

# ASEAN at 45: From an Association to a Community

International conference under the auspices of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic organized by the Association for International Affairs in cooperation with the Embassy of Indonesia in the Czech Republic, the Embassy of Malaysia in the Czech Republic, the Embassy of the Philippines in the Czech Republic, the Royal Thai Embassy in the Czech Republic, the Embassy of Vietnam in the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

**May 15, 2012**

**Venue:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Great Hall, Loretánske náměstí 5, Prague



**Asociace  
pro mezinárodní  
otázky**  
Association  
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# Synopsis

In August 2012, peoples and governments of ASEAN member states will commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Southeast Asian regional grouping. As a response to the growing importance of the ongoing integration processes in Southeast Asia, the Association for International Affairs and five ASEAN embassies in the Czech Republic with the kind support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic have jointly organized an international conference dedicated to the evaluation of ASEAN's past achievements and discussion on its future prospects.

“Southeast Asia”, which stands for more than ASEAN today – in the same way as „Europe“ stands for much more than today's European Union – was faced with many tensions and the risk of serious conflict back in 1967 when the five nations joined hands to create this new regional grouping. Peace and stability didn't come naturally to the region and were not automatically the expected situation 30, 40 or 50 years ago. Once it is achieved, stability is easily taken for granted while anguish and destruction caused by wars that prevailed before stability was achieved are easily forgotten. ASEAN has for 45 years been seeking to achieve peace and prosperity for its peoples through regional cooperation and integration. Two keywords guiding this process have been soft approach and multilateralism. After 45 years of progressing quietly and cautiously, Southeast Asian nations have achieved three major successes, which are nowadays often taken for granted, but were certainly not the expected outcome 45 year ago: peace and stability in the region, economic and institutional integration, and the ASEAN plus project or ASEAN's 'regional architecture'.

This conference primarily aims to assess past developments and future prospects of the ASEAN integration process with an emphasis on economic, political-security, and socio-cultural aspects. In light of many shared interests between ASEAN and the European Union (EU), the conference also aspires to stimulate public discussion and promote awareness in the Czech Republic, both among the policy-makers and public at large, on various economic and socio-political issues related to ASEAN. To this end, the speakers in three panels will discuss lessons ASEAN can learn from the Union's own experience of integration and benefits of regional co-operation while also pondering possible areas where the EU could learn lessons from the ASEAN experience.

**Daniel Novotný,**  
Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs

# Panels

## **Panel I: ASEAN Political-Security Community in 2015: Is It Possible?**

ASEAN is moving rapidly to forge a stronger political and security identity, with members engaged in an array of new initiatives designed to create such an ambitious community in 2015. What are the implications of the reforms that are now underway in Myanmar for ASEAN's political momentum? What impact could have the APSC blueprint adopted in 2009 for the realization of the ASEAN Political-Security Community? Why are the conflicting territorial claims in the South China Sea and unresolved border conflicts of a great concern among the architects of the ASEAN integration? Why have the rise of China and the continuing 'hub-and-spoke' strategy of the United States in the Asia-Pacific and the interactions between these two major powers increased tensions within South East Asian region?

## **Panel II: ASEAN Economic Integration: What Can ASEAN Learn from the EU Experience?**

ASEAN's economic integration process has been advancing. However, when compared with the EU's economic integration, ASEAN's achievements in this area are still very modest. What implications has ASEAN's emphasis on 'widening' rather than 'deepening' had for its economic integration? Has the unique ASEAN model, in spite of its shallow and less institutionalized form, brought some noticeable outcomes in terms of trade and investment relations as well as its external competitiveness? To what degree can ASEAN be compared with the EU-style economic integration, particularly in light of the current debt and competitiveness crisis in the EU?

