



ASEAN in Focus 2025

ASEAN and Australia: Deepening and Widening Ties

Wednesday, 17 September 2025

1:30pm–3:30pm AEST

In-person and livestreamed

TAG Foundation Grandstand (B23)

Regimental Drive, The University of Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY
—
Sydney Southeast
Asia Centre



**ASEAN-Australia
Centre**

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC) is Australia's leading multidisciplinary research centre focused on Southeast Asia. Since its establishment in 2012, SSEAC has been pivotal in developing the University of Sydney's reputation for research excellence across the 11 countries of Southeast Asia (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam). SSEAC's strengths lie in its disciplinary breadth, multidisciplinary collaborations and comprehensive coverage of Southeast Asia.

SSEAC brings together more than 490 academics from across the University working in Southeast Asia and supports the knowledge, skills and networks required to undertake impactful research and foster trusted research partnerships in the region.

ASEAN-Australia Centre

The ASEAN-Australia Centre was announced by the Prime Minister of Australia at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2024. The Centre delivers programs and initiatives that deepen Australia's connections with Southeast Asia and ASEAN and support a peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

The Centre supports the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and progresses implementation of *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*.

We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.

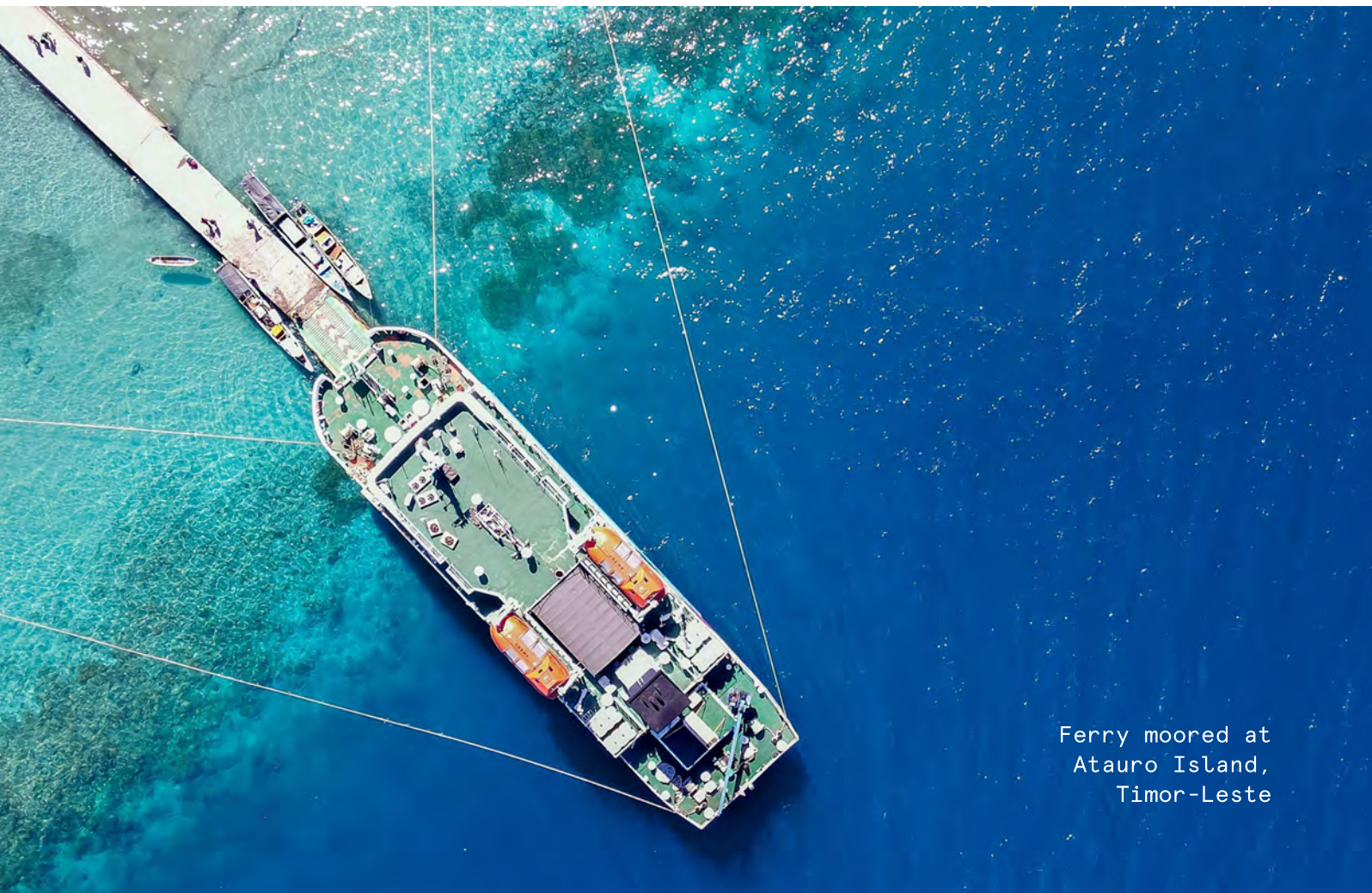
ASEAN and Australia: Deepening and Widening Ties

