

**Title: Post-Socialist Transformation in Southeast Asia:
A Comparative Analysis with Central Europe**

Convener: Dr Andrzej Bolesta, Lecturer of International Development and International Relations, Director, Centre for Asian Economies, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw, Poland.

Brief description:

As it embraces around 25 percent of the human population, post-socialist transformation is by all means a process of historical significance. It is hardly possible to imagine complex and extensive systemic changes that equal those taking place in parts of Europe and Asia. Southeast Asia is one of the regions in which systemic transition is taking place. Four countries are considered to be undergoing post-socialist transformation, namely, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Cambodia.

There are, however, significant differences among states as far as their transformational trajectories are concerned. This panel seeks to explore the differences in reform and development paths between post-socialist Southeast Asia and post-socialist Central Europe, in particular, the *Visegrad Group*, comprising Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Post-socialist countries of Southeast Asia chose to gradually transform their national economies from centrally-planned models to market-based models. With the notable exception of Burma, they did not liberalise their political systems to any significant degree. Post-socialist Central Europe composed of the *Visegrad Group* embarked on fast political transformation leading towards liberal democracy and fast economic transition which resulted in the establishing of liberal free market economies.

The panel will examine the differences in political and economic transformations in the two regions. Moreover, it will analyse the differences in the established trade and investment regimes being the consequences of systemic transformation. Finally, it will focus on the two regions' cooperation on transition.

Presenters (Single Session):

1. Dr Michał Lubina, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland: Political Transformation in Post-Socialist Southeast Asia and Central Europe: The Peculiar Case of Burma;
2. Dr Andrzej Bolesta, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw, Poland: Economic Transformation and Development in Post-Socialist Southeast Asia and Central Europe;
3. Dr Ágnes Orosz, Dr Ágnes Szunomár, Institute of World Economics of the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences: The Role of Trade and Investment during the Post-Socialist Transformation in Southeast Asia and Central Europe;
4. Dr Miroslav Nozina: Institute of International Relations, Prague, Czech Republic: Is the Transformation Experience Transferable? The Case of the Czech Support Programme TRANS in Burma.

Discussant: Professor Guenter Heiduk, Professor Emeritus, Duisburg-Essen University, Germany; Head, East Asian Research Unit, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland.