

INVITATION: DEBATING ASIA #3

EU - ASEAN

Strengthening Regional Trade and Investment in the midst of Economic, Political and Strategic Shifts

16 October 2017, 6 pm
Haus Huth, Berlin

The year 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of EU-ASEAN inter-regional cooperation. As we celebrate this momentous occasion, it is opportune to reflect on the current state of economic, trade and political relations, and explore ways to further deepen and expand overall cooperation between the two organisations. The EU and ASEAN enjoy robust trade relations.

The EU accounts for most of foreign direct investment in ASEAN and is ASEAN's second largest trading partner. In March this year, EU and ASEAN decided to commence discussions on a region-to-region trade agreement, with the aim of launching negotiations in 2018 under the Singapore chairmanship.

In terms of bilateral cooperation, FTAs between the EU and Singapore and Vietnam respectively are finalized, though not yet ratified, and talks with Indonesia and the Philippines are ongoing. With the founding of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, ASEAN has taken a major step towards further economic integration.

The above notwithstanding, the current geopolitical climate poses great challenges and risks for both organisations to stay relevant and at the forefront of political and economic integration. Our expert panelists will discuss current conditions of the AEC and inter-regional relations in the global context:

- What role does the EU and its trade policy play in ASEAN's political and economic integration?
- What are the private sector's experiences with intra-regional trade in ASEAN today?
- What does the isolationist approach of the current US administration mean for EU-ASEAN relations?
- And which impact do the economic and geo-strategic interests of China have on ASEAN's political coherence and its approach to the EU?

Debating Asia is a new event series initiated by the Asia-Pacific Forum Berlin. Debating Asia focuses on topics of broader interest, brings together experts from politics, business, culture and science, facilitating controversial and fruitful exchange.

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Welcoming Remarks

Ute Deceuninck-John, Head of Trade and International Relations, EU Corporate Representation, Daimler AG

Prof. Dr. Gert Bruche, Chairman of the Board, Asia-Pacific Forum Berlin

Impulse

H.E. Laurence Bay, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Germany and Chairman of the Berlin ASEAN Committee

Panel Discussion

H.E. Laurence Bay, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Germany

Reinhard Bütikofer, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the European Green Party and rapporteur on EU-political relations with ASEAN

Martin Lutz, Co-Head of Unit VA3 - General trade policy issues (EU/WTO), services, intellectual property, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Bersick, Head of Department, International Political Economy of East Asia, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Claus Biernoth, Vice President Sales, First Sensor AG

Moderator

Volker Hagen Walz, Head of External Affairs ASEAN, Daimler South East Asia Pte.Ltd.

Followed by a reception

Registration Please register on our website <https://apfberlin.de/en/registration>

RSVP until October 11, 2017

Venue Haus Huth, Alte Potsdamer Straße 5, 10785 Berlin

Date 16 October 2017, 6 pm – 9 pm (registration starts at 5.30 pm)

Organizers Asia-Pacific Forum Berlin (APFB) in cooperation with Daimler AG

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