ASEAN in Focus 2025 comes at a historic moment for ASEAN, with Timor-Leste poised to join in October 2025.

This year's discussion aims to prompt critical reflection on the benefits of Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership, including opportunities for economic integration, and regional cooperation. The event also aims to assess what the current economic and political climate means for Australia's strategic engagement with Southeast Asia and how all parties can move towards sustainable development, economic prosperity and other key goals.

ASEAN in Focus 2025 will explore:

- The outcomes and impacts of the 2024 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, which marked 50 years of Australia becoming ASEAN's first Dialogue Partner.
- Progress on *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*.
- Implications of the changing global landscape on ASEAN and Australia ties.



Ferry moored at
Atauro Island,
Timor-Leste

Program

Time	Session	Details
1:30pm – 1:35pm	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	Dr Natali Pearson Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney
1:35pm – 1:45pm	Opening Remarks	Professor Greg Fox Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
1:45pm – 2:10pm	Keynote Address	H.E. Mr Satvinder Singh Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Economic Community
2:10pm – 2:40pm	SSEAC Grand Challenges Showcase	Facilitator: Professor Tiho Ancev Deputy Director, Research Development – Professor Budiman Minasny Faculty of Science – Professor Daniel Tan Faculty of Science – Professor Karen Canfell Faculty of Medicine and Health
2:40pm – 3:25pm	Panel Discussion: <i>The Future of ASEAN: Deepening and Widening Ties</i> <i>Audience Q&A</i>	Chair: Dr Sandra Alday Deputy Director, Partnerships – Ms Fiona Hoggart ASEAN–Australia Centre – Mr John Hopkins Export Finance Australia – Mr Chris Barnes Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry – H.E. Ms Arjaree Sriratanaban Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Commonwealth of Australia
3:25pm – 3:30pm	Closing Remarks	Professor Greg Fox Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
3:30pm – 4:15pm	Networking drinks and canapés	

Keynote speaker



H.E. Mr Satvinder Singh

Satvinder Singh is the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community for 2021-2027. In his capacity as the Deputy Secretary-General, he provides strategic advice to the Secretary-General of ASEAN for advancing ASEAN's economic integration agenda as well as to lead the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department of the ASEAN Secretariat in implementing the AEC Blueprint 2025.

Before assuming this role, he was the Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Trade Connectivity & Business Services at Enterprise Singapore. With over 27 years of experience in holding a variety of local, regional and global management positions across the region, he was instrumental in strengthening Singapore's role as Asia's trading hub as well as driving digitalisation efforts in Singapore amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Singh holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences from the National University of Singapore and attended the Harvard's Business School Advanced Management Programme in 2017.

Speakers



Professor Greg Fox

Professor Greg Fox is the Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre and a Professor of Respiratory Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine and Health. Greg is an international clinical trialist and epidemiologist whose research focuses upon tuberculosis (TB) and chronic lung disease. Over the past fifteen years, he has established a clinical research group in Vietnam which has conducted multicentre studies into the prevention and detection of TB in resource-limited settings. His research, in combination with evidence reviews for the World Health Organization, have contributed to changes in global TB policies and clinical practice.



Ms Fiona Hoggart

Fiona Hoggart is the Head of the ASEAN-Australia Centre, which delivers programs and initiatives that deepen Australia's connection with Southeast Asia and ASEAN and support a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. Ms Hoggart is a senior career officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with extensive Southeast Asia experience. She's been posted to Indonesia twice, most recently in 2022-2024 as Australia's Consul General in Surabaya, which is Indonesia's second largest city and an important destination for Australian trade and investment. Ms Hoggart speaks fluent Bahasa Indonesia.

