

# Call for Papers

## CONFERENCE:

**“Southeast Asia and its (Re-)Engagement with  
International Law – Challenges and Perspectives”**

### **Call for Papers – ILSEA**

Conference Organised by The Hague University of Applied Sciences  
and its International Partners

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## CONFERENCE:

### **Southeast Asia and its (Re-)Engagement with International Law – Challenges and Perspectives**

**The Hague, 21-22 November 2024**

The Hague University of Applied Sciences in collaboration with its international partners is organising a conference on Thursday 21 November and Friday 22 November 2024 at its main campus in The Hague on the general thematic ‘Southeast Asia and its (re-) engagement with International Law – Challenges and Perspectives’.

This conference aims to examine the engagement of Southeast Asian nations with international law. It aims to be inclusive in its approach as far as both the topics and the doctrinal viewpoints of the participants are concerned. It is open to both academics and practitioners of international law.

---

## **The Conference Theme**

Historically, the engagement of the region of Southeast Asia with international legal discourse has been generally characterised by under-participation and under-representation. Many reasons contributed to that state of affairs, not least the heavy colonial history of the region and its aftermath.

Today, Southeast Asian nations are increasingly attracting the spotlight of international law. This spotlight shines on the promise of increased international engagement and the peaceful settlement of disputes, made brighter by their participation in international organisations and the successful negotiation of treaties for the settlement of maritime and territorial disputes. The fast adoption of ASEAN communiqués on various issues in the region demonstrate the Organisation’s measured ambition to play a stronger role in regional cohesion. Malaysia has already concluded a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union and Indonesia has opened negotiations to the same end. The 2023 Indonesia-Vietnam EEZ and Continental Shelf Agreement, after a lengthy period of negotiations, made international headlines and attracted commentary reflecting on its international implications for the Law of the Sea at large.

At the same time, however, not all news coming from Southeast Asia lend weight to the assertion that there is a consistent, uniform and long-term change of pace in its engagement with international law. There are no Southeast Asian judges sitting in the permanent courts in The Hague anymore. Malaysia’s ratification of the Rome Statute is at a stalemate for more than a

decade, while the Philippines withdrew from it in 2019. The Rohingya situation in Myanmar features highly in the docket of both the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Allegations of serious human rights violations cast a long shadow and raise legitimate doubts over the prospect of renewed engagement with international law, democracy, and rule of law in the Southeast Asian region.

Against this background, it becomes important to consider the tension between stability and change in the region of the ASEAN member states as regards their approach to international law. Pertinent questions include:

**(1) Are Southeast Asian nations re-engaging with international law and institutions?**

**(2) If there is a re-engagement with international law and institutions, then:**

- Who are its drivers – state or/and non-state actors?
- What are the fields of international law leading change and is this change in their engagement with international law and institutions uniform or selective? Is there an emphasis on financial, fiscal or criminal law co-operation as opposed to human rights and rule of law?
- To what extent does such (re-)engagement reflect short-lived political opportunism or a genuine long-term commitment to the international rule of law?
- To what extent does this (re-)engagement affect democratic institutions and the rule of law in the region?
- How does it affect the operation of non-state actors in the region?
- What are the broader implications of this development for international law and institutions?
- What is the role of research institutions (e.g. ERIA) and regional organisations (e.g. Asian Development Bank, ASEAN) and which areas are of interest (e.g. digital connectivity, international cooperation, value chain)?

This conference aims to take stock of the current opportunities and challenges presented to the region of Southeast Asia from its (re-)engagement with international law across a wide expanse of legal areas and to offer a forum for the fruitful exchange of ideas as regards new perspectives on the way(s) forward.

The conference will consist of various panels on different themes, side-events dedicated to specific contemporary issues involving Southeast Asia and student and early career academics panels. It is open to academics, policymakers and practitioners alike.

