

**Asia Competitiveness Institute  
Annual Research Conference 2024  
De-Risking, Reshoring, Integrating: Implications for ASEAN Economic Development**

**Conference Programme**

(Updated 7 March 2024)

**Date:** 8 March 2024, Friday

**Venue:** Oei Tiong Ham Building Lobby, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, 469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

**Format:** Hybrid (Both online and offline)

Time	Programme
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Guest Registration</b>
09:30 – 10:00	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b> Professor Paul Cheung Director, Asia Competitiveness Institute</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b> Mr George Yeo Founding Patron, Asia Competitiveness Institute Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore</p> <p><b>Keynote Address by Guest of Honour</b> Mr Kok Ping Soon Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Business Federation</p>
10:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 1 – Reconfiguring Trade and Investment</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> <u><i>The risk of de-risking: Dissecting ASEAN’s exposure within the intricate weave of global trade</i></u> Dr Yi Xin ASEAN countries are exposed to considerable spillover risks from de-risking, which are frequently hidden within today’s complex supply chains. Through granular examination of the global trade network, we assess ASEAN’s vulnerability and provide case studies on strategic sectors such as semiconductors and clean tech.</p> <p><u><i>De-risking strategy: A blessing or a curse for ASEAN-6’s FDI and export sophistication?</i></u> Dr Banh Thi Hang The U.S.-China trade war and the recent U.S. “de-risking” strategy have diminished China’s position as a prominent FDI destination. This research documents that high-tech exports from ASEAN-6 to the U.S. surged as FDI redirected away from China. Simultaneously, China’s exports of high-tech capital and intermediate goods to ASEAN-6 have also risen, bolstering trade ties.</p>

	<p><u><i>The rising tide of protectionism: Implications for ASEAN FDI</i></u>          Dr Ammu George          The economic aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic witnessed a surge in protectionism measures, with nations increasingly safeguarding their domestic industries. This research examines the impact of new protectionism measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic on ASEAN-6's inward foreign direct investment (FDI).</p> <p><u><i>Sustainable investments: New drive for growth amid geopolitical fragmentation</i></u>          Dr Liu Jingting          Sustainability investments are creating new opportunities for ASEAN amid supply chain reconfigurations catalysed by geopolitical tensions. This study documents recent trends in venture capital for clean tech, assesses the policy landscape, and explores regional growth vectors.</p> <p><b>Special Commentary</b>          Professor Tan Kong Yam          Professor of Economics, Nanyang Technological University          Former Chief Economist, Government of Singapore</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b>          Associate Professor Dao Ngoc Tien          Vice President of Foreign Trade University, Vietnam</p> <p>Associate Professor Lu Angdi          School of Applied Economics, Renmin University of China, PRC</p> <p>Assistant Professor Zheng Huanhuan          Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 2 – Integrating ASEAN Digital Economy</b></p> <p><b>Keynote Speech</b>          Mr Andrew Williamson          Vice-President Government Affairs and Economic Adviser, Huawei</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b>  <u><i>Digital payment dynamics in ASEAN and the macroeconomic implications</i></u>          Dr Xie Taojun          Using credit card transaction data, this research presents the e-commerce payment dynamics among the major ASEAN member states. It discovers an association between transaction and inflation dynamics which becomes stronger with the adoption of online payments.</p> <p><u><i>Job creation from e-commerce: Sectoral linkages and implications for ASEAN</i></u>          Ms Yan Bowen          E-commerce serves as a pivotal driver of the digital economy. It intertwines with diverse economic activities, unlocking extensive business opportunities. Our research sheds light</p>

	<p>on the impact of the promising e-commerce landscape on the labour market within the dynamic context of ASEAN economies.</p> <p><u><i>Investing in ASEAN's digital economy: Risks and opportunities</i></u> Ms Ulrike Sengstschmid ASEAN member states are witnessing stellar growth in investments in the digital economy, including e-commerce and cloud services. We assess digital economy investment and integration within and beyond ASEAN, and identify key growth drivers and roadblocks to further integration.</p> <p><u><i>Informing the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) through the language of current agreements</i></u> Mr Tan Kway Guan ASEAN has commenced negotiations for the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), the world's first regional digital economy agreement. This study examines the provisions of digital trade agreements signed by individual ASEAN members to map the areas of agreement and policy gaps which DEFA may seek to address to promote digital economic integration.</p> <p><b>Special Commentary</b> Mr David Mann Chief Economist, MasterCard</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b> Dr Chanhphasouk Vidavong Director of Trade Policy Research Division, Institute of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR</p> <p>Dr Prani Sastiono Head of Digital Economy and Behavioral Economics Research Group, Institute for Economic and Social Research, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia</p> <p>Dr Juita Mohamad Director of Economics and Business Unit, Director of Research, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs, Malaysia</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
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