Speakers



Mr John Hopkins

John Hopkins is the Managing Director & CEO of Export Finance Australia. He has more than 30 years' experience in the finance, corporate and government sectors, with an international career focused on risk, legal and operational roles.

John joined Export Finance Australia in 2012 and played a central role, both as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Risk Officer, in overseeing the expansion of Export Finance Australia's mandate and the delivery of complex financing transactions in support of Australian business and key government policy objectives. John has degrees in economics and law from the University of Sydney.



Mr Chris Barnes

Chris Barnes is Head of Business and International Affairs at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is responsible for trade and international policy and managing relationships with key international partners including the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Business at OECD (BIAC) and the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI). Chris has been appointed as Australia's business representative to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the B20 Trade & Investment Task Force. Prior to joining ACCI, Chris was Australia's first Consul-General in Indonesia's second largest city and major commercial hub, Surabaya, with consular responsibility for East Java, Central Java and Yogyakarta.

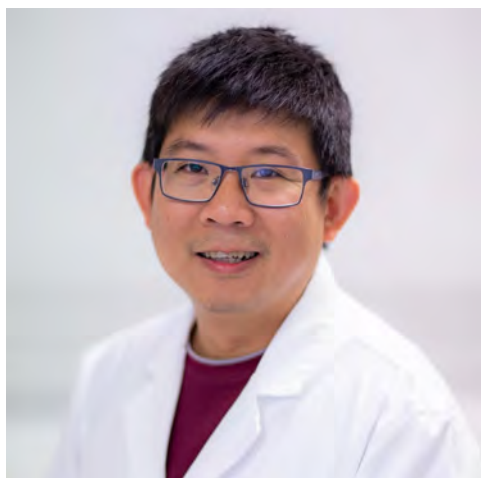


H.E. Ms. Arjaree Sriratanaban

Arjaree Sriratanaban is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Commonwealth of Australia. She most recently served as Director-General of the Department of East Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand from 2019 to 2022. Ms. Sriratanaban also served as Director of the Office of Policy and Planning (2015-2016), Deputy Director-General of the Department of East Asian Affairs (2017-2018) and Ambassador Attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2018-2019).

A native of Bangkok, Thailand, Ms. Sriratanaban graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) from the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. She obtained a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, United States.

Grand Challenges Showcase Presenters



Professor Budiman Minasny

Professor Budiman Minasny FAA is a Professor in soil-landscape modelling at the University of Sydney. His breakthrough digital soil mapping research has led to a movement of soil scientists across the world investigating new ways of producing soil information for today's global problems. His work underpins global initiatives such as GlobalSoilMap, addressing urgent challenges in food, water, and energy security, as well as climate change mitigation. Professor Minasny is also the theme leader of Soil, Carbon, and Water at the Sydney Institute of Agriculture. He has an undergraduate degree from Universitas Sumatera Utara in Indonesia and a MAg and PhD degrees in soil science from the University of Sydney.



Professor Daniel Tan

Professor Daniel Tan is the Faculty of Science Postgraduate Coursework Program Director (Master of Agriculture and Food), Theme Lead (Development Agriculture) at the Sydney Institute of Agriculture, Node Lead (Agriculture, Food and Environment) of the Sydney Vietnam Institute and Country Convenor (Cambodia) at the Sydney Southeast Asian Centre. He is the Food Safety Lead in the CGIAR FRESH/Better Food and Nutrition project. Daniel's research is in crop agronomy, specialising in crop abiotic stress, postharvest management and food safety in farming systems. His ongoing work on farming systems and food safety has been supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the World Bank. He graduated from the University of Queensland with a BAppSc (Hort Tech) (Hons 1) in 1991 and a PhD in 1999.



Professor Karen Canfell AC FAHMS

Professor Karen Canfell is a cancer epidemiologist whose research has shaped cancer policy nationally and globally. She is Professor of Public Health and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Leadership Fellow at the University of Sydney, with a DPhil from Oxford. In 2024, she was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia for her contributions to cancer research, education, mentorship, and leadership. Her work underpins the World Health Organization global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer, and she leads the Elimination Partnership in the Indo-Pacific for Cervical Cancer (EPICC).

For more information

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