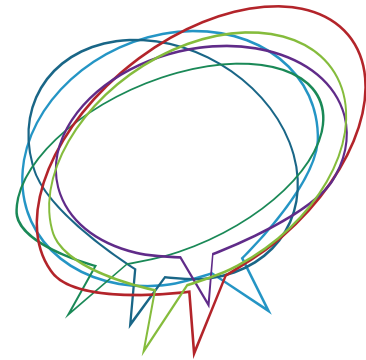




**University
of Victoria**
Centre for
Asia-Pacific
Initiatives

Canada + Southeast Asia

Exploring the Challenges + Opportunities



A Roundtable Discussion on the Future of Canada-Southeast Asia Relations

Southeast Asia is one of the world's fastest growing economies, and for several decades Canada has taken a keen interest. But the region is not without its challenges, which Canadian businesses and diplomatic representatives continue to navigate. This session will examine Canada's current opportunities and challenges in the region, including trade, investment, and human rights.

9 November 2017
Fraser Building
Room 150
UVic
3-5:30 pm

Chairs

Phil Calvert

CAPI Senior Research
Fellow and former
Canadian Ambassador to
Thailand

Victor V. Ramraj

CAPI Director and Chair in
Asia-Pacific Legal Relations and
Professor of Law, University of Victoria

Panellists

Marie-Louise Hannan

Ambassador of Canada to
the Association of Southeast
Asian Nations (via video link)

Andrew Doherty

Canada Director,
Canada-ASEAN Business
Council

Jim Boutilier

Special Advisor on
Asia-Pacific, Maritime
Forces Pacific;
CAPI Associate

Robyn Fila

International Programs
Manager, Centre for
Asia-Pacific Initiatives,
University of Victoria

Theresa Etmanski

LLM Candidate in Law &
Society, Faculty of Law,
University of Victoria

Hugh Stephens

Distinguished Fellow with
the Asia Pacific Foundation
and Principal at
Trans-Pacific Connections;
CAPI Associate

Dominique Spragg

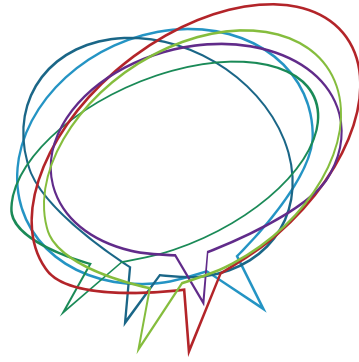
VP Strategic Planning,
Viking Air

Kai Ostwald

Assistant Professor in the
School of Public Policy and
Global Affairs & the
Department of Political
Science, and Faculty
Associate at the Institute of
Asian Research, UBC

Thanh Phan

PhD Candidate in Law &
Society, Faculty of Law, and
CIGI Doctoral Fellow,
University of Victoria



Backgrounder

by Theresa Etmanski

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization made up of 10 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. ASEAN has a combined GDP of roughly \$2.5 trillion and a total population of 620 million people. If ASEAN were one economy, it would be the seventh largest in the world. The region is currently undergoing an unprecedented period of economic growth, urbanization and development.

2017 marks Canada's 40th anniversary as a dialogue partner with ASEAN. Canada's approach to ASEAN and its members has varied over the years, however there have been some notable diplomatic, commercial and socio-cultural achievements. Canada has recently assigned a dedicated ambassador to ASEAN, in addition to diplomatic representation in all 10 member countries which also house offices for the Government of Canada's Trade Commissioner Service (TCS). These trade commissioners are already active in many sectors, including aerospace, defence and security, extractive industries, information and communications technologies, infrastructure, and sustainable technologies. The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC), based in Singapore, is also focused on increasing private sector cooperation between Canadian and ASEAN businesses.

Ottawa has been actively seeking to expand trade within ASEAN. Canada's two-way trade with ASEAN countries totaled \$21.6 billion CAD in 2016, making the region Canada's sixth-largest trading partner. Canada and ASEAN are already parties to the Canada-ASEAN Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI), and has formally launched exploratory discussions about a Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement. It has been predicted that such an agreement would boost Canada's GDP by \$1.2 billion by 2027. Furthermore, this would contribute to jobs and economic growth in Canada, a higher Canadian profile and increased credibility in the region, and opportunities to expand its involvement in other Asia-Pacific initiatives. Increased trade with ASEAN members would help diversify Canada's foreign trade, and decrease dependence on some shifting traditional markets.

However, Canada faces some challenges as it seeks to strengthen economic ties with ASEAN. This includes the geographical distance from the region, and the reality that ASEAN members' trade and foreign investment tends to focus on each other, as well as the region's other economies including Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand (known as ASEAN + 6). Canada's current lack of free trade agreement with ASEAN or any of its members has also been a disadvantage.



