

Host



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DATE:

**06 SEP
2023**

TIME:

09.00 - 16.40 hrs.
(BANGKOK LOCAL TIME/UTC+7)

VENUE:

ATHENEE CRYSTAL HALL, 3rd FLOOR,
**THE ATHENEE HOTEL,
BANGKOK**

SOUTHEAST ASIA

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

CONQUERING THE POLYCRISIS CHALLENGES

Frontier Technologies

**Digital
Inequality**

Information
Infrastructure

Cybercrime and
Cyber Insecurity

Weapons of
Mass Destruction

State Collapse

Interstate Conflict

Interstate Conflict

Climate Change

Natural Resource
Crises

Supply Chain

**Cost-of-Living
Crisis**

**Economic
Downturn**

Employment Crises

Infectious Diseases

Social Cohesion

Concept Note

Southeast Asia Trade and Development Forum 2023

“Conquering the Polycrisis Challenges”

The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) was officially inaugurated on May 1, 2002, during the Mid-Term Review Conference of UNCTAD X, hosted by the Thai Government. ITD is now a government entity operating as a public organization affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand. With the mission of being a center of research and training on international trade and investment issues, ITD regularly works with the Royal Thai Government, UNCTAD, other international organizations and institutes. As one of our hi-lighted academic activities, ITD is honored to announce our annual Southeast Asia Trade and Development Forum 2023 on the theme of “Conquering the Polycrisis Challenges” which is being held on September, 6th 2023.

Our world has recently faced a period of significant global change and crisis. Not only, an acceleration of climate change, extreme weather events and environmental degradation, but we are living in a middle of a global pandemic, a war in Europe, geo-political tensions, high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis, energy supply and trade disruption, and food insecurity. These multiple and overlapping crises is what we define its term as “polycrisis” (a new global buzzword). The World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2023 uses the term, to explain how, “present and future risks can also interact with each other to form a ‘polycrisis’ – a cluster of related global risks with compounding effects, such that the overall impact exceeds



the sum of each part”. These interconnected challenges and crises are not being experienced by countries in isolation, but they are problems of the global commons, which cannot be solved by individual countries.

In light of the complex and interconnected challenges facing the global and regional economy, Southeast Asia (SEA) Trade and Development Forum aims to facilitate a constructive discussion on the impact of multiple crises on international trade and explore potential strategies. During this forum, experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from SEA come together to share insights, exchange ideas, and develop collaborative approaches to mitigate the adverse effects of the polycrisis on international trade. The key areas of focus include: In light of the complex and



interconnected challenges facing the global and regional economy, Southeast Asia (SEA) Trade and Development Forum aims to facilitate a constructive discussion on the impact of multiple crises on international trade and explore potential strategies. During this forum, experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from SEA come together to share insights, exchange ideas, and develop collaborative approaches to mitigate the adverse effects of the polycrisis on international trade. The key areas of focus include:

- ◆ **Trade Resilience:** Assessing the vulnerabilities and risks associated with the polycrisis and exploring ways to enhance the resilience of global trade systems. This involves discussing mechanisms to diversify supply chains, strengthen digital infrastructure, and promote inclusive trade policies.

- ◆ **Multilateral Cooperation:** Recognizing the importance of international cooperation and the role of multilateral organizations in addressing the polycrisis. Speakers discuss ways to strengthen global governance, enhance

coordination among nations, and reinforce the rules-based trading system.

- ◆ **Sustainable Trade:** Exploring the intersection between the polycrisis and sustainability goals, focusing on climate change. Discussions revolve around promoting sustainable trade practices, green technologies, and inclusive economic growth.

- ◆ **Digital Transformation:** Examining the role of digitalization in navigating the polycrisis and unlocking new trade opportunities. Panelists discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with the use digital technologies.

The outcomes of the forum on Polycrisis would ideally include the formulation of policy recommendations, the establishment of collaborative initiatives, and the development of actionable strategies to address the challenges posed by the polycrisis. These outcomes then would serve as a guideline for governments, organizations, and stakeholders in navigating the complexities of international trade amidst multiple crises.

Purpose of the Forum

● To exchange information, perspectives, visions, and experiences on businesses, international trade and investments with key experts from public and private entities, international organizations, and other stakeholders in the field of business, international trade and investment.

● To acquire concept, thoughts, and economic policy framework for Southeast Asia region

To propose policies and actions that will support better trade and business environment for Southeast Asia region and deliver relevant policy recommendations for all government entities in the region.

