

Foreword by the Conference Organizers at Global Affairs Canada

In 2017, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as the 40th anniversary of Canada's status as an ASEAN Dialogue Partner. To celebrate those important milestones and to engage in a deep stock-taking exercise, Global Affairs Canada hosted a special day-long conference entitled "Southeast Asia in an Evolving Global Landscape: Prospects for an Integrated Region and Implications for Canada" on May 30, 2017. The event featured a number of renowned Canadian and international experts as well as interventions from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Chrystia Freeland, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, His Excellency Le Luong Minh, and former Prime Minister, The Right Honorable Joe Clark.

This conference was a unique occasion to generate new insights to help inform Canadian foreign policy in Southeast Asia and an attempt to bridge the divide that sometimes exists between the academic and policy worlds. But it was also an opportunity to draw on each other's strength to come up with creative new ideas. A key outcome was a series of position papers prepared by experts who presented at the conference – you can find them in this volume. Their aim is to support and sustain an ongoing public debate in Canada about our country's foreign policy with regards to Southeast Asia and ASEAN. It is also our hope that this series will encourage a new generation of scholars to explore new paths of research tied to Southeast Asia, a region of growing importance and one in which Canada is increasingly present and active. There is much food for thought in the excellent papers found in this volume, but it is important to point out these are not the views or position of the Government of Canada and are not official documents.

We would like to thank the many partners which worked with Global Affairs Canada to put together this conference, including our ASEAN diplomatic friends in Ottawa who contributed to making this event a success, but also the team at the University of British Columbia which helped edit the papers and assembled them into a coherent and thought-provoking collection of essays. In particular, we would like to recognize the hard work of Nhu Truong, Stéphanie Martel and Emily Mann who worked tirelessly during the summer on this project. Organizing and delivering a major international conference is not an easy feat. Without the close collaboration of the Southeast Asia and Foreign Policy Research Bureaus at Global Affairs Canada, it would not have been possible to organize such a high-quality event. Therefore, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the work of Pamela Isfeld, Jasmin Cheung-Gertler, Nicole Favreau and Martin Laflamme. Last, but not least, we want to underline the extraordinary efforts of Grégoire Legault in putting together this conference and his support on this special volume.

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