



**2<sup>nd</sup> EU-IDFR DIPLOMACY COURSE:**  
**45 YEARS OF THE ASEAN-EU RELATIONS**  
**AND THE ROAD AHEAD**

**26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**14.00-17.00 MALAYSIA TIME (GMT+8)**

The course is fully sponsored by:  
European Union (EU) and Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



## 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-IDFR DIPLOMACY COURSE: 45 YEARS OF THE ASEAN-EU RELATIONS AND THE ROAD AHEAD

Online Course for ASEAN diplomats and government officials, 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Agenda (Speakers Invited)

## DAY 1 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022

### THE EU AND ASEAN: PARTNERS FOR STABILITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC?

The need to uphold a multilateral, rules-based, cooperative security order has never been more acute in a region defined by growing great power rivalry, lasting inter-state tensions and military build-up. In that respect, the importance of ASEAN and its centrality in the regional security architecture is acknowledged both in the EU's Strategy and in the ASEAN Outlook for the Indo-Pacific and seen as a guarantee of stability. Yet, against the background of today's increasingly volatile and fragmented strategic environment, the foundations of regional multilateral cooperative structures are being put to the test. What has been the EU's line of approach and how can its greater political and security role contribute to ease regional tensions? How can both partners work together to attenuate the negative impacts of great power politics? As the EU and ASEAN embark on a new phase in their strategic relationship, addressing sources of instability in the Indo-Pacific constitutes a major common challenge.

14:00-14:20

#### Welcome Addresses

##### **YBhg. Dato' Dr. Shazelina Zainul Abidin**

Director General of Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

##### **H.E. Igor Driesmans**

Head of Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN

14:20-15:15

#### The EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy: what's in it for ASEAN?

*The EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific outlines the terms of reference for the EU's engagement in the region, built around seven priority areas. How does it relate to ASEAN and how can it contribute to enhancing EU – ASEAN relations? The inaugural session will provide an insight into the EU's evolving regional policy and instruments, focusing specifically on ASEAN.*

Speaker: **H.E. Richard Tibbels** [Invited]

European Union (EU) Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific,  
European External Action Service (EEAS)

15:15-15:30

15:30-17:00

## Break

### ASEAN- EU relations in an era of great power politics

*Great power competition has become a defining feature of the Indo-Pacific strategic landscape, with a pervasive effect on all spheres of political, economic and human activity. While both ASEAN and the EU promote multilateralism and rules-based order, their effective capacity and leverage deserve a closer look. What has been the rationale and the impact of the 2019 ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in and outside Southeast Asia? What would be the best role for extra-regional powers and the EU specifically? The second session aims to critically examine the benefits and pitfalls of the EU – ASEAN partnership in the evolving regional security environment from a European and Southeast Asian perspective.*

Speakers: **Dr. Lay Hwee Yeo**  
Director of the EU Centre, Singapore

**Dr. Gudrun Wacker**  
Senior Fellow - Asia Division, German Institute  
for International and Security Affairs  
(Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP), Germany

Maritime security has been a key strategic interest for ASEAN and Europe. While maintaining a safe, open and secure maritime environment is essential for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and indeed worldwide, it has rarely been more challenged. Maritime disputes in the South China Sea continue to drive militarisation and unprecedented concentration of international naval presence in the regional waters. At the same time, so-called “non-traditional” security threats – be it piracy, sea-borne crime, IUU fishing or environmental degradation - continue to pose a serious challenge to the wellbeing of populations and economies well-beyond Southeast Asia. These complex transnational challenges can only be comprehensively addressed in a multilateral fashion, involving cooperation between civilian and military agencies at the national and regional level. What lessons and best practices can we learn from the ASEAN and the European experience? What are the most prospective areas for cooperation at the political, but also and especially at the practical level? And what could be the next steps?

