



ASIA CENTRE
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Southeast Asia and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Programme

Annual Seminar of the Southeast Asia
Observatory

21 January 2019
Paris, France



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The Southeast Asia Observatory

Asia Centre started in early 2017 its third three-year cycle of the Southeast Asia Observatory. The former cycle (2012-2015) dealt with strategic elites and foreign powers' influence. Relying on this analysis of the decision-making processes, it is now time to dive into Southeast Asia's challenges, whether related to domestic or foreign policies on the one hand, or traditional or non-traditional security issues on the other hand. To this end, the Southeast Asia Observatory relies on a network of young local researchers, who work as closely as possible to the field ; its director Eric Frécon is for instance based in Singapore. Lastly, in addition to the notes and roundtables, the Southeast Asia Observatory releases every other month a Newsletter aiming at summarising the news and current affairs, to present the latest publications and to introduce the latest leading personalities.

Myth versus reality. Enthusiasm versus suspicion. Investment versus debt. The BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) provokes mixed feelings among the Southeast Asian leaders and population. More importantly, it impacts national strategies (from bandwagoning to balancing via hedging and pragmatism towards the great powers), as the Chinese initiative can be seen as a deus ex-machina to eventually support old projects. Is it thus a true 'win-win situation', as Xi Jinping stated? In every country, the reactions are far from being simple as they are at the crossroads of the military, political and business elites, laying between national and local interests, and stretching from nationalism to the critical need for infrastructures.

Thankfully, we are very grateful to Prof. Jay Batongbacal, Dr. Vannarith Chheang, Bruno Hellendorf and Dr. Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux who will come to highlight symptomatic cases, namely and respectively the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia. Juliette Genevaz and Emmanuel Dubois de Prisque will kindly help discuss the presentations.

In partnership with the Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM), Ministry of Armed Forces

With the support of: General Directorate for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS), Ministry of Armed Forces



Seminar Programme

14:00

Welcoming Speech

Commissaire général Etienne Vuillermet (IRSEM, Paris)

Jean-François Di Meglio (Asia Centre, Paris)

14:10

Session 1 - Malaysia and Cambodia

Chair/Discussant: Emmanuel Dubois de Prisque (Institut Thomas More / Monde chinois, Paris)

Speakers: Dr Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux (Université Rennes 2 / CASE, Paris)

Dr. Vannarith Chheang (ISEAS-NTU-AVI, Singapore-Phnom Penh)

Q&A

15:25

Break and Coffee - Espace Joffre

15:55

Session 2 - Philippines and Indonesia

Chair/Discussant: Dr. Juliette Genevaz (IRSEM, Paris)

Speakers: Prof. Jay Batongbacal (University of the Philippines, Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, Manila)

Bruno Hellendorf (Egmont Institute & European Policy Centre, Brussels)

Q&A

17:10

Concluding Remarks

Colonel Michel Poledri (Ministry of Armed Forces, DGRIS, Paris)

17:30

Cocktail reception - Espace Duverney

Speakers

Prof. Jay BATONGBACAL

Associate Professor

University of the Philippines, Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, Manila



Jay L Batongbacal is a lawyer from the Philippines with the degrees of Master of Marine Management and Doctor in the Science of Law, both from Dalhousie University in Canada, supported by the Marine Scholarship Program of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and as an inaugural Scholar of the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation. Since 1997, he has done diverse work in maritime affairs, including community based fisheries management, coastal resource management, marine environment protection, maritime boundaries, high seas fishing, offshore energy, seafaring, and shipping.

He is also among the List of Experts on Marine Scientific Research for purposes of Special Arbitration under Annex VIII of the UNCLOS. He completed post-doctoral research on the US maritime security policy and the South China Sea disputes under the auspices of the US-ASEAN Fulbright Initiative Visiting Scholar Program.

He is regularly consulted for his independent views on maritime policy issues by government officials, diplomatic personnel, the press, and members of the academe. Presently, he is an Associate Professor and serves as an Associate Dean for Research & Development at the University of the Philippines College of Law, and is concurrently Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea of the U.P. Law Center.

Dr Vannarith CHHEANG

ISEAS-NTU-AVI, Singapore-Phnom Penh



Chheang Vannarith has over a decade of work experience as a geopolitical and geo-economic analyst, with a focus on Southeast Asia. He was honoured a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2013. He is currently the President of Asian Vision Institute (AVI) where he leads projects on geopolitical risk analysis, governance innovation, and UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

He was the Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) from 2009 to 2013 and a lecturer of Asia Pacific studies at the University of Leeds (UK) from 2013 to 2016, and a Southeast Asia Consultant at the Nippon Foundation (Tokyo) from 2016 to 2018. He was also a visiting fellow at IDE-JETRO (Japan), East West Center (US), China Institute of International Relations (China), and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (Singapore).

