

External Actors and New Challenges in Southeast Asia

In recent years, Southeast Asian countries, both collectively and individually, have developed stronger relationships with other major countries and groupings outside of the region such as with China, India, Japan, US, the EU and Australia. The growing presence and influence of external actors in Southeast Asia may bring both positive and negative consequences and pose new challenges for the region. In the first place, it challenges the cohesiveness of Southeast Asia as a region and increases the likelihood of fragmentation between Southeast Asian countries.

This panel examines the role of external actors in Southeast Asia's political, economic, social and security structure and how these external influences affect the region. Furthermore, it addresses what new challenges have to be overcome due to these changes, and how Southeast Asian countries should respond to these external challenges.

Convenor: Pantri M. Erza Killian, School of East Asian Studies, University of Leeds - mlpmek@leeds.ac.uk