A special event will be hosted in the framework of the conference on the topic of ‘125 Years of the Permanent Court of Arbitration: its Role in the Settlement of Southeast Asian Disputes’.

## The Panels

### Panels for Academics, Policymakers and Practitioners

The organising committee is inviting submissions on the following themes:

- (1) Southeast Asia and its (Re-)Engagement with the Sources of Public International Law
- (2) The Settlement of Southeast Asian Disputes in The Hague – a Narrative of (Re-)Engagement with Formal Adjudication?
- (3) Coloniality, Indigeneity and Extractivism in Southeast Asia: a Failure for Human Security?
- (4) Southeast Asia Approach to Procedural Rights in Climate Change Decision-Making
- (5) (Re-)Engaging with Human Rights Protection Monitoring; A Southeast Asian Court of Human Rights and/or Constitutional Dialogue?
- (6) Exploring Intellectual Property in the Era of AI Emergence: Perspectives from Southeast Asia
- (7) Navigating the Opportunities and Challenges of Services Trade in Southeast Asia
- (8) Peace and Security in Southeast Asia
- (9) Regulating the Future: Central Bank Digital Currencies and Crypto Assets in Southeast Asia
- (10) Towards Women Empowerment: Tackling Gender Stereotypes in Southeast Asia
- (11) International Challenges to Enhance Connectivity, International Cooperation and Domestic Resource Mobilisation
- (12) Combatting Organised Crime in Southeast Asia: Trafficking in Drugs, Arms, Persons, and Illegal Wildlife Trade
- (13) Teaching International Law in Southeast Asia
- (14) Maritime Security and the Law of the Sea in Southeast Asia
- (15) Continuous Legal Education Trainings for Legal Professionals in Southeast Asia
- (16) Sustainable Investment and Banking in Southeast Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

**Panels for Early Career Academics / Students & Academic Publication Workshop: Best Student Paper and Presentation**

Interested early career academics and students of international law of all levels are invited to submit abstracts of no more than 500 words by **15 July 2024**, on the general thematic ‘Southeast Asia and its (Re-)Engagement with International Law – Challenges and Perspectives’.

The convenors aim to host 2 (two) panels designated to young scholars. Participants will also be offered the possibility of attending a separate workshop on Academic Publication and Research.

**Instructions for Submission of Paper Abstracts or Practitioners’ Contributions**

Contributions must be submitted via email to: [ilseaconference2024@gmail.com](mailto:ilseaconference2024@gmail.com)

All presentations will be in person or exceptionally in a hybrid format. **Please indicate whether you expect to present in person or online.**

Interested speakers should provide the following information:

**(a) Proposed papers**

- (1) An abstract, not exceeding 500 words
- (2) A short biography (100 words) should be included in the abstract itself
- (3) The panel for which the paper should be considered (one panel only)
- (4) The author’s name, affiliation and email address

**(b) Proposed practitioner’s contributions**

- (1) A concise summary of your conference presentation, not exceeding 300 words
- (2) A short biography (100 words) should be included in the same file, emphasising the practitioner’s relevant expertise
- (3) The panel for which the presentation should be considered (one panel only)
- (4) The speaker’s name and professional affiliation and email address

**(c) Proposed contributions for the early career academics/Ph.D. candidates/student panels**

- (1) An abstract, not exceeding 500 words
- (2) A short biography (100 words) should be included in the abstract itself, indicating the University affiliation, the level of study and whether this is an original paper or a previously submitted work
- (3) The author’s name and email address

## Selection Criteria

The criteria for the selection of academic papers are:

- (1) Originality: whether the work has been published before
- (2) Relevance: its connection to the theme of the conference and the specific panel
- (3) For practitioners' contributions: emphasis on contemporary state practice

## Timeline

- Abstracts and summaries should be submitted by 15 July 2024, 17.00 hours CET to [ilseaconference2024@gmail.com](mailto:ilseaconference2024@gmail.com).
- Successful applicants will be informed no later than 15 August 2024.
- The deadline for submission of full draft papers is 1 November 2024.
- The conference runs from 21 to 22 November 2024.
- The full draft papers (approx. 3000 words) and summaries of presentations will be shared with the discussant in the panel. They will also be made available to the conference participants, to facilitate academic discussion.