## **Panel III: Realizing the Vision of an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community: Challenges and Opportunities**

'Diversity' is a concept that accurately captures Southeast Asia. ASEAN's quest for community building is an ambitious project in that it seeks to produce a common social and cultural community which will showcase the much-vaunted adage 'unity in diversity'. To what degree has ASEAN succeeded in managing its immense political, socio-cultural and economic diversity on the way to create a 'we'-feeling among its peoples, feeling of belonging to one ASEAN Community? While the ASCC may be achieved by 2015 on paper, is it feasible to have also the peoples of ASEAN realize one common ASEAN identity?

# Program

**8:30 - 9:00            REGISTRATION**

**9:00 - 9:30            OPENING SESSION**

*Welcoming remarks:*

**H.E. Do Xuan Dong**, Ambassador of Vietnam in the Czech Republic and Chairman of ASEAN Prague Group

**Vítězslav Grepl**, Director General of the Section of Non-European Countries and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic

**Daniel Novotný**, Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic

**9:30 - 10:30            PANEL I: ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY  
COMMUNITY IN 2015: IS IT POSSIBLE?**

*Chair:*

**Tomáš Petrů**, Head of Department of Asian Studies, Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic

*Speakers:*

**Shada Islam**, Head of Asia Program, Friends of Europe, Brussels, Belgium

**Clara Portela**, Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

**10:30 - 11:00            COFFEE BREAK**

**11:00 - 12:00            PANEL II: ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:  
WHAT CAN ASEAN LEARN FROM THE EU  
EXPERIENCE?**

*Chair:*

**Roman Chlupatý**, independent journalist, Prague, Czech Republic

*Speakers:*

**Pavel Hnát<sup>1</sup>**, Department of World Economy, University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic

**Ho Hong Hanh**, Deputy Director of the Centre for Integration and Development, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Vietnam

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<sup>1</sup> the paper co-authored with Zuzana Stuchlíková, Department of World Economy, University of Economics, Prague

# Program

12:10 - 13:10

## **PANEL III: REALIZING THE VISION OF AN ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

*Chair:*

**Miroslav Nožina**, Institute of International Relations, Prague, Czech Republic

*Speakers:*

**Paul Joseph Lim**, Head of Centre for European Studies, University Kebangsaan, Malaysia

**Zdeněk Zbořil**, Institute of International Relations, Prague, Czech Republic

13:10 - 13:30

## **CLOSING REMARKS - SUMMARY**

13:30 - 14:30

## **BUFFET LUNCH**

(presentation of traditional ASEAN/Southeast Asian cuisine)

# Speakers

## **Ho Thi Hong Hanh**

Ho Thi Hong Hanh is Deputy Director of the Centre for Development and Economic Integration Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. She holds an MA in European Politic and Policy Studies from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (2007). Her research interests focus on International Integration, Regional Economic Cooperation (AEC, FTA, TPP, East Asia economic cooperation). She has participated in several research projects that analyzed regional economic arrangements and Vietnam's policy on regional integration.

## **Pavel Hnát**

Pavel Hnát works as Assistant Lecturer at the Department of World Economy, Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Prague and as a research fellow at this Faculty. He finished his PhD studies in 2009 with specialization in European Studies. His dissertation "Global Political Economy of New Regionalism and the European Union" was awarded Best PhD thesis of the Faculty of International Relations in 2009. Pavel Hnát graduated with Honors from University of Economics in Prague at the Faculty of International Relations in 2004 - International Trade and European Integration and holds Certificate of European Studies issued by the Centre of European Studies at University of Economics in Prague.

## **Shada Islam**

Shada Islam is Head of the Asia Programme at Friends of Europe, a leading independent think tank in Brussels. She is responsible for developing and implementing a strategy for promoting stronger Asia-Europe relations through the publication of policy briefs and the organization of conferences, seminars and roundtable discussions. Before joining Friends of Europe, she worked as Senior Programme Executive at the European Policy Centre. She is also an experienced journalist, columnist, policy analyst and communication specialist with a strong background in geopolitical, foreign, economic and trade policy issues involving Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa and the United States. In addition to working at Friends of Europe, she is a regular contributor to Asian, African and Middle Eastern publications, including DAWN Newspaper (Pakistan), Business Times (Singapore), YaleGlobal (USA) and Bulletin (Belgium).