● To strengthen knowledge for promoting new economy that align with Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model (BCG Model) for the region.

● To promote and strengthen new economic system that suits with Sustainable Development Goals such as SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)



Tentative Program

Southeast Asia Trade and Development Forum 2023

“Conquering the Polycrisis Challenges”

Date: September 6, 2023
Time: 09.00-16.40 hrs. (Bangkok local time/ UTC+7)
Venue: Athenee Crystal Hall, 3rd floor, The Athenee Hotel, Bangkok
Language: English

08.00 - 09.00 hrs.

Registration

09.00 - 09.10 hrs.

Opening Remarks**Prof. Dr. Somkit Lertpaitoon***Chairman of the Board, International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)*

09.10 - 09.25 hrs.

Opening Ceremony & Group Photo Session

09.25 - 09.45 hrs.

Morning Break

09.45 - 10.20 hrs.

Keynote : Navigating Geopolitical Turbulence and Perspectives on Regional Trade and Economic Prospects**The Honourable Mr. Bernard Charnwut Chan***Chairman and President, Asia Financial Holdings Limited*

Explore the present economic conditions in China and the factors influencing regional and worldwide economies and trade during global crises. How geopolitical tensions are impacting Hong Kong and the opportunities for Southeast Asia as they navigate the process of decoupling from China. An analysis of the obstacles and possibilities stemming from shifting demographic patterns. A perspective on the demanding labor market in the aftermath of the pandemic and technological advancements, along with the problems necessitating joint solutions to shared global issues. This includes mentioning ongoing collaborations and the imperative of working collectively to address the most pressing challenges.

10.20 – 10.40 hrs.

UNCTAD Session: Key Findings of World Investment Report 2023**Dr. Bruno Casella***Senior Economist, Chief Intellectual Property Unit, Division Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD*

The UNCTAD World Investment Report provides insights into the challenges and opportunities that can help policymakers, businesses, and investors navigate and adapt to the complex and interconnected nature of crises. By analyzing data, trends, and policy recommendations provided by the report, stakeholders can surely gain a better understanding of the polycrisis, resilience of investment flows and the potential implications for sustainable development.

10.40 – 12.10 hrs.

Panel 1 : Embracing Complexity : How MNCs Confront and Overcome Polycrisis Challenges**• Mr. Wiboon Somboonwong***Chief Operating Officer, Automotive and Industrial Business, Charoen Pokphand Group Company Limited*

- **Dr. Chaya Chandavas**

Executive Vice President, Sustainability, PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited

- **Mr. Abhijit Datta**

Managing Director, SCG International Company Limited

Moderated by:

Mr. Panu Wongcha-Um

Former President, Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT)

In a Polycrisis world, multinational corporations (MNCs) are facing severe geopolitical instability, economic volatility, social and environmental concerns, technological advancements, and changing consumer behavior now more than ever. This session presents MNC's best practices on how they survive in an uncertain regulatory environment, adapt to shifting market conditions, address sustainability issues, and embrace emerging technologies. And how effective risk management, collaboration with stakeholders, and agility in responding to polycrisis is crucial and important for MNCs to thrive in this complex environment.

12.10 – 13.00 hrs.

Lunch Break at London Room & China Room, 2nd floor

13.00 – 14.30 hrs.

Panel 2 : International Trade Opportunities in a Decarbonized Economy: Driving Sustainable Growth

- **Mr. Chirath Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya**

Director, Bureau of European Affairs, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce of Thailand

- **Mr. Natee Sithiprasasana**

Vice-chairman, FTI's Renewable Energy Industry Club, The Federation of Thai Industries

- **Mr. Petros Sourmelis**

Head, Trade and Economic Section, EU Delegation to Thailand

- **Mr. Pathom Chaiyapruksatorn**

Senior Manager, Low Carbon Business Certification Office, Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization

- **Mr. Alexey Kravchenko**

Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Moderated by:

Dr. Rupa Chanda

Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

According to World Economic Forum's The Global Risks Report 2023, climate change is listed as the most concerning crisis for the next decade. It is reshaping the region's economic and trade prospects, as it is a major threat for future growth and prosperity. Climate change will surely affect international trade in many ways such as increasing trade cost and production and supply chain disruption. This session will explore the impact of climate change on international trade and discuss the role of trade policy and international cooperation in supporting climate change adaptation strategies for Southeast Asia.

14.30 – 14.45 hrs.