## Fees and Financial Support

The conference is free of charge.

The organisers are not in a position to provide financial support for participation to the conference. However, specifically for students, there is a possibility of student hosting/peer guest accommodation for the duration of the conference. If that is required, please indicate it in your email.

## Subsequent Publication

As regards the panels dedicated to Banking and Financial Law, selected papers of the conference will be submitted for publication with the Journal of Central Banking Law and Institutions. The organisers are in contact with the Asian Journal of International Law (for papers on the thematic '(Re-)Engagement with International Law'), the Indonesian Yearbook of International Law (for general interest papers) and the Constitutional Review Journals (for papers on constitutional law and human rights). As soon as further information becomes available concerning conference publications, it will be announced on the conference website ([www.ilsea2024.com](http://www.ilsea2024.com)).

## Participants

Academics, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, or students with an interest in international law and Southeast Asia are welcome to participate in this conference.

For further information, please visit [www.ilsea2024.com](http://www.ilsea2024.com).

For queries on the modalities concerning participation, please send an email to [ilseaconference2024@gmail.com](mailto:ilseaconference2024@gmail.com).

## Contact Information & Conference Convenors

For further information, please send an email to [ilseaconference2024@gmail.com](mailto:ilseaconference2024@gmail.com)

Conference co-convenors:

- M. Vagias, Faculty of Public Management, Law and Safety, The Hague University of Applied Sciences
- A. Afriansyah, Faculty of Law, Universitas Indonesia

## Annex I – Panel Themes

### **Southeast Asia and its (Re-)Engagement with the Sources of Public International Law**

This panel will focus on issues relating to the sources of international law. It is dedicated to the exploration of state practice from Southeast Asian nations and its impact – if any – on international treaties, customary law and general principles. Pertinent questions for this panel are the following: What is the significance of Southeast Asian practice for international law? Is it accessible? How do national jurisdictions in Southeast Asia deal with formal sources of law? Is there room for ‘soft law’ instruments in international discourse between Southeast Asian nations? What is the place of Security Council Resolutions and diplomatic assurances in the region’s approach to international rulemaking? Is it possible to speak of one, unified ‘East-phalia’ or do approaches differ and if so, how?

### **The Settlement of Southeast Asian Disputes in The Hague – a Narrative of (Re-)Engagement with Formal Adjudication?**

The second panel is dedicated to the settlement of Southeast Asian disputes in The Hague. It invites reflection on the jurisprudence of adjudicative institutions based in The Hague and their contributions to the peaceful and enduring settlement of disputes in the region. This panel welcomes papers exploring the various dimensions of dispute resolution, ranging from institutional dimensions to engagement with a court before, during and after a judicial process.

### **Coloniality, Indigeneity and Extractivism in Southeast Asia: a Failure for Human Security?**

Extractivism, as a modality of capital accumulation, is evident across Southeast Asia. As an example, Indonesia and Malaysia facilitate large-scale oil palm plantation development making them world's largest suppliers of palm oil. Indonesia also holds world's largest nickel reserves, very much aware of the economic opportunities presented by the energy transition. At the same time, extractive mega-projects fuel deforestation on a massive scale, resulting in significant environmental harm, loss of biodiversity and harm to Indigenous lands and livelihoods. Unchecked extractive activity thus often goes hand in hand with colonial-style land dispossession, racial-capitalist exploitation and concurrent violence targeting historically marginalised communities, leading to an aggravated sense of human insecurity. While contemporary human security frameworks, such as environmental peacebuilding or the WPS agenda, have gained momentum in global discourse, they seem inherently incapable of addressing such harms that are supported by the economic interest of the state. There is thus a growing need to understand the linkages between political and economic forces driving social conflict, extraction activities and its impact on Indigenous and rural communities. This panel welcomes papers exploring the interaction between extraction activities, conflict and displacement and dispossession of Indigenous and rural communities in Southeast Asia.

