

Call for Papers



5th Viennese Conference on South-East Asian Studies

Human Security in South-East Asia

May 28 & 29, 2010, Vienna, Austria

While traditional military conflicts have declined since the end of the Cold War, new non-traditional menaces, such as poverty, migration, people smuggling and environmental degradation, have increased. Major events like the 1997 Asia Financial Crisis, the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the tsunami in 2004 demonstrated that individuals felt and experienced a much deeper impact from these incidents than the state. The United Nations' 1994 Human Development Report defines human security as both "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear". The UN focuses on seven threatening areas: economic, food, health, environment, personal, community and political security. Yet, human security remains a vague inter-disciplinary concept. A concept that is consequently still contested, both theoretically and politically.

The upcoming 5th Viennese Conference on South-East Asian Studies invites submissions from various disciplines to dissect the main question of 'how the broad spectrum of human security challenges has been conceptually and politically addressed on the transnational, national and/or local level?'

Panel 1 examines how human security is defined in South-East Asia. Panel 2 looks at the concrete implementation of human security in South-East Asia.

Panel 1: The human security discourse in South-East Asia

In our first panel, we aim to analyze both the official security discourse of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and selected member states as well as the human security agenda of South-East Asian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups. Some of the questions we seek to appraise during this session are: How has the notion of people-oriented security evolved in the last decade? How does ASEAN and how do selected NGOs define human security? Autocratic nations view the democratic elements of human security as a potentially disruptive element for their regime security. How can these elements, consequently, interact with the traditional regime-legitimizing understanding of security?

Panel 2: The implementation of human security on transnational, national or local level

In this panel, we want to compare case studies for the implementation of human security occurring on different territorial levels. We would be exploring on the following questions: What are the main obstacles for a successful implementation? Which concept of human security has been promoted? What are the key policy areas? Who are the main actors? How much influence do NGOs or the local population have? What role can foreign organizations or Official Development Assistance play in improving human security? Can the implementation of human security on a local level lead to a democratization of the whole political system from above etc.?

Panel 3: Open Panel

In our open Panel we offer researchers from all disciplines the opportunity to present analyses that are relevant to South-East Asia.

Keynote speaker

Prof. Donald Emmerson, Director, Southeast Asia Forum, Stanford University

Submissions

Please submit your paper proposals (max. two A4 pages) and your CV via e-mail (publics@seas.at) by March 8, 2010. We will send out notifications to all submitters of abstracts not later than March 31, 2010. Participants can give their presentations either in German or English. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes and leave another 10 minutes for discussions in the plenum.

Successful conference contributions can also be submitted to the Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies (ASEAS) for publication.

We particularly encourage PhD students to submit proposals for this conference.

For further information, please visit SEAS and ASEAS at:

www.seas.at or email to: **publics@seas.at**

