ASEAN Future Forward
ANTICIPATING THE NEXT 50 YEARS

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*Disclaimer: To the best of our knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate and reliable as of the date of printing; however, changes to circumstances after the time of printing may impact on the accuracy of the information. (7 September 2017)
11 September 2017, Monday

0830 – 0900  Registration
Venue: Foyer, Majestic 1, Level 3

0900 – 0915  Welcoming Remarks
Venue: Majestic 1, Level 3

Dato' Steven CM Wong
Deputy Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Mr Wolfgang Hruschka
Country Director
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Malaysia Office
0915 - 1045

Session 1: Resettling Migrants – Reconfiguring Social Peace and Public Security in Newly Cosmopolitan Societies

As masses of migrants settle in host countries, different cultural perceptions and habits may rub against one another. Issues like the social compact or the social contract long implicit and settled in these countries may need to be renegotiated. How have such host countries fared so far? What can civil society organisations, public institutions and host societies learn from past successes and failures? What more can be done to help in the resettlement process?

Moderator:

Datuk Hasnah Abdul Hamid
Director General (Research)
Prime Minister’s Department
Putrajaya
Malaysia

Speakers:

Mr Benedict Göbel
Coordinator for Integration Politics
Politics and Consulting Department
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.
Germany
"Experiences, Challenges of the German Integration Policy"

Aegile Fernandez
Director
Tenaganita
Malaysia
"Addressing challenges faced by Migrants, Refugees and People in Host Countries."

1045 - 1110

Refreshments
Venue: Foyer, Majestic 1, Level 3

1110 - 1240

Session 2: Formal Strategies and Laws – Reconciling Values, Harmonising Practices via Integration or Assimilation?

Such challenges as adjustment and acceptance confront both the migrant community and the host society. If left unaddressed, mutual fear, suspicion and prejudice can result in violent conflict. In accommodating migrant communities, should the host society and government expect migrants to be assimilated and conform to the host culture, or be integrated and encouraged to maintain their own culture? Integration (for a multicultural society) accepts minority identities and rights as equally valid, while assimilation marginalises them. Do official policies favour integration or assimilation? Are host governments open to learning from others?

Moderator:

Dato’ Steven CM Wong
Deputy Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Speakers:

Prof Dato’ Dr Shamsul Amri Baharuddin
Director
Institute of Ethnic Studies
UKM (National University of Malaysia)
"Embedding Superdiversity in Conventional Institutional Structures"

Dr Christine Hegenbart
Policy Advisor
Office of Julia Obermeier, MdB (CSU)
Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany
"Refugee Protection in Germany"

1240 – 1250

Group photography
Venue: Foyer, Level 2

1300 – 1420

Lunch
Special Luncheon Address by YB Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed
Venue: Majestic 9, Level 4
The 6th Malaysian-German Security Dialogue

1420 – 1550

Session 3 (Anti-terrorism): Reviewing Stock Measures – Filling Gaps in Public Awareness and Policing

Gaps and loopholes remain in routine anti-terrorism measures. They become known only after the system fails and terrorist attacks succeed. Yet policies cannot wait until tragedy strikes to do what is needed. What can be done as standard practice to improve anti-terrorism measures to protect society? What changes in outlook and work culture can raise security levels in public awareness and police protection without compromising civil and political rights?

Moderator:

Lt-Gen Dato' Suhaimi Hj Mohd Zuki
Chief Executive
Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MIDAS)

Speakers:

Dr Marwan Abou Taam
Research Associate
Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)
Humboldt University of Berlin; and
Analyst/Advisor
State Criminal Investigation Department, Rhineland-Palatinate (LKA), Germany
"Countering Terrorism Between Prevention and Repression – A New Culture of Security as a Collective Action"

DCP Dato' Ayob Khan Bin Mydin Pitchay
Principal Assistant Director; and
Head
Counter-terrorism Division
Special Branch
Royal Malaysian Police
"Countering Terrorism through prevention and suppression: The Malaysian experience"

1550 – 1615

Refreshments
Venue: Foyer, Majestic 1, Level 3

1615 – 1745

Session 4 (Counter-terrorism): Understanding Radicalisation and Energising Deradicalisation Programmes

Much remains to be understood about how such transnational terrorist groups as Da'esh win support and gain recruits around the world, including from among the least likely candidates. What makes their messaging so compelling and persuasive? Understanding their appeal in the radicalization process helps in efforts to deradicalise captive adherents. How can they be better "turned" around? How to ensure that they are not re-radicalised?

Moderator:

Dr Ahmad El-Muhammady
Lecturer
Centre for Foundation Studies
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

Speakers:

Mr Thomas Koruth Samuel
Director
Research and Publications Division
Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT)
Malaysia
"Countering the Narratives of Violent Extremism: Exploring the Message, Medium and Messenger"

Ms Alma Fathi
Counselor
HA YAT-Germany
Counseling | De-radicalization | Network
Germany
"Experiences and Approaches from HAYAT-Germany"

1900 – 2030

Dinner Hosted by KAS
Venue: Restaurant Rebung, Taman Botani
Kuala Lumpur
Session 5: Navigating Between Cyberespionage and Cyber Security - What Next?

Governments in virtually all countries want better cyber security against cyber spying, but also seek the capacity for cyber espionage on others. Following reports of mutual cyber espionage between China and the United States, it was proposed that both countries agree to a policy of Mutually Assured Restraint (MAR). In 2015 both governments agreed to stop people in their countries from cyber spying on the other country for profit, but exempted themselves as governments from this prohibition. A US investigation has also delved into allegations of Russian cyber involvement in the recent US presidential election. What can other countries learn from such experiences?

Moderator:

Prof Dato' BA Hamzah
Department of Strategic Studies
National Defence University (UPNM)
Malaysia

Speakers:

Ms Gunhild Scheer
Attorney at Law and Scientific Researcher
Cybercrime Research Institute
Germany
"Nations Under Cyber Attack"

Dr Sonny Zulhuda
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Laws
International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM)
"Cyber Security in the Open Data: Where’s the Equilibrium?"

Refreshments
Venue: Foyer, Majestic 1, Level 3

Session 6: Strategic and Security Implications of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in a Multipolar World

Much of the discourse on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has dwelt on the economic aspects such as costs and benefits. But what are the strategic and security implications, particularly in a multipolar world? In the absence of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), what might the China-led BRI mean for countries in Asia and Europe? How might BRI be linked with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)? How might other countries contribute more meaningfully to BRI's development which impacts on them? What other sources of funds exist to finance the massive infrastructure needed?

Moderator:

Dr Sharifah Munira Alatas
Senior Lecturer
Politics and Security Research Centre
UKM (University Kebangsaan Malaysia)

Speakers:

Mr Bunn Nagara
Senior Fellow
Foreign Policy and Security Studies (FPSS)
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia
"BRI: What to Consider and Expect?"

Dr Gudrun Wacker
Senior Fellow
Asia Division
German Institute for International and Security Affairs
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
Germany
"China’s Belt and Road Vision: Strategic Implications of Remapping Eurasia (and Beyond)"

Lunch
Venue: Contango, Level 1
Session 7: What Lies Ahead for the EU and the ASEAN Community?

The "European project" that saw the evolution of the European Economic Community to the European Community and then to the European Union had been regarded as the most successful attempt at regional integration. But Brexit appears to have created reasons for pause. ASEAN, now heading towards comprehensive Community status, has been regarded as the second-most successful regional bloc after the EU. What is the likely future for the EU and ASEAN? In what ways are they similar, and different? What can each learn from the other?

Moderator:

Mr Sholto Byrnes
Senior Fellow
Foreign Policy and Security Studies (FPSS)
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Speakers:

Mr Patrick Rüppel
Senior Programme Manager for Foreign and Security Policy, Geopolitics
Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia/Singapore
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

Dr Roy Anthony Rogers
Head
Department of International and Strategic Studies
University of Malaya (UM)
Malaysia

Closing Remarks

Mr Wolfgang Hruschka
Country Director
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Malaysia Office

Dato' Steven CM Wong
Deputy Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia
Dato' Steven CM Wong
Deputy Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Dato' Steven Wong is Deputy Chief Executive of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. He has been in the public policy arena for more than two decades and has extensive experience in global, regional and national political economic affairs. He was Malaysia's principal representative to the OECD's Dynamic Asian Economies Dialogue (1989-1992) and has been on the secretariats of two ASEAN eminent persons groups (1987, 1992). He has also served the Malaysian National Committee for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and is active in the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), among others. Steve is ISIS Malaysia's representative in the Asian Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM), a network of Australian, Indonesian, Thai and Malaysian think tanks that examines regional asylum seeker and refugee issues. He received his postgraduate education in the University of Melbourne and is a columnist for the New Straits Times.