14:00-14:45

### **The EU as a maritime security provider**

*The EU's interest and possible involvement in maritime security in Asia remains often underestimated or ill-understood. The safety, stability and fluidity of maritime traffic is a matter of strategic importance for the world's largest trading block, which has been deploying political and practical means to contribute to securing regional seas. The opening session of the second day aims to introduce the EU's policies, instruments and actors in maritime security in ASEAN and globally.*

Speaker: **Giovanni Cremonini** [Invited]  
Head of Maritime Security, Security and Defence  
Policy (SECDEFPOL), European External Action  
Service (EEAS)

14:45-15:45

### **Maritime security challenges in ASEAN**

*Southeast Asia's maritime environment is one of the most complex in the world. From the lasting tensions in the South China Sea, to seaborne crime, marine resource depletion and natural hazards, most of the region's burning security challenges lie at sea. What are the priority areas and how are they addressed at the ASEAN level? What could be the role of the EU and through which cooperative formats? This session brings together ASEAN and EU experts to outline the main maritime security concerns in the region, obstacles to cooperation and possible objectives to attain.*

Speakers: **Dr. Adina binti Kamarudin**  
Director General - Department of Maritime Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

**Dr. Christian Schultheiss**  
Visiting Scholar, Centre of Geopolitics, University  
of Cambridge, United Kingdom

15:45-16:00

16:00-17:00

## Break

### Prospects for ASEAN- EU Maritime security cooperation

*The EU and ASEAN are both unique examples of regional integration, facing similar problems when it comes to facilitating multilateral cooperation at sea. Maritime domain awareness and law enforcement are just some of the examples of functional maritime security areas that need to be supported by adequate information-sharing and technical, human and institutional capacities at the regional level. Following up on the challenges outlined in the previous session, this session aims to look deeper into concrete prospects for cooperation, identifying best practices and possible ways forward.*

Speakers: **Dr. Bruno Hellendorft**

Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Belgium and Guest Professor, VUB

**Sumathy Permal**

Senior Fellow and Head of Maritime Security and  
Diplomacy, Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA),  
Malaysia

Connectivity has become the new buzzword in the Indo-Pacific geopolitical jargon. While building critical infrastructure, improving transportation, communication and reducing trade barriers are key to enhancing economic integration and prosperity, it has also become a field for competition among extra-regional powers and means to increase strategic leverage. The EU's Global Gateway Initiative stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet, in line with the UN's Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals. What are the objectives of the Initiative and what deliverables are foreseen for Southeast Asia? How does it complement existing efforts by ASEAN and other extra-regional players? What are ASEAN's priorities and preferences for the EU's engagement? And in what concrete ways can connectivity contribute to forging stronger EU - ASEAN ties?

14:00-15:30

**The Global Gateway and EU – ASEAN Connectivity**

*The European Global Gateway Initiative, launched in December 2021, promises close to 300 billion EUR to boost connectivity in the Indo-Pacific. Investments in sustainable, green and secure transportation, digital infrastructure, but also innovation, research and educational projects are foreseen by the initiative, building on and expanding existing partnerships in the region. How does it respond to the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity and other similar initiatives in the region? The last thematic session will explore the current state of cooperation between the EU and ASEAN in the important domain, focusing especially on digital connectivity and governance.*

Speakers: **Dr. Maaike Okano Heijmans**  
Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute,  
The Netherlands

**Dato' Dr Mohamad Rameez bin Yahya**  
Director, ASEAN Economic Community,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

15:30-15:45

**Break**

15:45-16:45

### Interactive Wrap-up Session

*The concluding session of the training provides space for input from the participants. What have been the key takeaways? Are there concrete lessons learned and applicable your respective professional activity? What do you see as the main obstacles and what could be your recommendations on how to strengthen the EU – ASEAN partnership?*

Discussion facilitated by

#### **Eva Pejsova**

Senior Japan Fellow, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS), Brussels School of Governance (BSoG-VUB), Belgium

#### **Harvinder Singh Ramday**

Principle Assistant Director - Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

16:45-17:00

### Closing addresses

#### **H.E. Michalis Rokas**

Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Malaysia

#### **H.E. Charles C. Jose**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Philippines to Malaysia

#### **Nuryante Mohd Yazid**

Director - Center for Political Studies & Economic Diplomacy  
Institute of Diplomacy & Foreign Relations (IDFR),  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia