



## 13<sup>TH</sup> EAST ASIA SECURITY OUTLOOK (EASO) SEMINAR

### "BORNEO AS A NEXUS: KEY TO REGIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY"

Tuesday, 25 November 2025

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS), Ministry of Defence, will host the 13<sup>th</sup> East Asia Security Outlook (EASO) seminar on **Tuesday, 25 November 2025** at Hall 3, Indera Samudra Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel Brunei.

The EASO Seminar is a flagship event of SHHBIDSS convened to foster informed dialogue on the evolving strategic landscape of East Asia and its surrounding regions, as well as to provide a platform to bridge together scholars, policymakers, and regional experts to engage in forward-looking discussions that contribute to deeper understanding and policy-relevant insights.

Last held in 2019, the seminar resumes at a pivotal moment characterised by evolving regional dynamics, emerging security concerns, and heightened attention to Borneo's strategic importance. Against this backdrop the 13<sup>th</sup> iteration is themed **"Borneo as a Nexus: Key to Regional Advancement and Sustainability"**, highlighting focus on issues and developments pertaining to the island of Borneo. The Seminar will feature a Keynote Address, as well as three Sessions examining regional security-economic nexus and its impacts to Borneo, human security in Borneo, as well as assessing Borneo's strategic positioning in the region.

#### AGENDA

0745	Registration
0800	Arrival of Civilian and Military Directors, Commandants, Heads of Units, Defence Attachés and Advisers
0805	Arrival of Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
0810	Arrival of Service Commanders
0815	Arrival of Deputy Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces
0820	Arrival of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
0825	Arrival of Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces
0830	Arrival of the Guest of Honour Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusoff Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II
0835	Recital of Surah al-Fatihah and Doa
0840	Welcome Remarks Dayangku Dr. Noor Hasharina binti Pengiran Haji Hassan Director of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam
0850 -0905	Keynote Address Ooi Keat Gin Professor, Academy of Brunei Studies Universiti Brunei Darussalam
0905 -0920	Moderated Q&A

0920	Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Keynote Speaker by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II
0925-0945	Group Photo
	Break
0945-1100	<p>Session 1: The Regional Security-Economic Nexus and Its Impacts to Borneo</p> <p>This session seeks to examine the security–economic nexus, where economic policies and initiatives intersect with strategic interests and defence posture. Borneo's evolving landscape is increasingly shaped by major regional powers through trade, investment, and infrastructure projects such as the Pan Borneo Highway and BIMP-EAGA initiatives. While these efforts deepen regional economic linkages, they also present challenges, including social cohesion concerns, migration pressures, and environmental impacts. The expansion of economic corridors further introduces security considerations ranging from maritime threats and cross-border crime to cyber risks and environmental security. Examining how military exchanges, intelligence sharing, and confidence-building measures can mitigate these risks is vital to ensuring that Borneo's economic rise strengthens regional stability and contributes to a balanced, cooperative Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p><b>Format:</b>          0945-1000 [Speaker 1 – 15 minutes]          1000-1015 [Speaker 2 – 15 minutes]          1015-1030 [Speaker 3 – 15 minutes]          1030-1100 [Moderated Q&amp;A]</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Muhammad Habib Dzakwan</b> Researcher, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSISI), Indonesia</li> <li><b>Daniel Shields</b> Ambassador (Retired) and Editorial Advisor, Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs (JIPA)</li> <li><b>Arividya Arimuthu</b> Senior Fellow, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia</li> </ul>
1100-1120	Break

1120-1235	<p>→ <b><u>Session 2: Human Security in Borneo: Addressing Socio-Economic and Environmental Challenges</u></b></p> <p>This session aims to examine the human security dimensions shaping Borneo's future, linking the impacts of migration and urbanisation with the pressures of climate change, environmental degradation, and the rise of transnational crime. It will analyse how natural resource exploitation can affect the well-being of local populations, sometimes fuelling domestic unrest, resource competition, and ethnic tensions. Building on these insights, the session will explore how regional cooperation between ASEAN and East Asian partners can translate into cohesive policies and initiatives that tackle these interconnected challenges, ensuring sustainable solutions and a more secure, stable future for Borneo.</p> <p><b><u>Format:</u></b></p> <p>1120-1135 [Speaker 1 – 15 minutes]          1135-1150 [Speaker 2 – 15 minutes]          1150-1205 [Speaker 3 – 15 minutes]          1205-1235 [Moderated Q&amp;A]</p> <p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr Evi Nurvidya Arifin</b> Senior Assistant Professor, Centre for Advanced Research, Universiti Brunei Darussalam</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Noraini binti Zulkafli @ Zulkifli</b> Senior Lecturer, National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM), Malaysia</li> <li>▪ <b>Gabriel Yit Vui Yong</b> Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam</li> </ul>
1235-1430	<p>→ <b><u>Lunch</u></b> Hall 4, Indera Samudra Grand Hall</p>
1430-1545	<p>→ <b><u>Session 3: Reimagining Borneo – Its Strategic Positioning in the Region</u></b></p> <p>This session aims to explore Borneo's potential as both a catalyst and a future strategic hub in the region, taking into account key developments such as the relocation of Indonesia's capital to Nusantara, the construction of the Pan-Borneo Highway, and the recent enhancement of security measures by Indonesia and Malaysia. Building on these dynamics, the session will present policy and strategic recommendations to position Borneo as a proactive driver of regional sustainability. It will also explore ways to strengthen Borneo's involvement in shaping a people-centred vision for development, striking a balance between economic modernisation, infrastructure expansion, and connectivity ambitions to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.</p> <p><b><u>Format:</u></b></p> <p>1430-1445 [Speaker 1 – 15 minutes]          1445-1500 [Speaker 2 – 15 minutes]          1500-1515 [Speaker 3 – 15 minutes]          1515-1545 [Moderated Q&amp;A]</p> <p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof. Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar</b> Research Professor, Research Center for Politics, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia</li> <li>▪ <b>Pengiran Aki Ismasufian bin Pengiran Haji Ibrahim</b> Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Brunei Chair of APEC Business Advisory-Council (ABAC) Brunei Chairman of Britain Brunei Business Forum</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr Abdul Rahman Yaacob</b> Assistant Professor and Researcher Rabdan Security and Defence Institute (RSDI), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates</li> </ul>
1545-1555	→ <b><u>Closing Remarks from SHHBIDSS</u></b>

### EVENT GUIDE

<b>Registration</b>	→ Registration desk opens at 07.45AM.
<b>Dress Code</b>	→ Bush Jacket for the military → Lounge suit for male civilians → National dress with blazer for female civilians
<b>Refreshments and Meals</b>	→ Complimentary coffee breaks and lunch will be provided for all participants. Kindly return to the hall promptly after each break to ensure sessions commence on time.
<b>Book Exhibition and Vendors</b>	→ A book exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Seminar, featuring government agencies, research institutions, and private publishers. Participants are invited to visit the vendor booths to browse and purchase selected publications during breaks, and throughout the day.
<b>Parking</b>	→ Participants are advised to park at the Indera Samudra Grand Hall External Parking. Shuttle transport will be provided between the parking area and the Hall for participants' convenience.
<b>Photography</b>	→ Please note that photos may be taken during the seminar.

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