## **Southeast Asia Approach to Procedural Rights in Climate Change Decision-Making**

In the face of escalating climate challenges, Southeast Asia stands as one of the most vulnerable regions, grappling with rising sea levels and heightened natural phenomena that impact millions in densely populated areas and coastal zones. In the midst of these challenges, the draft ASEAN declaration on environmental rights has reinforced a vital discussion about the full realisation of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters. In light of the urgent need to address climate change, our panel aims to delve into the significance of procedural rights within frameworks striving for climate neutrality. Central to our inquiry is a fundamental question: Are members of the public sufficiently empowered with access to information and meaningful opportunities for engagement in climate change decision-making processes? Join us in exploring this critical inquiry as we navigate the path towards a more informed, participatory, and sustainable future.

## **(Re-)Engaging with Human Rights Protection Monitoring; A Southeast Asian Court of Human Rights and/or Constitutional Dialogue?**

No regional human rights treaty or human rights court is available in the region of Southeast Asia. Initiatives in the context of ASEAN have led to the adoption of non-binding human rights instruments. However, no supervisory mechanism exists corresponding to the European, American or African Human Rights systems. Against this background, constitutional courts and equivalent institutions have a pivotal role to play in the protection and promotion of human rights within their national jurisdictions. Participants in this panel are invited to consider whether national constitutional courts in Southeast Asia engage in constitutional dialogue. If so, to what extent and to what effect? Is that dialogue – where and when it happens – influenced by international human rights norms? Does it maximise the protection of human rights and, if so, do all human rights receive equal attention? Ultimately, can we speak today of the formative steps of a ‘Southeast Asian’ tradition in human rights law that may one day lay the normative framework for the creation of a regional human rights court?

## **Exploring Intellectual Property in the Era of AI Emergence: Perspectives from Southeast Asia**

This panel focuses on the theme of intellectual property (IP) protection and artificial intelligence (AI) in Southeast Asia. As AI technologies rapidly advance, they present unprecedented challenges and opportunities for safeguarding IP rights. From copyrights, trademarks, patent law authorship and ownership issues, registration, and infringement, as well as data privacy concerns and the ethical implications of AI-generated content, this call seeks to explore multifaceted strategies and legal frameworks for preserving the integrity of IP amidst the AI revolution. This panel welcomes original research, case studies, legal framework analysis, and theoretical contributions that critically examine the evolving landscape of IP protection in the Southeast Asian context. Submissions may address, but are not limited to, issues such as AI-generated works, algorithmic accountability, legal liability, and policy implications in the realm of IP.



## **Navigating the Opportunities and Challenges of Services Trade in Southeast Asia**

Trade has become a vital engine of growth in Southeast Asia, generating welfare, creating new jobs, and lifting more people out of poverty. Recent years have seen a dynamic growth, especially in services trade powered by increasing digitalisation and new technologies. This panel will delve into the dynamic regulatory and policy landscape of services trade in Southeast Asia. It will explore the many opportunities that abound in one of the world's most economically vibrant regions, from burgeoning markets to strategic partnerships. However, alongside these opportunities, comes a unique set of challenges ranging from regulatory complexities to geopolitical tensions. This panel will present diverse perspectives from academia, industry, and/or policymakers, to shed light on key trends, share practical insights, and engage in thought-provoking dialogue on how stakeholders can harness the opportunities while effectively mitigating the challenges in this rapidly evolving economic region.