Afternoon Break

14.45 – 16.15 hrs.

Panel 3 : Thriving In a Time of Crises : Leveraging Digital Transformation for Success

- **Dr. David Hardoon**
Chief Executive Officer, Aboitiz Data Innovation
- **Ms. Kulthirath Pakawachkrilers**
*Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Thailand e-Business Center (TeC)
President, Thai e-Commerce Association*
- **Mr. Stephen Johnstone**
*Head, Modernization and Transformation,
ASEAN Amazon Web Services (AWS), Singapore*
- **Dr. Sarut Vanichpun**
Senior Director, Sea (Thailand)

Moderated by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Voraprapa Nakavachara
Assistant Vice President for Global Engagement, Chulalongkorn University

Digital Transformation becomes even more critical for business to survive and thrive. Many experts believe that the challenges presented by multiple crises or polycrisis can be overcome by using digital technologies, which can help organizations operate more efficiently, adapt to changing circumstances, innovate new solutions, and keep up with these never-ending crises.

16.15 – 16.30 hrs.

Key Takeaways: Transformative Thinking and Scenario Planning

- **Mr. Montri Mahaplerkpong**
Vice Chairman, Federation of Thai Industries / Board of Directors, ITD
- **Dr. Darmp Sukontasap**
Board of Directors, ITD

The key takeaway from this forum is the urgent need for coordinated regional action, innovative strategies, and inclusive approaches to address the challenges arising from the simultaneous occurrence of multiple crises. By working together, the international community can navigate these complex times and build a more resilient and sustainable regional trade ecosystem.

16.30 – 16.40 hrs.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Suphakit Chareonkul
Deputy Executive Director (Academic), Acting Executive Director, ITD

Remarks:

1. The program time is UTC+7 hours (Bangkok local time)
2. The program and time can be adjusted accordingly

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

— OPENING REMARKS —



Prof. Dr. Somkit Lertpaithoon

Chairman of the Board, International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)

— KEYNOTE —



The Honourable Mr. Bernard Charnwut Chan

Chairman and President, Asia Financial Holdings Limited

— UNCTAD SESSION —



Dr. Bruno Casella

*Senior Economist, Chief Intellectual Property Unit,
Division Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD*

PANELISTS 1



Mr. Wiboon Somboonwong
*Chief Operating Officer, Automotive
and Industrial Business, Chareon
Pokphand Group Company Limited*



Dr. Chaya Chandavas
*Executive Vice President, Sustainability, PTT
Global Chemical Public Company Limited*



Mr. Abhijit Datta
Managing Director, SCG International



Mr. Panu Wongcha-Um
*Former President, Foreign Correspondents'
Club of Thailand (FCCT)
- Moderator-*

PANELISTS 2



Mr. Chirath Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya

*Director, Bureau of European Affairs,
Department of Trade Negotiations,
Ministry of Commerce of Thailand*



Mr. Natee Sithiprasasana

*Vice-chairman, FTT's Renewable
Energy Industry Club,
The Federation of Thai Industries*



Mr. Petros Sourmelis

*Head, Trade and Economic Section,
EU Delegation to Thailand*



Mr. Pathom Chaipayrucksatorn

*Senior Manager, Low Carbon Business
Certification Office, Thailand Greenhouse
Gas Management Organization*



Mr. Alexey Kravchenko

*Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and
Facilitation Section of the Trade,
Investment and Innovation Division,
United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(UNESCAP)*



Dr. Rupa Chanda

*Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation
Division, United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(UNESCAP)
- Moderator-*

PANELISTS 3



Dr. David Hardoon

*Chief Executive Officer, Aboitiz Data
Innovation*



Ms. Kulthirath Pakawachkrilers

*Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder,
Thailand e-Business Center (TeC)
President, Thai e-Commerce Association*



Mr. Stephen Johnstone

*Head, Modernization and Transformation,
ASEAN Amazon Web Services (AWS),
Singapore*



Dr. Sarut Vanichpun

Senior Director, Sea (Thailand)



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Voraprapa Nakavachara

*Assistant Vice President for Global
Engagement, Chulalongkorn University
- Moderator -*

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Mr. Montri Mahaplerkpong
*Vice Chairman, Federation of Thai
Industries / Board of Directors, ITD*



Dr. Darmp Sukontasap
Board of Directors, ITD

CLOSING REMARKS



Mr. Suphakit Chareonkul
*Deputy Executive Director (Academic),
Acting Executive Director, ITD*

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM



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