2017 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGES
RUSSIAN GRAND STRATEGY AND THE ASIA PACIFIC: WHAT ROLE FOR ASEAN?

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: CHALLENGES OF PROTECTION

EDUCATION PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY CLUB
ABOUT ASIA CENTRE

Asia Centre is operates as social enterprise that seeks to improve the lives of the people in the region through innovative and collaborative partnerships. the centre serves as think tank, meeting space, project partner. it connects peoples and regions through collaborative partnerships with educational institutions, international organizations, non-profit organizations and other institution in the private and public sector. it harnesses its strategic location and strong international networks to co-convene activities to address contemporary issues in the region.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

During its third year operation of asia centre, there is notable achievements.

- International Conference on National Human rights institutions.
- collaboration report with IPPFoRB on Freedom of religion & in the region.
- undertaken research & Publishing & on Universal periodic Review of south east Asia.
- Partnering with the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN.
- the centre Hosted UN Special Rapporteurs for the situation of human rights defenders & internally displaced persons.
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### HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

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- VIOLATION BY BUSINESSES AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS  
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- ASIA CENTRE ROUNDTABLE – JAPAN-ASEAN RELATIONS IN A MULTIPOLAR ASIA-PACIFIC CENTURY  
- RUSSIAN GRAND STRATEGY AND THE ASIA PACIFIC: WHAT ROLE FOR ASEAN?  
- NITE FOR RIGHTS – ASIA CENTRE’S 2ND ANNIVERSARY
The human rights program focuses on three core mechanisms: The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs). Since the launch of programme the centre has undertaken researches based on evidence with mechanisms to gauge their effectiveness in protecting human rights in the region. The outcome of the human rights programme is geared towards strengthening the capacity of all stakeholders, especially civil society organizations, to advance the protection of human rights in Southeast Asia, the programme fosters networking of stakeholders to exchange views over each of the mechanisms.

BENEDICT ANDERSON 2ND ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL ROUNDTABLE: NATIONALISM, CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS: CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA

On 18 January 2017, Asia Centre assembled the Benedict Anderson 1st Anniversary Memorial Roundtable to discuss contemporary issues surrounding nationalism, citizenship and statelessness across Asia. This Roundtable sought to reflect on and discuss these issues in the context of contemporary developments in Asia such as the Chakmas in India, Uyghurs in China, Rohingya in Myanmar, Hmong in Laos and others.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: CHALLENGES OF PROTECTION

July 2017 the centre held international conference of National human rights institutions to look the challenge of protection on human rights in the region. The aim of the conference was to allow researchers in the region to convene and share their views among each other. NHRIs, international human rights system and network, How is the interaction between the NHRIs at the international level, for example with the UPR and UN? What is the role of GANHRI in the growth and development of the NHRIs worldwide?
Impact of the UPR on the Protection of Human Rights in Southeast Asia

In its ongoing work on the impact of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council on the protection of human rights in Southeast Asia, Asia Centre convened a focus group to discuss its research findings for a baseline study on this mechanism. Held on October 6, 2017, the session was facilitated by Asia Centre’s Dr. Robin Ramcharan and it included participants from national, regional and international organisations. Participants included the need for greater strategic engagement and coalition building by civil society, challenges in the follow up and implementation of recommendations and the need for capacity building on the UPR for civil society and government officials.
Violations by Businesses Against Human Rights Defenders An Emerging Trend

Mr. Micheal Forst from the office of the UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights defenders (HRDs) highlighted during his public lecture at the Asia Centre.

to use its mandate to hold businesses accountable for human rights violations, as the states are no longer the violators around the world violations against HRDs, also committed by companies in the areas of mining and forestry as well as other sectors.

PUBLICATION: THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVES

In the result of the International human rights conference the centre proceeded this report on The Universal Periodic Review of Southeast Asia: Civil Society Perspectives provides a stakeholder analysis of human rights protection on the ground.

NEW REPORTS: Freedom of Religion or Belief under threat in Southeast Asia

The reports are results of collaboration between The International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) and Asia Centre, that examined today’s state of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in Southeast Asia. Looking at all the ASEAN countries, new research shows that religious freedom appears to be regressing in Southeast Asia. Serious challenges have arisen in recent years across the region, such as in Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, according to the reports.

These challenges are at least four-fold: rise of religious-based intolerance, discrimination against minorities and indigenous peoples, the securitization of Freedom of Religion or Belief in the context of fighting terrorism and the dire need to uphold international human rights standards in this overall context, says Dr. Robin Ramcharan of Asia Centre who coordinated the research on behalf of IPPFoRB.
EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The education programme aims to foster teaching partnership where the centre experts provide & support higher learning educational institution and think tank associates. In collaborations with its teaching partners, Asia centre offers especially designed curriculum for students to take part in academic, cultural and professional developments in Thailand as well the region.

ASIA CENTRE HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEFING FOR GEORGIA TECH, USA

Asia Centre held a session on 22 May 2017, in Bangkok, for visitors from the Southeast Asia Study Abroad Program of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs of Georgia Tech, which is based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Dr. Robin Ramcharan and Dr. James Gomez led the briefing and discussions. Dr. Katja Weber led the group from Georgia Tech.

The session focused on challenges facing human rights protection and democratic transitions in ASEAN, and on contemporary governance challenges that affect human security including the difficulties of providing social protection. Institutional differences between ASEAN and other regional bodies were highlighted.
18th August 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the Fukuda Doctrine, a symbol of amity and cooperation between Japan and Southeast Asia. To commemorate this relationship, Asia Centre will be convening a roundtable discussion to analyse the emerging trends, issues and lessons surrounding contemporary Japan-ASEAN relations and trajectories for the future.
The Panelists provided Japan-ASEAN relation insights into current priorities, challenges and strategic engagement, the discussion also included that perspectives on influences from China, India, Russia and USA.
INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGES

Asia has become the global nexus where innovations in new technology, rapid urbanization, environmental issues, a large young population juxtaposed with a growing older generation, widening income gap, economic uncertainty, political uncertainty and security concerns are converging. Given these challenges, Asia Centre’s Intellectual Exchange Programme (IEP) convenes activities that aim to identify problems and seek solutions to cultural, economic, legal, political and social issues impacting Southeast Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific community. This program fosters interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative partnerships at the national, regional and global levels in order to construct a world of peace, harmony and greater equity. It seeks to generate innovative thinking and problem solving of contemporary problems affecting humanity.
RUSSIAN GRAND STRATEGY AND THE
ASIA PACIFIC: WHAT ROLE FOR
ASEAN?
As the Asia-Pacific century unfolds, Russia emerges as a global power broker and eagerly distances itself from the post-Cold War, unipolar order in which it appeared as a freshman on the world stage that played second fiddle to the United States. Russia’s reassertion of a primary role in world affairs, reminiscent of its long great power past, has been accompanied by imperial fatigue in the United States, the imperious rise of China and of emerging regional powers such as India and Brazil.
H.E.Ambassador Kirill Barsky discussed Panel with Dr.Takashi Tsukamoto from Thamassat University, Dr.Peater Shearman from Chulalongkorn University and Dr.Pavel Slutsky Chulalongkorn University.
This roundtable explores Moscow’s 21st century grand strategy, in particular its engagement with the Asia-Pacific, and the place of Southeast Asia in its global ambitions?
NITE FOR RIGHTS – ASIA CENTRE’S 2ND ANNIVERSARY

Nite for Rights!” was a celebration of human rights advocacy and activism in the region on the occasion of Asia Centre’s 2nd anniversary. The evening saw the Centre creating a platform for sharing and discussion into the critical human rights issues impacting the region as well as strategies for effective engagement.