

Proposed Proposal for EUROSEAS Conference 2017

University of Oxford, 16-18 August 2017

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(1) **Title** **Unleashing (External) Powers in Southeast Asia: A Development Perspective**

(2) **Convenor** Piyanat Soikham, PhD Candidate, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews
Esther Lew, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Geography & Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews

(3) **Brief description of panel**

Historically Southeast Asia has been a crossroads for great power competition, being a “playfield” for cultural socialisation, colonisation, power rivalries, and growing economy. The presence of external powers, be it the ancient Chinese and Indian of the ancient world or European nations during the advent of European colonisation, have undoubtedly shaped the social, political, economic and history of countries within the Southeast Asia Region. Although these countries are now all sovereign independent states, the visibility of these external powers are still evident in various aspect of development especially in the area of infrastructure, human capital, environment and capacity building. With the proliferation of new global power, coupled with the social economic development experienced by countries in this region, these external powers has also responded accordingly by realigning their approaches and strategies in order to maintain and protect their interest while further unleashing their influence. However, it will be interesting to understand to what extent such efforts have been fruitful and successful? Therefore in an attempt to further explore and understand the underpinning of existing power trend, a double panel of six panellists from different fields of study is proposed to explore the complexity of power dynamics in different Southeast Asia Countries. Wisaijorn, Lew and Khemanitthathai will explore this subject from the tangible power perspective looking into the geographical, natural resources and population elements. While Charoensri and Soikham will provide an intangible power perspective focusing on societal cohesiveness and human resource quality (*full panel list is appended*). Together, these papers provide a unique multidisciplinary insight into the interaction between external powers and countries within the Southeast Asia region including the consequential perspective of such interaction, dynamics and trajectories of these major powers in terms of their roles, objectives, achievement and caveats.

(4) **Double session** (2x90 min): 6 proposed presenters

Session 1 Tangible perspective

The Inescapable Territorial Trap in IR Theories: The US Role in the Thai-Lao Border from 1954 to 1975

Thanachate Wisaijorn, Loughborough University

Climate Governance and EU’s Normative Power: A Malaysian Perspective

Esther Lew, University of St Andrews

China's Pipeline Projects in Myanmar and the politics of ethnic minorities

Sirada Khemanitthathai, SOAS

Session 2 Intangible perspective

Japan as a Regional Intellectual Hegemony in East Asia and Its Contribution to ASEAN Connectivity

Narut Charoensri, University of Leeds

India’s Roles in Human Resource Development in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar & Vietnam

Piyanat Soikham, University of St Andrews

TBC

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(5) **Discussant** -