishak Institute, and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. The meeting was hosted by SIIA to give ISC an opportunity to introduce itself and explain its activities to its counterpart institutions in Singapore.



Visit by H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand

25 July 2023



On 25 July 2023, H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand, visited ISC to meet with Director Dr. Anuson Chinvanho. The Director briefed the Ambassador on ISC's history, mandates, and activities. They exchanged views on international cooperation and research in foreign affairs and the role of think tanks in Thailand and the region. They also discussed developments in Thailand as well as EU's policies and regulations to deal with climate change, such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Visit by The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand and the American Studies Association in Thailand (ASAT)

17 August 2023

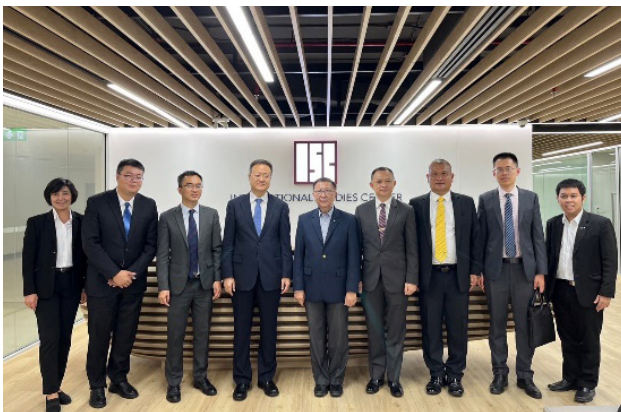


On 17 August 2023, Dr. Anuson Chinvanho, Director of ISC received a visit from Board Members of The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand, led by Ambassador Pradap Pibulsonggram, Chairperson, and Mr. Anthony M. Zola, and Mrs. Doris Wibunsin. Three representatives from the American Studies Association in Thailand (ASAT), namely Assistant Professor Dr. Viboonpong Poonprasit, Advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapee Apichatsakol, Vice President, and Ms. Tiffany Chen, Vice President, also attended the meeting. They discussed the organization of a seminar to raise awareness on Thai-US relations among the Thai general public on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand.



Visit by China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)

18 September 2023



On 18 September 2023, Director of ISC had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Hu Jiping, Vice President, Dr. Luo Yongkun, Deputy Director, Department of Southeast Asian and Oceanian Studies, Dr. Dong Chunling, Associate Research Fellow, and Mr. Liu Jinwei, Assistant Research Professor, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), who were on their research visit to Thailand hosted by Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute. They exchanged views on Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and regional developments in Asia.



EVENTS

VISITS

Visit by Dr. Sunida Aroonpipat, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University and Dr. Jintawat Chaichanawong, Faculty of Engineering, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology

27 September 2023



Dr. Anuson Chinvano, Director of ISC, received a visit from Associate Professor Dr. Sunida Aroonpipat Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University and Associate Professor Dr. Jintawat Chaichanawong, Faculty of Engineering, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology, on 27 September 2023. They exchanged views on ways to raise public awareness on climate change impacts on the Thai society, as well as how to promote the concept of “low-carbon society” in Thailand.

Director’s Visit to Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

17 October 2023



On Tuesday 17 October, the Director was invited by Assistant Professor Dr. Selina Ho, Co-Director of the Centre on Asia and Globalisation, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, to give a talk on Thailand foreign policy to a class of master-degree students at the LKY School, NUS Bukit Timah campus.



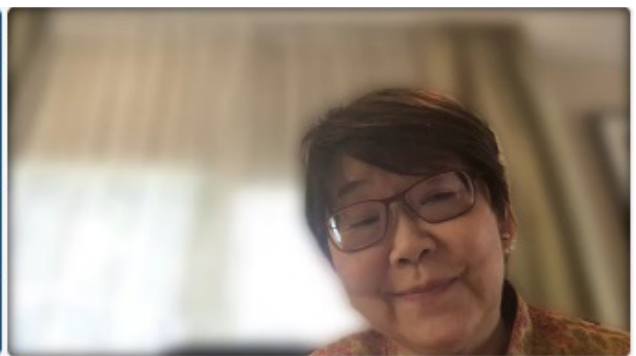
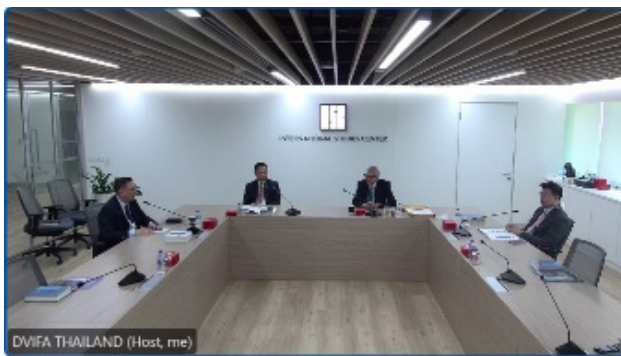
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of the Advisory Board

