

Inaugural ERIA-ASEAN AOIP Lecture

and

The ERIA-JIIA FOIP-AOIP Special Symposium: Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific

Date: 9 July 2026

Venue: ERIA office (15th Floor), Jakarta, Indonesia

The ERIA School of Government aims to provide a dedicated platform to discuss global geopolitical developments and the challenges of the time from Southeast Asia's regional perspective, ensuring that ASEAN Member States and their regional partners play an active role in shaping the geopolitical framework in this era of transformation. Through the ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series, the initiative seeks to strengthen ASEAN's agency in shaping regional and global narratives and reinforce the Indo-Pacific as a strategic space for dialogue, cooperation, and inclusive engagement. By convening high-level leaders, policymakers, and distinguished experts from across the region and beyond, the lecture series aims to position ASEAN as a central hub for strategic conversations on regional and global developments while facilitating constructive engagement with external partners.

Anchored in the principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which was set out in 2019, the regional framework has now gained renewed strategic importance in light of great power competition and the instability in middle east and Eastern Europe. The indo-pacific region has benefited from relative peace and stability, hence the time has come to set the norms and approaches that the Indo-Pacific region has carefully designed and implemented while addressing the key challenge to uphold and to enhance our regional stability and resilience collectively.

The lecture series seeks to emphasize ASEAN's approach based on openness, inclusiveness, dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect, while moving beyond narratives centred primarily on major power competition. The initiative aims to amplify perspectives from and among the region itself in order to bring open and outward-looking engagements with key Indo-Pacific partners. Through keynote lectures and interactive discussions, the ERIA–ASEAN AOIP Lecture Series will provide participants with opportunities to deepen their understanding of regional dynamics, exchange diverse perspectives, and establish policy-relevant communities to approach contemporary geopolitical challenges together. We are extremely fortunate to embark on this series with our inaugural speech by HE Kao Kim Hourn, the Secretary General of ASEAN, who has been the voice of the region to uphold its principle of openness, inclusiveness and dialogue during the geopolitical challenging times.

This inaugural event would be fortunate to be followed by a special symposium commemorating the The 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)', advocated in 2016 by the late former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, marking its 10th anniversary this year. Co-hosted by JIIA and ERIA, this symposium brings experts to revisit the concepts of AOIP and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) catered to the current geopolitics while seeking further synergies and conversions among the two initiative.

This symposium highlights the importance of regional vision based on inclusiveness, ASEAN centrality, dialogue-driven engagement and openness, it continues to be shaped by agencies and stakeholders within the region itself, particularly ASEAN.

In her policy address in February 2026, Prime Minister Takaichi reaffirmed the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) as a core principle of Japanese diplomacy, outlining a 'strategic evolution'. This updated approach focuses on strengthening the economic foundations, such as developing data infrastructure and securing critical supply chains; creating growth opportunities through public-private partnerships; and expanding the Official Security Assistance (OSA) and Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The Joint Statement of the 28th Japan-ASEAN Summit, held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2025, served as a landmark reaffirmation of our shared regional objectives. Both sides are committed to the strengthened implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP); upholding the principles of ASEAN centrality and solidarity; respect for the UN Charter and international law; and fostering a regional order that is open, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based. Crucially, the Summit clarified that the FOIP and AOIP are frameworks that share principles and complement one another.

The symposium will provide a high-level platform to discuss specific measures to maximise these synergies. The discussions will focus on: building robust economic partnerships and enhancing connectivity in response to current geopolitical and strategic shifts; the direction of economic development in the Indo-Pacific region in light of technological advancements; regional stabilisation through de-risking rather than decoupling; and approaches to cooperation in key infrastructure sectors such as digitalisation and decarbonisation. Through the discussion of abovementioned topics, we hope to bring new ideas and strategies aimed at amplifying the synergistic effects between the FOIP and AOIP.

Time	PROGRAM
8:30 – 9:00	Registration & Networking
Opening Session	
9:00 – 9:05	Welcome Remarks Tetsuya Watanabe , President of ERIA [5 minutes]
Inaugural AOIP Lecture	
9:05 - 09:35 30 Minutes [Inc. Q & A]	Moderator: Prof. Nobuhiro Aizawa , Dean of ERIA School of Government Keynote Address: H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn , Secretary-General of ASEAN
09:35 - 09:40	Photo Session
09:40 - 10:00	Coffee Break
Special Symposium Commemorating the 10th anniversary of FOIP: Deepening FOIP-AOIP Synergies	
10:00 - 10:05	Remarks Prof. Nobuhiro Aizawa , Dean of ERIA School of Government
10:05 - 11:35 90 minutes	Moderator: H.E. Amb. Takio Yamada , Executive Director, JIIA Center for Global Outreach and Executive Fellow Keynote Speech: Mr Shingo Miyamoto , Director-General for Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) [20 minutes] Panelists: H.E. Amb. Dr Siswo Pramono , Indonesia's Ambassador to Australia and Vanuatu [15 minutes] H.E. Dr. Chheang Vannarith , Deputy Secretary-General of the National Assembly of Cambodia [15 minutes] Dr Maria Monica Wihardja , Fellow and Co-Coordinator of the Media, Technology and Society Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute [15 minutes] Discussion with invited experts (25 minutes)
Closing	
11:35 – 11:40	Photo Session
11:40 – 13:30	Networking Lunch