Across the region, other key barriers to trade and investment have been identified, including inconsistent enforcement of laws and regulations, difficulty obtaining reliable and cost-effective skilled labour, corruption, and preferential treatment of local firms.

Geopolitical factors in the region may also influence Canadian engagement moving forward including the growing influence of China and the apparent reduced interest and presence of the United States. In addition, serious human rights issues in many of the member countries--such as the treatment of the Rohingya in Myanmar, restrictions on dissent under Thailand's military government, or extra-judicial killings in the Philippines-- should be cause for concern for Canadian government and businesses seeking expanded influence and economic gain in the region. Although ASEAN has an internal mechanism for dealing with human rights issues, it has been largely dormant and ineffective, constricted by rules requiring consensus among members. The Trudeau Government has been clear in its bilateral trade negotiations with China that its economic engagements abroad cannot be divorced from human rights considerations. Will a similar approach be taken towards ASEAN?

Furthermore, does Canada have the economic clout to persuade ASEAN to agree to progressive trade standards?

Please join us on November 9th for further discussion of these timely and important issues.

Sources Consulted:

Canada-ASEAN Business Council, "The ASEAN Advantage – Report on the Impact of a Canada-ASEAN FTA – 2017," Online: <http://www.canasean.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/The-ASEAN-Advantage.pdf>

Global Affairs Canada, Canada-ASEAN Trade and Investment, Online: http://www.international.gc.ca/asean/trade_investment-commerce_investissement.aspx?lang=eng

The Diplomat, "Time for ASEAN to Take Human Rights Seriously" (25 February 2017), Online: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/02/time-for-asean-to-take-human-rights-seriously/>

The Globe and Mail, "China envoy says Canadian media harms countries' trade relations" (4 July 2017), Online: <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/china-envoy-says-canadian-media-harms-countries-trade-relations/article35546750/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>





Marie-Louise Hannan (Bachelor of Arts [Joint Honours, Linguistics and East Asian Studies], McGill University; MA [Linguistics], Université de Montréal) was appointed ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on January 16, 2016. Prior she was consul and senior trade commissioner at the Canadian consulate general in Sydney, Australia (2013-2016). She joined the Canadian foreign service in 1997 and has represented Canada on postings to Malaysia (1999-2001), Taiwan (2001-2005) and the United States (2005-2009), as well as during assignments to China and India. In Ottawa, Ms. Hannan has worked on the China desk, as Director of Trade Commissioner Service renewal and as senior policy adviser to the assistant deputy minister for International Business Development, Investment and Innovation. From 2011-2012, she worked in the Privy Council Office as a foreign policy analyst and was responsible for the United States and for energy files. Ms. Hannan previously worked as a researcher in computational linguistics at the Centre for Information Technology Innovation in Montréal and at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. She studied Chinese at National Taiwan Normal University and is fluent in Mandarin.



Hugh L. Stephens is a Distinguished Fellow with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, current Vice Chair of the Canadian Committee on Pacific Economic Cooperation (PECC), Executive Fellow at the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary, and an associate faculty member in the School of Business at Royal Roads University. Mr. Stephens has more than 35 years of government and business experience in the Asia-Pacific region. He is a Past President of the Victoria Branch of the Canadian International Council. Mr. Stephens spent 30 years in the Canadian Foreign Service with the Department of External Affairs, later the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Before returning to Canada in 2009, he was Senior Vice President (Public Policy) for Asia-Pacific for Time Warner for almost a decade, located at the company's regional headquarters in Hong Kong.

In recent years, he has written and commented extensively on Canada's engagement with the Asia Pacific region including articles published in The Globe and Mail, Post Media, Embassy, iPolitics, The Diplomat, Open Canada and others. He currently maintains an active blog on international intellectual property issues (www.hughstephensblog.net).

Mr. Stephens was educated at the University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Toronto and Duke University, and has a Certificate in Mandarin from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.





Dr. James Boutilier is the Special Advisor, N39 - International Engagement at Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters, Canada's west coast naval formation, in Esquimalt, British Columbia. Dr. Boutilier attended Dalhousie University (BA History, 1960), McMaster University (MA History, 1962), and the University of London (PhD History, 1969). Dr. Boutilier has held posts at various universities throughout his career, including the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, British Columbia and the University of Victoria. Dr. Boutilier's field of expertise is Asia-Pacific defence and security. He published *RCN in Retrospect* in 1982 and has written extensively on maritime and security concerns. He lectures nationally and internationally on political, economic, and global security developments. In recognition of his efforts to advance maritime affairs in Canada, Dr. Boutilier is the recipient of the Vimy Award (2016) and the Admirals' Medal (2016).