**2 March 2023,
Meeting Room 1,
International Studies Center**



The Advisory Board held its session for 2023 on 2 March 2023. At the meeting, ISC Director reported on activities undertaken in 2022 and briefed the Board on activities planned for 2023. Board members offered their advice on the operation of ISC.





PUBLICATIONS



Books

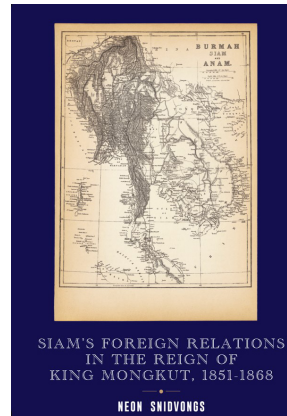


Thailand's Diplomacy, 1940-1952
(in Thai)

Konthi Suphamongkhon

Printed in February 2023

ISBN 978-616-341-125-9

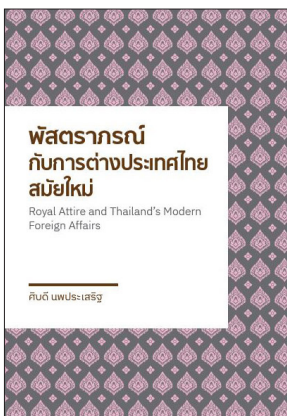


Siam's Foreign Relations in the Reign of
King Mongkut, 1851-1868

Neon Snidvongs

Printed in July 2023

ISBN 978-616-341-132-7



Royal Attire and Thailand's Modern
Foreign Affairs (in Thai)

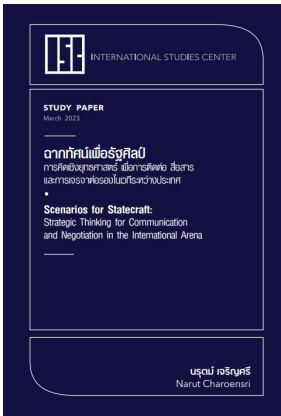
Sibordee Nopprasert

Printed in September 2023

ISBN 978-616-341-138-9



STUDY PAPERS



Scenarios for Statecraft: Strategic Thinking for Communication and Negotiation in the International Arena (in Thai)

Narut Charoensri

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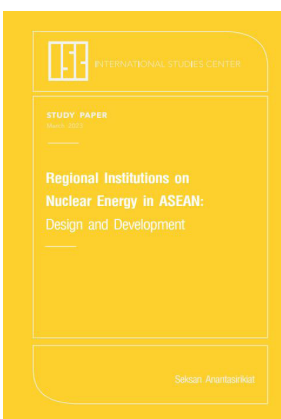


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Yasmin Sattar, Anwar Koma, and Marwah Plaipon

Printed in August 2023

ISBN 978-616-341-1



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Seksan Anantasirikiat

Printed in March 2023

ISBN 978-616-341-131-0



ASEAN in the Eyes of Japan (in Thai)

Narut Charoensri and Seksan Anantasirikiat

Printed in December 2023

ISBN 978-616-142-6



SEMINAR REPORTS



Book Launch for “The Quest for Thai-US Alliance” and Seminar on “Thailand-US Relations: Present and Future”

August 2023



Book Launch for “Battlefield to Marketplace: Responses to Thailand’s Major Foreign Policy Change” and Seminar on “Marketplace to Partnership: Direction in Thailand’s Relations with Its Neighbouring Countries”

August 2023

JOURNAL



No. 1 (June 2023) Europecraft in the Indo-Pacific Region: Towards Pragmatic or Principled Partnership?

