



Special Lecture

The 'Rise' of India and Its Quest for Influence in Southeast Asia

- March 30th, 2009 2:15pm
- Seminarraum Ostasien
- Language: English
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Christine Lutringer is Research Assistant at the Centre for Asian Studies, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GIIDS) in Geneva. She is a PhD candidate in International History and Politics at the Institute, working on India's changing agricultural policy in the context of the WTO and the responses of farmers' movements. Since 2007 Christine Lutringer has been teaching at the Master in Asian Studies, a degree jointly organized by the University of Geneva and the GIIDS. She also collaborates with the SPES Development Studies Centre at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' and has been a lecturer for the 'Programme in Multidimensional Diplomacy for Officials from the Mekong Region' at the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN) in Geneva.

Formal co-operation between India and Southeast Asian countries has been increasingly visible in the past two decades, whether in bilateral or multilateral initiatives. In particular, the sectoral dialogue with the ASEAN launched in the early 1990s has created the conditions for the ongoing negotiations to establish an India-ASEAN free trade zone. The aim of the lecture is to provide an analysis of the driving forces behind this extended co-operation from the Indian perspective. It will first highlight the economic and strategic rationales of India's 'Look East' policy devised in 1991 in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union and in concomitance with the economic reforms implemented domestically. The lecture will then address the issues which have been affecting the relationships between India and Southeast Asian countries since the beginning of the new millenium, with a view to unravel what is often referred to as the 'rise of India' and its consequences at the regional level.