Mr Wolfgang Hruschka
Country Director
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Malaysia Office

In January 2017, Mr. Hruschka took over the position as Country Director of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Malaysia. Since 2004 he acted as Deputy Head of Division in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, being responsible for various sections such as Turkey and Iran, scientific and cultural institutions and South Asia. From 1992 to 2004, he worked as Representative of the Adenauer-Stiftung in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Indonesia and in KAS headquarters. Additionally, he was posted as Programme Officer for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva and New Delhi.
Datuk Hasanah Abdul Hamid
Director General (Research)
Prime Minister's Department
Putrajaya
Malaysia

Datuk Hajah Hasanah is Director General of the Research Division in the Prime Minister's Department. Her previous appointments include Deputy Secretary General (Development and Acquisition), Ministry of Home Affairs; Deputy Secretary General (Management), Ministry of Home Affairs; Director of Directorate of Operations (Southern Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand Border Issues), cum Deputy Facilitator/Head of Secretariat of the Peace Negotiation Between the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Research Division, Prime Minister's Department; and Minister Counsellor, Malaysian High Commission, London. She obtained her Bachelor in Analytical Economics from University of Malaya (1979), and Master in Public and International Relations from University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1986).

Ms Aegile Fernandez
Director
Tenaganita
Malaysia

Ms Aegile Fernandez is Director of Tenaganita and Consultant on Anti-Human Trafficking. She has been an activist since age 16. Over the years, she has worked with different communities - children and women in violence, the youth, sex workers, LGBT groups, trafficked victims, migrants, stateless children, prisoners, drug dependents, and support groups for men in violence and alcoholism.

Mr Benedict Göbel
Coordinator for Integration Politics,
Politics and Consulting Department,
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.
Germany

Mr Göbel is the Coordinator for Integration Policy in the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Berlin. Before joining KAS in May 2016, Benedict Göbel was a trainee in the cabinet of Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission. Prior to that, he worked as a student assistant for a member of the German Bundestag.

Prof Dato' Dr Shamsul Amri Baharuddin
Director
Institute of Ethnic Studies
UKM (National University of Malaysia)

Distinguished Professor Shamsul is one of the only four distinguished professors in Malaysia to date. Currently, he is Deputy Chair, National Council of Professors, Malaysia, and the Pro-Tem Chair, Academy of Social Science and Humanities, Malaysia. Trained as a social anthropologist in Malaysia and Australia, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the CNRS Paris in 1986. Since 1973, he has researched, lectured and published extensively on economic development, culture and politics, with an empirical focus on maritime Southeast Asia and Malaysia. For successfully promoting Asian Studies globally, he was awarded the prestigious Academic Prize, Fukuoka Asian Cultural Prize, Japan, in 2008 - the only second Malaysian to have received the award since its inception in 1990.
Dr Christine Hegenbart
Policy Advisor
Office of Julia Obermeier, MdB (CSU)
Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr Hegenbart is a policy adviser to Bundestag member Julia Obermeier, who serves on the Defence Committee and represents Germany in the Council of Europe. In this capacity, she covers all European related topics, including migration and immigration issues. Before joining Obermeier’s office, she worked for five years as a research assistant for a political foundation focusing on foreign and security policy. She also previously served as research fellow at the NATO Defence College in Rome.

Lt-Gen Dato’ Suhaimi Hj Mohd Zuki
Chief Executive
Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MIDAS)

Lieutenant General Dato’ Suhaimi is Chief Executive of the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security. He was commissioned into the Royal Malay Regiment (RMR) in June 1979. Throughout his career, he has held various key appointments including General Commanding Officer of the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters, Commanding Officer of the 17th Battalion of the RMR (PARA), Military Adviser to the Defence Minister, Commander of the 10th Brigade (PARA), Commandant of the Army Senior Officers’ Institute (INSPEKA), and General Commanding Officer of the Army Training and Doctrine Command. He obtained his Master of Strategic Studies and Joint War Fighting Advanced Studies Programme from the United States Army War College.

Dr Marwan Abou Taam
Research Associate
Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)
Humboldt University of Berlin; and
Analyst/Advisor
State Criminal Investigation Department, Rhineland-Palatinate (LKA)
Germany

Dr Abou Taam is a Research Associate in the Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM) at the Humboldt University of Berlin, and also the Analyst/Advisor for the State Criminal Investigation Department of Germany. Previously, he was with the Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) as its expert in the field of security sector reform.

