



Politics in Action 2023: Updates from Southeast Asia

2-3 May 2023 (from 12pm each day)

Online via Zoom & the [SSEAC Facebook page](#)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

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Sydney Southeast
Asia Centre

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is forging Australia's relationship with one of the world's fastest growing regions by educating students and building new partnerships with academics and governments based on research excellence.

With more than 390 academics across all faculties and schools working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.

Event proceedings

In this public forum, researchers from around the region will offer timely analysis of political, social and economic developments in six Southeast Asian countries. The sessions are designed to be concise, making them ideal for a general audience. Each of our country-specialists will present for up to 20 minutes, followed by a short Q&A.

In this year's forum, we'll hear expert views from researchers on the ground in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Read on to learn more about our line-up of talented speakers!

All videos recorded as part of Politics in Action 2023 will be made available for public viewing on our [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#) and the [Politics in Action webpage](#).



Program:

Date	Time (AEST)	Time (ICT/WIB)	Time (SGT/PHT)	Country / Chair	Presenter	Link
Tues. 2 May	12:00pm	9:00am	10:00am	Singapore Sonja van Wichelen	Walid Jumblatt Abdullah	bit.ly/PIA_Singapore
Tues. 2 May	12:40pm	9:40am	10:40am	Cambodia Vichhra Mouly	Sovinda Po	bit.ly/PIA_Cambodia
Tues. 2 May	13:15pm	10:15am	11:15am	Indonesia Simon Butt	Bivitri Susanti	bit.ly/PIA_Indonesia
Wed. 3 May	12:00pm	9:00am	10:00am	Thailand Aim Sinpeng	Surachanee "Hammerli" Sriyai	bit.ly/PIA_Thailand
Wed. 3 May	12:40pm	9:40am	10:40am	Timor-Leste Michele Ford	João da Cruz Cardoso	bit.ly/PIA_Timor-Leste
Wed. 3 May	13:15pm	10:15am	11:15am	Philippines Sandra Alday	Aries A. Arugay	bit.ly/PIA_Philippines

Singapore

Walid Jumblatt Abdullah

Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University



Walid Jumblatt Abdullah is an Assistant Professor at Nanyang Technological University's Public Policy and Global Affairs program. He works on Southeast Asian politics, with a specific focus on Malaysia and Singapore. He is the author of *Islam in a Secular State: Muslim Activism in Singapore*, published by Amsterdam University Press in 2021. He is the host of Teh Tarik With Walid, an online show/podcast in which he interviews politicians and political influencers.

When: Tuesday, 2 May, 12pm | **Where:** bit.ly/PIA_Singapore

Chair: Professor Sonja van Wichelen

Cambodia

Sovinda Po

Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Sovinda Po is the Designated Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy, Royal University of Phnom Penh. His journal articles have appeared in *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Journal of Greater Mekong Studies*, *Explorations: A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, and *UC Occasional Paper Series*. His op-eds have appeared in the *Diplomat*, *East Asia Forum*, *New Mandala*, the *Interpreter*, *ASEANFocus*, *IPP Review* and *Australian Outlook*.

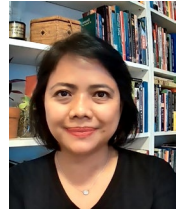
When: Tuesday, 2 May, 12.40pm | **Where:** bit.ly/PIA_Cambodia

Chair: Vichhra Mouly

Indonesia

Bivitri Susanti

Indonesia Jentera School of Law, Jakarta



Bivitri Susanti is a lecturer at the Indonesia Jentera School of Law with substantial expertise on Indonesia’s legal development and rule of law issues. She co-founded the Indonesian Centre for Law & Policy Studies in 1998, which then established Hukumonline.com, Indonesia’s main online legal resource, in 2000, and Indonesia Jentera School of Law in 2010. Apart from her academic activities, Bivitri is involved in law and political reform projects initiated by both government and non-governmental organisations. She is a regular columnist for Indonesia’s Kompas Newspaper and Tempo Magazine, and writes for national and international media.

When: Tuesday, 2 May, 13.15pm | **Where:** bit.ly/PIA_Indonesia

Chair: Professor Simon Butt

Thailand

Surachanee “Hammerli” Sriyai

Chiang Mai University, Thailand



Dr Surachanee “Hammerli” Sriyai is a lecturer and Digital Governance Track Lead at the School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University (SPP). She is also a co-founder of the Center for Democratic Innovation, Human Security, and Atrocity Prevention (DISAP) at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Hammerli’s recent research interests include ongoing projects exploring the impact of social media on protests in various contexts as well as monitoring its implications on the upcoming elections in Thailand. Hammerli’s academic work appears in *Journal of Human Rights*, *SOJOURN*, and *Critical Asian Studies*; and occasionally, you can also find her poli-beauty content on YouTube at [Pretty Politics](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7XW4YK6K0G0G0G0G0G0G0G0).

When: Wednesday, 3 May, 12pm | **Where:** bit.ly/PIA_Thailand

Chair: Dr Aim Sinpeng

Timor-Leste

João da Cruz Cardoso

Independent analyst, Dili, Timor-Leste



João da Cruz Cardoso is an independent analyst based in Dili, Timor-Leste. He has authored various research and articles on economic development, youth, urban planning and infrastructure development in Timor-Leste. His latest article 'Probing the dilemma of the young people in Timor-Leste' was published by New Mandala in November 2022. Joao is a proud alumnus of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

When: Wednesday, 3 May, 12.40pm | **Where:** [bit.ly/PIA Timor-Leste](https://bit.ly/PIA_Timor-Leste)

Chair: Professor Michele Ford

The Philippines

Aries Arugay

Professor, University of the Philippines-Diliman



Aries A. Arugay is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines-Diliman. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Politics & Policy*, a journal published by Wiley-Blackwell and the Policy Studies Organization. Aries is also a fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies-Yusof-Ishak Institute (Singapore) where he manages the Philippine Studies Project. His research interests are comparative democratization, civil-military relations, social media, and strategic studies. Aries also co-organises the Philippines Social Science Seminar Series (PhilS4) sponsored by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, UP Diliman, and the City University of Hong Kong.

When: Wednesday, 3 May, 13.15pm | **Where:** [bit.ly/PIA Philippines](https://bit.ly/PIA_Philippines)

Chair: Dr Sandra Alday



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