

Finance and Development in Southeast Asia

The Southeast Asia region is characterised by great financial diversity. In particular, in the region's poorer countries, many still lack access to formal financial services, such as having a bank account. Financial inclusion is the process of ensuring that financial services are available where needed by vulnerable groups such as marginalised communities including weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable cost. Countries with larger proportion of populations being excluded from the formal financial sector show higher poverty ratios and higher inequalities. Building an inclusive financial system requires conducting research from multidimensional perspectives.

Hence, this panel welcomes papers which would deepen our understanding of factors determining the extent of financial inclusions in the Southeast Asia region for development. We invite papers that reflect critically on what it means to be financially included in Southeast Asia, supported by robust empirical research. We are particularly interested in work that i) explores gradations of (in-)formal financial activity and how they impact everyday life (including, for example, mutual savings schemes such as *arisan* in Indonesia, and voluntary financial exclusions in post-conflict areas in Myanmar); ii) evaluates the transformative (or not) impact of new financial practices and technologies (such as FinTech in the CLMV countries and/or Islamic finance in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore); and iii) interrogates markers of the region's growing financialisation (including, for example, rising levels of household debt and new circulations of finance capital and their aesthetics). We welcome both papers that focus on specific countries and locales in Southeast Asia as well as contributions that adopt a more comparative perspective.

Convenors:

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