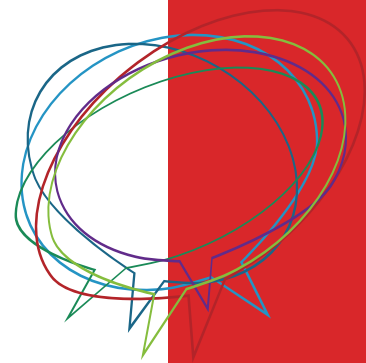


Andrew Doherty is the Executive Director (Canada) of the Canada-ASEAN Business Council. Mr. Doherty is a business development specialist with a background in aviation, oil and gas and international business. Mr. Doherty joined the CABC in March of 2016, and officially opened the CABC's Canadian office in May of 2016.

After graduating from the University of British Columbia, Mr. Doherty was a corporate pilot. He then took on a role in the oil and gas sector in distribution and supply transitioning out of corporate aviation. In addition to his work with the CABC, Mr. Doherty continues to work in oil and gas as a Business Development Lead. Mr. Doherty has successfully planned and hosted roundtables, trade discussions, webinars and networking receptions for the CABC in Canada, and plays an integral role in member relations, and development of the CABC's Canadian network and domestic presence.



Dominique Spragg is the Vice-President of Strategic Planning at Viking Air and has 30 years of aerospace industry experience having worked in development engineering, operations, sales and international business consulting. Within Viking, Dominique has recently lead market expansion in Russia and China prior to which he was Vice-President of Manufacturing responsible for the initial relaunch of the Twin Otter. Dominique was founder of a boutique international business and supply chain consultancy as well as an executive with Pratt & Whitney Canada. Dominique has an Aerospace Engineering degree from the University of Toronto and an MBA from Queens University.



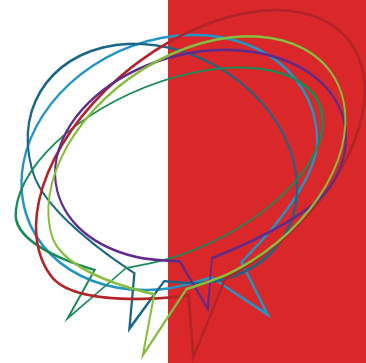


Kai Ostwald is an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy & Global Affairs, and the Department of Political Science, at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He is also a Faculty Affiliate of UBC's Institute of Asian Research and was Director of its Centre for Southeast Asia Research from 2014 to 2016. He holds a PhD from the University of California San Diego in political science. His main focus is on political development in Southeast Asia, especially Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Myanmar. His research has appeared in numerous outlets and has been supported by the National Science Foundation, UC Pacific Rim Research Program, and the International Development Research Centre. He currently teaches courses on research methods and development in UBC's Masters of Public Policy and Global Affairs program.



Robyn Fila is the program manager at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. Since 2010, Robyn has managed multiple programs funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 2010-2013, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) from 2015-2017 and the Rideau Hall Foundation and Community Foundations Canada from 2015-2019. In this role, she has facilitated over 100 international experiences for young Canadians and has mentored both UVic students and graduates from across Canada as they complete their international placements. She is accountable for partnership development across the Asia-Pacific, programming and monitoring and evaluation. CAPI's international internship programs have focused on governance, sustainable economic growth, development and migrant rights'.

Robyn has an extensive background in experiential learning and curriculum development as it pertains to global and international education. She started her career in Indonesia in her work with at risk youth and continued on with social change movements with regards to reproductive rights and justice in the Czech Republic. Robyn has been with UVic since 2007 and continues to engage with civil society organizations in South and Southeast Asia through the internship programs that CAPI manages. She is a graduate of the University of Victoria and Linkoping University in Sweden.





Thanh Phan has worked for the Vietnam Competition Agency (VCA) for ten years as an expert in competition law enforcement, after two years at the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam. At the VCA, Thanh oversaw cases involving transnational mergers. He also served as a member of the Vietnamese delegation negotiating FTAs. Thanh is a member of a ASEAN regional think-tank on competition law and policy. He has published articles in American, Japanese and Vietnamese journals such as *Houston Journal of International Law* and *Louisiana Law Review*. Thanh recently received the James Baker Hughes Award for the best paper in international economic law in 2017. Thanh was educated at Hanoi Law University and Nagoya University. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Law Faculty, University of Victoria and a doctoral fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation.



Theresa Etmanski is a Canadian lawyer and human rights activist. She has engaged in the promotion of human rights across Southeast Asia over the past decade, including refugee rights in Thailand, women's rights in Myanmar, and victims' rights before the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia. She holds a Juris Doctor and a Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Policy Studies from the University of British Columbia (2012), and a Bachelor of Arts from Simon Fraser University (2008). She was called to the bar of British Columbia in 2013, and has practiced as a public interest lawyer, primarily in the areas of refugee and immigration law. Theresa is currently a Master of Law (LLM) Candidate in Law and Society at the University of Victoria, where her research focuses on the current humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