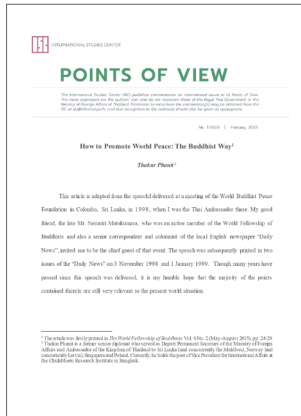
Jittipat Poonkham

June 2023

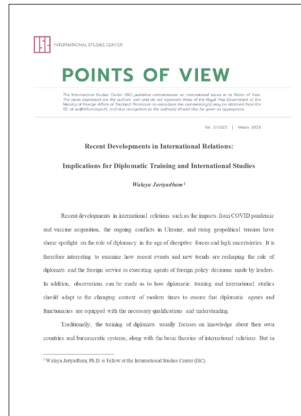


PUBLICATIONS

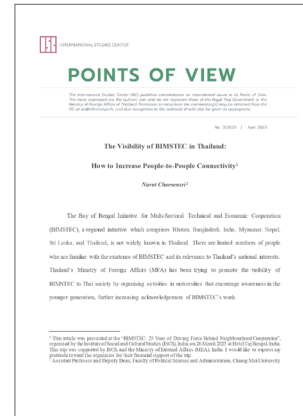
POINTS OF VIEW



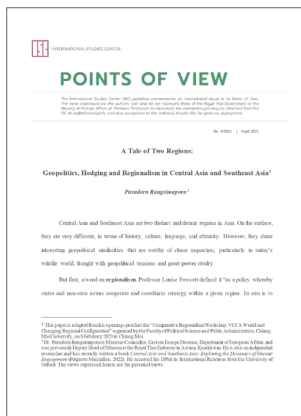
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Thakur Phanit
 February 2023



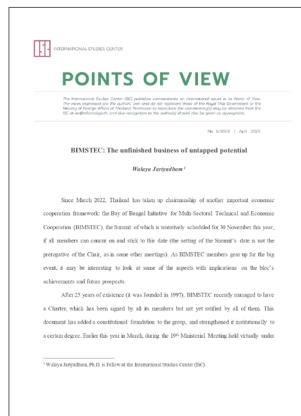
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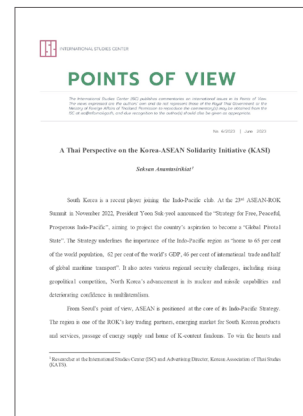
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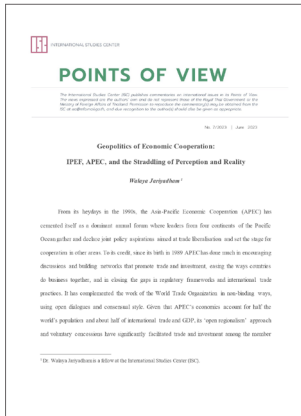
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Seksan Anantasirikiat
 June 2023



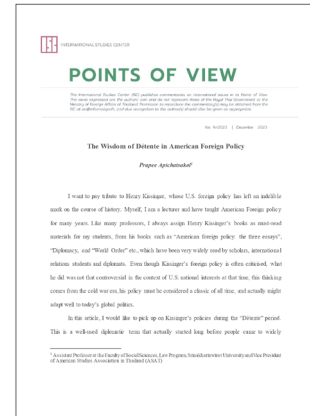
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 Prapee Apichatsakol
 November 2023



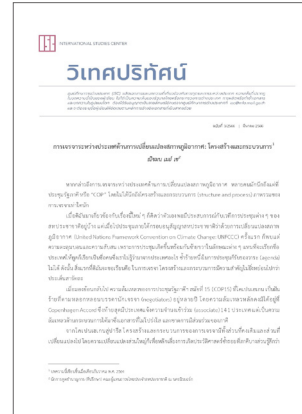
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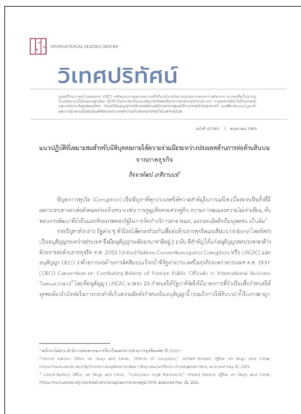
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No. 5 Keys to Understanding of Russian Foreign Policy
Paradorn Rangsimaporn
December 2023

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