## **Peace and Security in Southeast Asia**

The United Nations (UN) has played a role in maintaining and restoring international peace and security in Southeast Asia. Peacekeeping operations in the region have included some of the most ambitious and intrusive missions ever launched, some entailing the temporary governance of a territory. These operations exposed weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the way the UN plans, funds and sustains operations. Given the challenges the UN is facing, coupled with the continuous risk of UN overstretch, regional actors play a significant role in maintaining peace and security in Southeast Asia. Pertinent questions for this panel include: what is the future for the UN in preventing and peacefully resolving disputes in Southeast Asia? What role can or should the UN Secretary-General and his envoys play? What role does the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) play, in particular its Political-Security Community (APSC) and its Regional Forum (ARF)? What potential does the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, a binding instrument signed by all major powers in the world, have for maintaining peace and security in Southeast Asia? Repeatedly, Southeast Asian nations have opted for bypassing ASEAN in their disputes with neighbouring countries, including with China over the South China Sea. In what ways could ASEAN increase its role in the maintenance of peace and security in the region? Or would Southeast Asia need an alternative to ASEAN? Would Southeast Asian security challenges be addressed more effectively and with greater legitimacy by ad hoc bilateral or multilateral approaches, such as the Australian initiative to lead the International Force for East Timor in 1999?

## **Regulating the Future: Central Bank Digital Currencies and Crypto Assets in Southeast Asia**

As digital currencies gain traction, Southeast Asia emerges as a dynamic region actively exploring the potential of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and crypto assets to enhance financial inclusion, payment efficiency, and cross-border transactions. The adoption of CBDCs and the growth of the crypto industry promise to revolutionise traditional banking systems, offering new opportunities and presenting unique regulatory challenges. With a large and expanding crypto market, Southeast Asia features a diverse and dynamic regulatory landscape. However, the complexity and variability of crypto regulations across different countries in the region present

challenges to the cross-border integration and interoperability of crypto services and products, emphasising the need for collaboration and coordination among various regulators and stakeholders. Furthermore, the increasing interest in wholesale CBDCs, aimed at improving the efficiency of domestic and intra-regional financial flows, underscores the need for collaborative regulatory efforts. This panel will delve into the critical aspects of CBDC and crypto-asset design, technology, and regulation. It will foster a deeper understanding of how these digital innovations can enhance financial stability and economic growth in Southeast Asia and explore what is required to create a coherent regulatory environment that supports the crypto industry and benefits the region's economic integration and development.

### **Towards Women Empowerment: Tackling Gender Stereotypes in Southeast Asia**

Southeast Asian states are party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework in 2020, as well as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, gender stereotypes across Southeast Asia constitute a persisting narrow understanding of the role of women and men, exposing women to various forms of discrimination and entrenching institutional barriers preventing women from combatting these practices. Discriminatory laws, social norms and practices make women vulnerable to domestic violence, trigger gender segregation in education, and limit women's participation in decision-making processes excluding them from political and economic participation within the society. One example can be seen in the Vertido case (CEDAW/C/46/D/18/2008), where gender-based stereotypes about rape and rape victims had severely violated rights to fair and just trial in the Philippines. This panel welcomes papers reflecting on gender-discriminatory practices in Southeast Asia rooted in patriarchal structures putting women in socio-economic disadvantageous positions and exploring opportunities to empower women through combatting harmful gender stereotypes.

### **International Challenges to Enhance Connectivity, International Cooperation and Domestic Resource Mobilisation**

Countries and regional organisations in the Asian region are developing different proposals to enhance digital connectivity, international cooperation and to raise revenue (domestic resource mobilisation) to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This panel focuses on what is the role of actors such as research institutions, policy makers, and regional organisations when addressing these proposals, and what needs to be done to enhance more cooperation among these actors in the Asian region. This panel calls for researchers and policy makers to present their views on how such regional cooperation can be enhanced as well as exchange of best practices among these actors.