Chheang got his BA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam in 2002, MA in International Relations from the International University of Japan in 2006, Graduate in Leadership from the East West Center in 2008, and PhD in Asia Pacific Studies from the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in 2009.

Emmanuel DUBOIS DE PRISQUE

Associate Fellow

Institut Thomas More, Paris



Emmanuel Dubois de Prisque is an Associate Fellow with the Institute Thomas More, in charge of Eastern Asia. A graduate from the École Supérieure de Commerce de Tours and university Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, he was a translator and a journalist (editor-in-chief of the magazine *Asian Affairs*, based in Hong Kong). A specialist of eastern Asia, of China's domestic and foreign policy and of the China-Japan relation, he is an independent consultant since 2006 and has been a membre of the group Asie21-Futuribles since 2010.

Mr. Dubois de Prisque co-edits the journal *Mondes chinois. Nouvelle Asie*. On January 23, he will publish *La Chine e(s)t le monde*, with Sophie Boisseau du Rocher, éditions Odile Jacob.

Dr Juliette GENEVAZ

China Research Fellow
IRSEM, Paris



Juliette Genevaz is the China research fellow at the Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM, Paris). After earning a PhD (DPhil, Oxford) in Politics and International Relations, she was a Transatlantic Postdoctoral Fellowship for International Relations and Security (TAPIR) at Ifri (Institut Français des Relations Internationales, Paris) and at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP, Berlin). She holds an MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies from Pembroke College, University of Oxford. She has also taught Chinese Politics and Comparative Government at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, in the UK.

Her latest publications include: “Ideology in China’s military reform”, China Policy Institute: Analysis, May 18, 2018; “Political indoctrination in the Chinese military, toward a post-revolutionary PLA”, China Information, Septembre 2016 and “Military professionalization under party control”, in Donovan Chau and Thomas Kane eds., China and International Security: History, strategy and 21st century policy, Praeger, 2014.

Bruno HELLENDORF

Joint Research Fellow
Egmont Institute & European Policy Centre, Brussels



Bruno Hellendorf is Joint Research Fellow at the Egmont Institute and European Policy Centre (EPC) since 2018. His research focuses on the geo-economics and security dimensions of China’s Belt and Road initiative, as well as on defence and security issues in Europe-Asia relations (non-proliferation, maritime security). He is associate researcher at the IR center of the Université Catholique de Louvain (CECRI) and at the East Asian Studies center (EASt) of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Prior to joining the Egmont Institute and EPC, he set up and coordinated a research programme dedicated to issues of “Peace and Security in Asia-Pacific” at the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP), a Brussels-based independent research centre.

He has worked and published on many Asia-related academic, research and policy projects for various institutional partners, including international academic consortiums (EU COST program...), international organisations (including EU institutions) and various national ministries (defense, foreign affairs, etc.).

He regularly comments Asian defense affairs in Belgian media, and teaches as guest lecturer or Professor in several higher education institutions.

Dr Elsa LAFAYE DE MICHEAUX

Associate Professor
Université Rennes 2, Rennes



Dr Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux is Associate Professor at Rennes 2 University, France, in Development Studies and New Political Economy. She is membre of the Paris Centre of Southeast Asia Studies, CASE.

As IRASEC Research Fellow and University of Malaya Associate researcher (2014-2016), she has analysed the current transformation of the Malaysian capitalism in comparative perspective. The fast evolving Malaysia-China relation has received a special focus: a two-years comprehensive research has been conducted jointly with D. Delfolie (political sciences) and N. Fau (geography) on the Malaysia-China’s close relationship, released in French (*Irasec Occasional Paper*; 2017, 272p). She is co-directing the Institut Pondok Perancis with D. Delfolie (Kuala Lumpur) and leads the *Asean-China-Norms* CNRS’s International research network (2019-2023).

Her latest publications include *The Development of Malaysian Capitalism, From British Rule to the Present Day* (446p) SIRD, Petaling Jaya, 2017; *Asian Capitalisms and Chinese Power* (with P. Alary (eds), Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2015, as well as «*Malaysia Baru : réaménager la nouvelle dépendance du capitalisme malaisien à la Chine: une chronique des premières réformes économiques post-mai 2018*», revue de la régulation, n°24, Automne 2018.