



Public Forum

ASEAN-China in the Next Decade: Western Hemisphere, Europe, and Indo-Pacific

Wednesday, 11th March 2026

Chumbhot-Pantip Conference Room, 4th Floor, Prajadhipok-Rambhaibarni Building
Chulalongkorn University

Agenda

08:30-09:00 hrs **Registration**

09:00-10:30 hrs **Public Forum Session 1: ASEAN-China Amid Geopolitical Undercurrents**

Venue: Chumbhot-Pantip Conference Room, 4th Floor,
Prajadhipok-Rambhaibarni Building, Chulalongkorn University

This panel takes stock of fast-moving and fluid geopolitical undercurrents over the past decade and potential directions in the foreseeable future. The Trump Administration's 2025 National Security Strategy and 2026 National Defense Strategy have become a geostrategic game changer as Washington has explicitly prioritized dominance in the Western Hemisphere over the Indo-Pacific and European affairs in view of the Russia-Ukraine war. If the US will be preoccupied and predominantly engaged in its own neighborhood from Greenland to Cape Horn, how should its allies and partners elsewhere adjust, including those in ASEAN? Will Washington's withdrawal from the rules-based international system and its hemispheric and near-abroad focus lead to more geostrategic distance vis-à-vis other parts of the world? How will China react to the so-called "Donroe" or Trump Doctrine's geostrategic posture and projection? Will China exert greater influence and role likewise in the Indo-Pacific? How should ASEAN interpret this paradigm shift and adjust given its traditional reliance on the US as an offshore security balancer and China as largest economic partner?

Speakers: **Mr. Robert F. Godec**
Former United States Ambassador to Thailand (Retired)

Dr. Pongphisoot Busbarat
Assistant Dean & Director, ISIS Thailand
Faculty of Political Science
Chulalongkorn University

Prof. CHEN Dongxiao
President and Senior Research Fellow
The Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS).
Shanghai, China

Speaker/Moderator: Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak
Professor & Senior Fellow, ISIS Thailand
Faculty of Political Science
Chulalongkorn University

10:30 – 10:45 hrs **Break**

10:45 – 12:15 hrs **Public Forum Session 2: Geoeconomic Cooperation and Challenges in ASEAN-China Relations**

Venue: Chumbhot-Pantip Conference Room, 4th Floor,
Prajadhipok-Rambhaibarni Building, Chulalongkorn University

As protectionism and geoeconomic competition intensify amid the ongoing breakdown of the multilateral trading system, the race between the US and China for chips, critical minerals and technological advantages will heat up correspondingly. National economies everywhere must find ways to navigate and adjust by securing markets, reconfiguring supply chains, moving up the value ladder whenever and wherever they can. While the US refocuses on petrol and other fossil fuels, China and other countries continue to build on their green transition and renewable energy. Accordingly, this session homes in on what China and ASEAN can do together to address common geoeconomic challenges and promote cooperation and collaboration in trade liberalization, green transition, and shared prosperity in an adverse global economic environment. What are some of the challenges China poses for ASEAN and vice versa? Can China become an export destination for ASEAN economies? What can ASEAN learn from China's progress in renewable technology? How might ASEAN and China deepen and widen economic enmeshment?

Speakers:

Dr. Luna Ge LAI

Research fellow
Institute for International Affairs
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

Dr. Pavidan Pananond

Professor of International Business
Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok

Mr. Leo Horn-Phathanothai

Executive Director, the Just Transitions Incubator (JUTI)
Founder and Convenor, Bangkok Climate Action Week
Former Senior Director, World Resources Institute (UK)

Mr. Arun Iamsuree

Chairman, Thai-Chinese Economic and Investment Institute (TCEII)
The Federation of Thai Industries, Bangkok

Moderator:

Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak

Professor & Senior Fellow, ISIS Thailand
Faculty of Political Science
Chulalongkorn University