## **Combatting Organised Crime in Southeast Asia: Trafficking in Drugs, Arms, Persons, and Illegal Wildlife Trade**

Trafficking takes many shapes and forms in contemporary affairs. The operation of organised crime has been made even easier and more difficult to detect using technological advancement and information technologies. It is trite but true that the effective combat against trafficking requires strong cooperation among law enforcement agencies of various jurisdictions. This panel invites submissions reflecting on the challenges and opportunities for law enforcement against trafficking in Southeast Asia. Is there one, uniform approach to combatting trafficking in the region or are there divergent views? What types of cooperation are available? Is such cooperation formalised and official? What is the function of judicial oversight in such circumstances?

## **Teaching International Law in Southeast Asia**

This panel welcomes contributions from academics – teachers of International and EU law – in higher education across Southeast Asia. It is particularly interested in contributions discussing the approach that the teaching of International and EU law holds in Southeast Asian curricula and its implementation. Interested scholars should consider questions such as; what are the different approaches to the teaching of international law in higher education across Southeast Asia? Do they rely on more western approaches to International law and scholarship, or are there distinctive schools of thought on the rise, influenced by local cultures and communities? To what extent is the teaching of International and EU law supported within the academic community of Southeast Asia (inter-institutionally) or by external actors (extra-institutionally, by states or NGOs for example)? Is there a place for legal skills in the teaching and assessment of International and EU Law in Southeast Asia?

## **Maritime Security and the Law of the Sea in Southeast Asia**

Maritime security, the law of the sea, and the interests of Southeast Asian states are intricately intertwined, shaping the region's geopolitical dynamics and economic prosperity. Southeast Asian states, situated amidst vital maritime routes and rich maritime resources, face many maritime security challenges, including piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and territorial disputes. The law of the sea, as enshrined in UNCLOS, provides the legal framework within which these states navigate their maritime rights, responsibilities, and disputes. However, the diverse interpretations and overlapping claims to maritime territories in the region often lead to tensions and conflicts, underscoring the importance of effective maritime governance and cooperation. Southeast Asian states recognise the imperative of enhancing maritime security to safeguard their sovereignty, protecting vital sea lanes, and promoting economic development. Consequently, regional initiatives such as ASEAN-led mechanisms and multilateral dialogues play a crucial role in fostering cooperation, confidence-building, and conflict resolution among Southeast Asian states. By addressing maritime security challenges collectively and upholding the principles of the law of the sea, Southeast Asian states can work towards ensuring stability, prosperity, and sustainable development in the region's maritime domain.

## **Continuous Legal Education and Trainings for Academics and Legal Professionals in Southeast Asia**

Continuous legal education for legal academics and professionals is becoming a necessity in the legal industry. The demand for up-to-date, current and in-depth legal training is on the rise internationally. In the post-COVID world, this demand is met with hybrid, on-site and other types of legal trainings organised by governmental and non-governmental agencies. This panel invites submission and presentations reflecting on the past, present and future of continuous legal education and trainings for academics and legal professionals in Southeast Asia. Papers on best practices, cultural nuances and strategies for effective international co-operation are particularly welcome.

## **Sustainable Investment and Banking in Southeast Asia – Challenges and Opportunities**

The UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In response, many organisations are adopting regulations and action plans to reorient capital flows towards sustainable investment and banking. The new Agenda seeks to foster transparency and long-termism in markets. Southeast Asian nations are increasingly considered as the future for foreign investment and the growth of the world economy. National regulators including Central Banks and Financial Authorities as well as private banks and investment entities are called to do business in a changing financial landscape in Southeast Asia. For this theme, we welcome contributions on issues such as; do Southeast Asia Nations follow a unified approach to the issue of sustainable investment and banking? To what extent is the operation of private banks and financial institutions in Southeast Asia affected by the international developments concerning sustainability and transparency in investment and banking such as the 2030 Agenda? Are there increasing cooperation and coordination between the public and private entities before, during and after the adoption of regulations for the promotion of sustainable and transparent banking and investment? What challenges and opportunities are presented for future investors by present or future changes in the regulatory landscape?