

# global-is-asian SPOTLIGHT



## FINDING STABILITY IN A WORLD IN CRISIS

Dissect different global crises, revisit history, and apply lessons learned to make progress in this increasingly unstable world. The new year saw the United States carry out a military operation in Venezuela that resulted in the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife. Alongside ongoing regional tensions, such as the Thailand-Cambodia conflict, critical analysis of current events is crucial in making sense of our disordered world.

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## Making sense of our disordered world

**Past VS Present: Understanding Global Disorder**  
We are currently in a global state of polycrisis, in which multiple types of crises occur together to amplify worldwide issues. Ayşe Zarakol, Professor of International Relations at the University of Cambridge, takes a look into history to find out how people of the past handled previous economic, political, and technological crises, and how those lessons can guide our present actions.

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## Toward a Sustainable Resolution to the Thailand-Cambodia Conflict: Why a Strategic Systems Approach Is Essential

**How Systematic Change Can Ease Friction in Thailand-Cambodia Relations**  
**Vu Minh Khuong**, Practice Professor at LKYSPP, examines the Thailand-Cambodia conflict and the forces driving it. He points to outdated governance and structural deadlocks as core issues that continue to fuel friction. Lasting peace will depend on steady, long-term change built on trust and sustained cooperation.

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## Three lessons for Singapore from US actions in Venezuela

**US Actions in Venezuela and What They Mean for Singapore**  
The move to capture President Maduro was a calculated signal of America's power and priorities. **Joseph Low Chinyong**, Dean and Wang Gungwu Professor in East Asian Affairs at LKYSPP, explains Trump's decision to act against Venezuela and what it means on the global stage. His analysis also highlights why careful diplomacy matters for Singapore's security in a world shaped by major powers.

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**The conflict endures not because diplomacy is weak, but because the system governing interactions is outdated. Transactional negotiations treat symptoms; durable peace requires rebuilding the technical, operational, and structural foundations that continuously regenerate mistrust.**

**Vu Minh Khuong**, Toward a Sustainable Resolution to the Thailand-Cambodia Conflict: Why a Strategic Systems Approach Is Essential

## FEATURED RESEARCH



**ASEAN's Transition Towards a Green Economy**  
ASEAN's push toward a green economy has made solid progress, drawing almost \$90 billion in cleantech foreign investment between 2013 and 2023. Still, gaps remain. This research paper looks at how deeper decarbonisation, lower reliance on fossil fuels, and stronger support for green innovation can help ASEAN move further ahead.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Start	03:00 PM	02 to 26 February 2026	<b>Essentials of Policy Development 25th Run</b> <i>Public sector leaders face growing pressure to deliver timely, practical solutions to complex and changing policy challenges. In eight sessions across 4 weeks, this programme builds a strong foundation in policy development, covering problem identification, policy design, option assessment, and impact evaluation.</i>
Start	05:15 PM	04 February 2026	<b>The Limits to (Conventional) Economics as a Guide to Managing Water</b> <i>Water does not behave like a normal market good, so standard economic models often fall short. Prices and markets do not work as expected, and treating water this way can hinder responses to scarcity. Water credits can help in limited, flexible areas, but real progress requires economics to better reflect how water actually works in practice.</i>
Start	07:00 PM	13 February 2026	<b>Singapore Budget 2026: Enduring Problems in Uncertain Times</b> <i>Singapore's 2026 budget, the first from the newly elected 2025 government, comes amid global uncertainty and domestic challenges like an ageing population, caregiver support, and employment for older workers. With ongoing debates on inequality, education, and employment support, join our expert panel to explore what the budget offers and what more is needed for a stronger, inclusive society.</i>
Start	02:00 PM	04 and 09 March 2026	<b>Building Financial Resilience: Pensions &amp; Financial Literacy</b> <i>This poster exhibition explores financial resilience in pension systems and the role of financial literacy, featuring student led Asia focused research and Singapore survey findings.</i>
Start	09:00 AM	06 March 2026	<b>Reimagining Regional Resilience in an Age of Great Power Rivalry</b> <i>The session looks at how Singapore and Southeast Asia can respond to a more uncertain regional landscape shaped by security risks and cross border challenges such as economic disruptions, health crises, and cyber threats, with discussions across two inter varsity panels on emerging regional structures and technology and supply chain resilience.</i>

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## VIDEO SHOWCASE



**[CSA series] Is ASEAN Ready for Timor-Leste?**  
While Timor-Leste's entry into ASEAN, the first since 1999, signifies a move towards inclusion, this change has uncovered internal strains, capacity gaps, and geopolitical sensitivities. Can ASEAN and its partners strengthen institutions and adjust processes to provide support and enable Timor-Leste's effective participation?

[WATCH HERE](#)

## Global-is-Asian (Online Magazine)

In an increasingly turbulent world, how can we understand current events and resolve disputes peacefully? Global-is-Asian features research and insights on collaboration, resilience, and evidence-based observations on how policy can respond to uncertainty and prepare for the future.



## FOR MORE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP:



**A digital platform by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy featuring thought leadership, expert commentary, and insights from LKYSPP faculty and regional voices on key policy challenges shaping Asia and the world.**



**A podcast series featuring a conversation with an LKYSPP faculty, policy expert or practitioner.**

**Find out what they foresee happening in terms of trends and policies.**



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