## **Paul Lim**

Paul Lim is currently Head of the Centre for European Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He attained a Diploma in Philosophy from the College-General, Urbanian University, Vatican City, and Doctoral Degree in Political and Labor Sociology from Université Catholique de Louvain, Institut des Sciences du Travail, Belgium. In 2007 - 2010, he was Senior Academic Advisor at the European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels. His main research interests include ASEAN, EU-ASEAN and ASEM and the EU's relations with Taiwan and China. He has had an over 35 years of professional experience both in Europe and in Asia as community organiser, professor, researcher, political adviser, and coordinator of educational exchange programmes.

## **Daniel Novotný**

Daniel Novotný is founder of the 'Global Europe' think-tank, Editor-in-Chief of 'EU External Affairs Review' and also Adjunct Fellow at the Monash European and EU Centre. Previously, he was Deputy Director of the Research Centre at AMO and taught International Relations at Metropolitan University and Anglo-American University in Prague. He holds a PhD from University of New South Wales,

# Speakers

Sydney, Australia. He has recently published a monograph *Torn between America and China: Elite Perceptions and Indonesian Foreign Policy* (ISEAS, 2010). In the past, he has also taught and/or held fellowships with The Habibie Centre (Indonesia), IDSS and ISEAS (Singapore), and Monash University, Deakin University and Australian National University.

## **Clara Portela**

Clara Portela is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Singapore Management University (Singapore). She holds a PhD from European University Institute in Florence and an MA from the Free University of Berlin. She is the author of the monograph *European Union Sanctions and Foreign Policy* (Routledge, 2010) and of several articles on the foreign and security policy of the EU. She has held visiting positions with the Institute for Security Studies of the EU (France) and the Australian National University (Australia). She is the recipient of the 2011 THESEUS Award for Promising Research on European Integration.

## **Zdeněk Zbořil**

Zdeněk Zbořil is an expert in the history of international relations and organizations with emphasis on political systems in the Pacific region, political extremism, radicalism and fundamentalism. He presently teaches at New York University, Prague. He graduated in History, Indonesian Studies and Politics from the Philosophical Faculty at Charles University, Prague. In 1993-1995, he was Professor at Korea University in Seoul and later he worked as Deputy Director and Director of the Institute of Political Science at the Philosophical Faculty, Charles University. In 1999-2006, he was chief editor of the *Mezinárodní politika* (International Politics) journal.



# Association for International Affairs

Association for International Affairs (AMO) is a preeminent independent think-tank in the Czech Republic in the field of international affairs and foreign policy. The mission of AMO is to contribute to a deeper understanding of international affairs through a broad range of educational and research activities. Today, AMO represents a unique and transparent platform in which academics, business people, policy makers, diplomats, the media and NGO's can interact in an open and impartial environment.

## **IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS AMO STRIVES TO:**

- formulate and publish briefings, research and policy papers
- arrange international conferences, expert seminars, roundtables, public debates
- organize educational projects
- present critical assessment and comments on current events for local and international press
- create vital conditions for growth of a new expert generation
- support the interest in international relations among broad public
- cooperate with like-minded local and international institutions

## **RESEARCH CENTER**

Founded in October 2003, the AMO's Research Center has been dedicated to carrying out research and raising public awareness of international affairs, security and foreign policy. The Research Center strives to identify and analyze issues important to Czech foreign policy and the country's position in the world. To this end, the Research Center produces independent analyses, encourages expert and public debate on international affairs, and suggests solutions to tackle problems in today's world. The Center's activities can be divided into two main areas. Firstly, the Center undertakes research and analysis of foreign policy issues. Secondly, the Center fosters dialogue with the policy-makers, expert community and broad public.



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# Notes

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