DCP Dato’ Ayob Khan Bin Mydin Pitchay
Principal Assistant Director; and
Head
Counter-terrorism Division
Special Branch
Royal Malaysian Police

Dato’ Ayob Khan is Head of the Counter Terrorism Division (Special Branch) of the Royal Malaysia Police. He was involved in the Deradicalisation and Rehabilitation Programme from 2002 to 2012. Between July 2009 and February 2014, he served as Deputy Director (Special Task Force – Operations/Counter Terrorism). His previous appointments in the Special Branch include Staff Officer for the Counter Terrorism Section (2006-2009), Staff Officer for Counter Espionage (2005-2006), Desk/Case Officer for the Counter Terrorism Section (1995-2005), and Desk Officer for African and Middle East Countries (1993-1995). From 1991 to 1993, he was Criminal Investigation Officer at the Criminal Investigation Department.
Dr Ahmad El-Muhammady
Lecturer
Centre for Foundation Studies
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

Dr Ahmad currently serves as a Lecturer at the Centre for Foundation Studies, International Islamic University Malaysia and also as a Senior Fellow at the Extremism Cluster of the Institut Kajian Strategik Islam Malaysia. He has an extensive career history on the issues of extremism and militancy, and closely works with multiple security stakeholders to undermine terrorist activities and networks in the country. He regularly delivers public speeches on these topics and has been a member of the Royal Malaysian Police Panel for Special Rehabilitation Programme since 2011. He has also been a consultant to the police Special Branch office on confiscated terrorism-related evidence and an expert witness in a terrorism case in 2015. He is currently developing the profiles of detained Daesh militants in Malaysia and is a committee member of the Malaysian Institute for Research in Youth Development (IYRES) think tank, where he offers counsel on youth and terrorism.

Mr Thomas Koruth Samuel
Director
Research and Publications Division
Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT)
Malaysia

Mr Thomas is Director of Research and Publications with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), which is under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Prior to that, he was a volunteer Health Officer with World Vision East Timor. He has an honours degree in Biomedical Technology (2000) and a master's degree in Strategic and Defence Studies (2005) from the University of Malaya. He is currently pursuing his PhD in the area of youth radicalisation. He lectures frequently on counter-terrorism and international security and has spoken in Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Maldives, Nepal, The Philippines, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, the United States, Singapore and Thailand. He is also Senior Fellow with the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Hedayah Centre) based in Abu Dhabi.

Ms Alma Fathi
Counselor
HAYAT-Germany
Counseling | De-radicalization | Network
Germany

Ms Fathi is a counselor for HAYAT-Germany, the first German counseling programme for persons involved in radical Salafist groups or on the path of a violent jihadist radicalisation. She is also a certificated Democracy and Diversity Trainer. In 2009, she began her work with the first families of radicalised persons including those traveling to Afghanistan (now Syria and Iraq) and other combat zones. During her studies, she started her work as a counselor in a cult exit organization.

Prof Dato' BA Hamzah
Department of Strategic Studies
National Defence University (UPNM)
Malaysia

Dr Hamzah graduated with a doctorate from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Boston, USA. He is a keen observer of regional geopolitics as well as maritime security and has worked on South China Sea issues since the early 1970s. Prior to his current position as a lecturer at the Department of Strategic Studies at the National Defence University of Malaysia, he has served at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Sultan Idris University of Education and University of Malaya. He was formerly a fellow at ISIS Malaysia as well as the first Director-General of the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA). Dr Hamzah has also held positions at the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law, Cambridge University, the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR-Hiroshima) and Petronas, Malaysia's national oil company.
Ms Gunhild Scheer
Attorney at Law and Scientific Researcher
Cybercrime Research Institute
Germany

Ms. Scheer is an attorney at law and scientific researcher at the Cybercrime Research Institute. She is especially involved in an EU-funded project developing solutions to automatically detect and analyse terrorist-related content online. One focus area of her current research in this regard are cyber attacks against nation stations with specific attention to attacks against democratic institutions and elections. She has given numerous presentations in the field of cybersecurity and cybercrime in Europe and Asia and publishes about the topic.

