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ECKL CONVERGENCES WEBINAR - SOUTHEAST ASIA IN CONTEXT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE NEW NORMAL - AN AMBASSADORIAL DIALOGUE

Wednesday, 17 June 2020, 2.30 - 4.00 PM VIA ZOOM

In the IMF's latest [World Economic Outlook](#), projections for 2020 growth in Asian countries range from a 6.7% contraction for Thailand to growth of 1.2% for China, 1.9% for India and 2.7% for Vietnam, the highest in emerging Asia. The Philippines and Indonesia are also expected to stay positive, growing 0.6% and 0.5%, respectively, while Malaysia is projected to contract 1.7%. Much of Asia's near-term future depends on the economic recovery of key trading partners.

There is also uncertainty due to countries in the region being at different stages of the pandemic and to the continuing danger of secondary waves of infections. Hence the extreme uncertainty around the global growth forecast. Many countries face a multi-layered crisis comprising a health shock, domestic economic disruptions, plummeting external demand, capital flow reversals and a collapse in commodity prices. The economic fallout depends on factors that interact in ways that are hard to predict.

Southeast Asia will play a key role in global growth. However this will be contingent on international trade remaining resilient, given the reliance of Southeast Asia on trade. With that in mind, two key factors to Southeast Asia's continued success are 1) International Trade and 2) global exchanges of information. Examples of the latter include international research partnerships, international education and technology transfers.

This webinar is part of a series of Convergences Webinars that ECKL is embarking on that will see the convergence of opinions, views and individuals with ECKL as the Convenor of these ideas and individuals. This session will feature speakers sharing their insights and thoughts on a post COVID-19 Southeast Asia:

- How has trade and economic ties being reshaped by a post COVID-19 world?
- How will international relations be affected by increasingly closed borders?
- What role will diplomacy and international organisations play in ensuring trade and information exchanges will continue unabated?
- What is required of the public, private and social sectors to ensure this?
- What will the future look like for international relations, especially in the context of Southeast Asia?
- What are your aspirations for Southeast Asia?

Speakers:

- HE Le Quy Quynh PhD, Ambassador of Vietnam to Malaysia
- HE Charles Hay MVO, British High Commissioner to Malaysia
- Mr Dean Thompson, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Convenor:

Datuk M. Suppermaniam, ECKL EXCO /Former Malaysian Ambassador to the WTO,