

Crime and Maritime Piracy in Southeast Asia

Over the past thirty years, Southeast Asia has experienced rapid growth in intra-regional economic activity but, despite a remarkable diminution in the frequency and intensity of military conflict and crises, it has not been free of interstate clashes, maritime disputes above all. Indeed, it is home to vital networks, such as shipping lanes in South China Sea and Malacca Straits, where approximately one third of international trade goes through. However, the struggle against maritime crime activities, such as piracy and transnational illicit organisations, represents a priority for all countries of the region, as well as one of the unavoidable prerequisites for the achievement of regional economic security. Maritime crimes increase trade riskiness and have significant effect on their flows, particularly influencing costs related to the delivery of transported goods. Therefore, the role of political institutions is paramount for tackling the emergence and persistence of transnational crime in Southeast Asia, suggesting the need for a new framework that is able to explain connections between crime and power.

This panel brings together scholars with diverse backgrounds ranging from Sociology, Law, Economics and Politics. It aims to focus on the impact of transnational crimes and maritime piracy on Southeast Asian countries' development, governance and security.

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