Dr Sonny Zulhuda
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Laws
International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM)

Dr Sonny is Assistant Professor at the International Islamic University Malaysia. He is a Web-science Summer Doctoral Programme scholar from the University of Oxford, and a two-time Fellow of the US-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). He is also a part of the University of Toronto-based Cyber Stewards Network. Sonny's work over the past 15 years focused on data protection and information security law. He was instrumental to the legal team who drafted Malaysia's National Cyber Security Policy back in 2006. More recently, Sonny has been engaged to advise the Office of Malaysia's Personal Data Protection Commissioner on various issues of data protection law. He obtained his PhD in Information Security Law from the International Islamic University Malaysia.

Dr Sharifah Munira Alatas
Senior Lecturer
Politics and Security Research Centre
UKM (National University of Malaysia)

Dr Alatas is Senior Lecturer at the National University of Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM). She was Managing Editor of The Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (JDFR) and Editor-in-Chief of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations Occasional Papers Series. Her previous appointments have included Director of Academic Programs, Nilai International University, Malaysia; Director of Research and Publications, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; Political Analyst, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia; and Assistant Curator, Area Studies Department, South Asian Collection, Lehman Library, Columbia University in the City of New York. She received her doctorate in History from Columbia University, New York City in 1997.

Mr Bunn Nagara
Senior Fellow
Foreign Policy & Security Studies
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Mr Bunn Nagara is Senior Fellow at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. Previously, he was Associate Editor and Foreign Editor of Star Publications, Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Singapore, and ASEAN Fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA). Bunn has also held senior posts at New Straits Times, New Sabah Times and TV3 News. He has published widely and contributed to undergraduate, civil/public service and journalism courses. He graduated from Southampton University and obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma from Uppsala University. His research interests include ASEAN, East Asian integration and global power relations.
Dr Gudrun Wacker  
Senior Fellow  
Asia Division  
German Institute for International and Security Affairs  
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)  
Germany  

Dr. Wacker is a Senior Fellow in the Asia Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin, a think tank providing political advice to the German government and parliament. Her research focuses on Chinese foreign and security policy, especially EU-China relations, China and the Asia-Pacific region and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. She has published on these issues as well as on China's regional and global role and on domestic developments such as minority policy and Internet censorship in China. She has been organizing the "Berlin Conference on Asian Security" (BCAS) held annually at SWP in Berlin and she has been co-organizing an annual track two dialogue between EU and China on cross-strait relations with the Shanghai Institutes for International Relations. She is currently a member of the Steering Committee of CSCAP EU.

Mr Sholto Byrnes  
Senior Fellow  
Foreign Policy & Security Studies  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)  
Malaysia  

Sholto Byrnes is a Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy and Security Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. A commentator and analyst with over 20 years' experience in journalism at the national and international level, his past roles have included being chief interviewer and columnist at The Independent, senior editor at The New Statesman, and editor of the Qatar Foundation's quarterly international magazine. His work has appeared in newspapers around the world, from Jakarta Globe and South China Morning Post to The National (Abu Dhabi), for which he writes a weekly International Affairs column. He has also provided television and radio commentary for the BBC and Aljazeera. He was awarded both his BA and MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Balliol College, Oxford University, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London.

Mr Patrick Rüppel  
Senior Programme Manager for Foreign and Security Policy, Geopolitics  
Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia/Singapore  
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.  

Patrick Rüppel is the Senior Program Manager for "Foreign and Security Policy, Geopolitics" in the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Singapore. From 2012 to 2015, he led the 'EU-Asia Dialogue' project of the European Union, which prepared the new Partnership Instrument of the EU and enhanced an issue-based cooperation with Asia. Prior to that, he was a member of the board of directors of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, where he analysed the conflicts in the Philippines and Myanmar.

Dr Roy Anthony Rogers  
Head  
Department of International and Strategic Studies  
University of Malaya (UM)  
Malaysia  

Dr Roy Anthony Rogers is Head of the Department of Strategic and International Studies, University of Malaya. His areas of specialisation include political science, theories of international relations, and history (China and Central Asia). He has a BA (Hons) in International Studies and a Master in Strategic and Defence Studies (MSDS), both from the University of Malaya. He obtained his PhD from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IJUM) in 2012, focusing on government and politics in the Central Asian republics and human rights conditions in East Turkestan (Xinjiang). He is a recipient of the Taiwan Fellowship sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China. Dr Rogers was also an awardee of the University of Malaya's Excellent Service Award in 2008. He has published books and articles on such topics as Malaysia's foreign relations, China, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.